Global Environment Facility/ Small Grant Porgamme (GEF/SGP)

Operation Phase Six (OP6) Summary of Country Programme Strategy / Jordan

1. Small Grant Porgamme in Jordan

The Small Grants Program (SGP) in Jordan was initiated in 1993 as part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is being managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The main goal of GEF/SGP is to provide financial and technical support to projects and initiatives that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. The programme provided a support of 5.5 Million USD for 200 projects in five operation cycles. Previous cycles made several accomplishments in the five GEF focal areas i.e. biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation and sustainable forest management, international waters and chemicals.

The philosophy of GEF/SGP is based on addressing the global environmental challenges through integration of local communities in designing and implementing the development projects that would, in turn, serve their needs and enhance the sense of ownership. One of the main concerns of GEF/SGP is to provide successful local solutions to chronic environmental problems, particularly the scarcity of natural resources, and to support local communities by sustainable use of natural resources.

GEF/SGP programme in Jordan is characterized by the following features:

- Direct impact on capacity building of the local institutions.
- Documenting and disseminating practical experiences over the sustainable use of natural resources at local level.
- Reducing the obstacles and problems that are encountered by the local communities when applying to environmental funding program.
- Encouraging partnerships between communities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- Taking gender equality into consideration in the development projects.
- Providing feasible and community-based solutions to address various environmental challenges which can be applied in other areas.

2. GEF/SGP Operational Phase Six (OP6) and the characteristics of the previous phase (OP5)

During the Operational Phase five (OP5), eighteen projects were funded through GEF/ SGP with grant amount of 550,000 USD and co-financing reached up to 1.2 million USD distributed as the following: Land Degradation (6 projects), Climate Change (6 projects), Biodiversity (3 projects), Chemicals (2 projects) and Multifocal Area (1 project). Also, the OP5 focused on providing the financial support to the projects that are led by women, where 22% of the funded projects in OP5 were led by women. Moreover, the funded projects in OP5 were geographically distributed to cover all governorates of Jordan.

One of the key elements of Operational Phase Six (OP6) is to focus on a certain natural landscape that was selected based on specific social, economic, environmental and topographic criteria. The selected landscape will receive 70% of the SGP grants during the OP6, whereas other landscapes/seascape will be granted up to 30%. Grants outside the selected landscape will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Promote innovation in relation to SGP OP6 strategic initiatives and directions.
- Provide new opportunities for partnerships and replication.
- Help translate landscape lessons into policy or promote up scaling and duplication.
- CSO-government dialogue platforms that promote civil society engagement with government in the context of multilateral environmental agreements.

After consulting all stakeholders and reviewing all relevant literatures, the Northern Mountainous Terrain was selected for GEF/ SGP OP6 which is administratively represented by governorates of Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash, Mafraq, Zarqa, Amman, Balqa, Madaba and Karak as shown in the map below.



The selected landscape in OP6

The Global Environmental Fund has allocated \$USD 400,000 as core funds to SGP in Jordan, whereas \$USD 650,000 has been allocated by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) as part of STAR funds. It is expected that the total funds for OP6 will reach up to \$USD 1,250,000.

3. Environmental priorities in Jordan

After reviewing the national agenda in Jordan regarding the challenges, opportunities and the proposed initiatives that are associated to environment sector, the environmental priorities have been addressed and summarized as shown in Table (1).

Table (1):

The environmental priorities in Jordan according to the national agenda (2013-2020)

Major Themes	Specific priorities
Waste	Safely disposal of solid waste in well –designed landfills.
Management	Creating particular systems for segregation and recycling of waste based on the hierarchy principle of waste management.
	Developing a comprehensive framework for the hazardous and
	industrial waste management according to the international regulations and standards.
	Developing an effective framework for the medical waste management according to the international environmental standards and regulations.
Pollution prevention and	Increasing the number of monitoring stations on the ambient air to cover all governorates in Jordan.
control	Increasing the number of monitoring stations on the emissions from industries.
	 Maintaining the quality of water in dams and Wadis to be within the permissible limits.
	Minimizing the access of point and non-point water pollutants to water resources.
Biodiversity and	Rehabilitating the ecosystems in the desert of Jordan.
Ecosystems	Completing the work on the national network for the protected areas.
	Completing the work on the national plan for land uses.
	Rehabilitating the degraded ecosystems, such as Zarqa River.
	Developing the national list for threaten plants and animals species.
	Developing the national framework for genetic resources.
	Developing an effective framework to monitoring and testing the genetically modified organisms.
	Completing the work on preparing and reviewing the national legitimation for the conservation of nature.

Major Themes	Specific priorities
Climate Change	Considering the climate change concept and its impacts when implementing any project.
	Developing a legislative framework to regulate the climate change in order to improve the climate change mitigation and reduce the climate change vulnerability.
	Building national and institutional expertise in the field of climate change.
Green Economy	Safely disposal of the substances that depleting the Ozone layer according to Monitorial protocol requirements.
	Creating new jobs and investments in the six targeted sectors of green economy

As such, the compatibility between the SGP Country Programme and the national environmental priorities can be summarized as follows:

- Improving the sustainability and expanding of the natural reserves through local communities' participation and capacity building on the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem management.
- Conserving the biodiversity composition and minimizing threats that might jeopardize the biodiversity.
- Developing and promoting agro-ecological innovations through empowering the community members and get the NGOs involved in relevant projects.
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through local communities' participation in water management, encouraging the regional agreements on the use of shared water resources and adopting innovative solutions in water demand and management.
- Increasing the contribution of renewable energy resources by developing a national strategy for renewable energy, improving the technical capacity, raising awareness about low carbon emission solutions and other related solutions.
- Reducing emission of POPs by transition into organic farming techniques.

4. SGP contribution to national priorities SGP/OP6 corporate outcomes

The following table summarizes the strategic initiatives of the SGP in the OP6 and the expected outcomes from these initiatives, their relationship to national priorities in Jordan and the role of the proposed SGP initiatives to contribute in achieving the objectives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ¹ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ²	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/ seascape conservation	Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	 Protected Areas Network Sustainability Identifying tools and revenue mechanism from environmental services in protected areas. Sustainable use of ecosystem services by reducing significant threats on biodiversity; monitoring the productivity versus losses in natural resources such water, land degradation, and deforestation; and mapping of species that are under threats. Identifying the potential places for reserves based on threats on fauna and flora. Conserve Biodiversity Composition and Compact Invasive Species Identifying species lists and conduct research on biodiversity hotspot areas ldentify threatened species. Minimize Threats on Biodiversity Conduct environmental awareness campaigns, waste management and recycling along with capacity building at all levels. 	Area of Work 1: Sustainable development pathways through Effective maintenance and protection of natural capital and focusing on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity. Also, create jobs and reduce unemployment and enhance livelihoods, through management and rehabilitation of ecosystem services, from the sub-national to the national level, including protected, indigenous and community conserved areas.

1. "Niche" refers to the role or contribution that the Country Programme is best fitted to perform and for which the other stakeholders agree with

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2. Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ³ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁴	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/ seascape conservation	Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	Developing and promoting agro- ecological innovations by: enabling communities to make meaningful contributions to agro- ecosystem resilience in the landscape; providing tools and methods that can be used to engage small holder's organizations in the participatory analysis of agroecosystem vulnerability to impacts of climate change and other social and economic factors.	Area of Work 1: Sustainable development pathways through Planning, policy frameworks and institutional capacities to substantially reinforce action on climate change.
Community landscape/ seascape conservation	Promotion of collective management of trans- boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), by: -Involvement of community members in water management through working with local CBOs. -Encouraging the regional agreements on the use of shared water resources i.e. Yarmouk river and Disi aquifer. -Adoptions of innovative finance mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, habitat banking and aggregate offsets.	Area of Work 1: Sustainable development pathways Effective maintenance and protection of natural capital through assistance for integrated water resources management and efficient use of water, efforts to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, sustainable land management and restoration of degraded land, and management of chemicals and waste.

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁵ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁶	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Energy access co-benefits	Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	 -Increasing the contribution of energy local resources (solar and wind) in the total energy mix through: -Developing the national strategy for the renewable energy in Jordan. -Increase the demand on the renewable energy resources by enhancing competitiveness and good governance. -Coming up with innovative solutions for water-energy-food nexus. -Building capacity and awareness of low carbon solutions. -Advocacy projects to influence national energy sector strategies. 	sustainable access to energy and improved energy efficiency, including focusing on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks as well as institutional capacities that can lower investment risks, broaden and deepen markets, and strengthen private- and public-sector capacities to expand investment and increase access to sustainable energy at the national and sub-national levels.
Local to global chemicals coalitions	Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	 -Increasing the scope, technologies and supply chain enhancement for organic farming. -Education and awareness programmes for identification and management of POPs and PCBs. -Shifting into a sustainable and economically feasible organic farming to eliminate agricultural POPs. 	Not Applicable

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 Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

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1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁷ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁸	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks	 Strengthen local partnerships between government and civil societies by increasing funding and scaling up innovative practices. Training and building capacity of CSO that cover all local development works, budgeting and networking. Encouraging CSO to expand local activities, creative sports and extra- curricular activities. 	Area of Work 2: Inclusive and effective democratic governance through a Context- specific responses to foster agreement among stakeholders and support peaceful governance processes that advance shared national goals and policies and capacities for more effective governance to bring greater development benefits to citizens and increase their confidence and trust in public institutions.
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples	CPS has to go through the following to achieve actual gender mainstreaming: -Strengthening the skills and knowledge of rural women to participate effectively in emerging local economies through sustainable development initiatives, after recognising the traditional and indigenous knowledge of women. -Support active involvement of women in decision-making and research. -Empowerment of women in rural and urban areas by knowledge and skills to enhance their economic and social opportunities and participation in development and workforce.	One of the proposed outcomes of UNDP strategic plan was to faster progress in reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment.

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Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	Contribute to GEF KM efforts	The impacts, success and the lesson learned through CPS OP6 should be monitored and documented at all levels. All knowledge gathered throughout the implementation of CPS should be shared at regional and global levels, thus scaling up and duplicating the good practices across all strategic initiatives.	Area of Work 3: Resilience-building through South-South and triangular cooperation: this will include knowledge on what has worked and what has not together with information on who is involved and what they can offer; and enabling harmonization of policies, legal frameworks and regulations to increase opportunities for South-South exchanges

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5. Expected Results Framework

OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 1: Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation: 1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/ seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries	 The CPS for OP6 will target the northern highlands landscape which include mountainous areas and forests (see part 3.2.1) Conserve landscapes and ecosystems within the selected landscape Promote Ecotourism activities in Yarmouk,Ajloun, Dibeen reserves as well as the existing Special Conservation Areas located in the north Conserving biodiversity in selected landscape Promote public participation\awareness towards protecting cultural, historical and natural heritage. Supporting the efforts of conserving the endangered plant and animals species. Integrated Water Resources Management activities, including wastewater treatment and reuse. 	6-8 projects e.g. Rehabilitation, Organic farming; Ecotourism/ landscape conservation; Community- based management; impact of tourism on landscapes/ natural and cultural heritage.	Reducing the deforestation by 10%. Raising awareness to 25% of the local communities Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators (TBD) See Annex 1 and 2 Areas and type of landscape and ecosystem restored Number of lands and areas sustainability managed within the selected landscape Number of conservation projects dedicated for conserving biodiversity in the selected landscape Number and type of eco- tourism products produced	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams. State of environment report, national reports of UNCCD i.e. desertification and afforestation sections Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs) National reports of MEAs

OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 2: Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology: 2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries	Storm and rain water harvesting for agricultural purposes (known as green infrastructure). Introducing organic farming practices. Promoting responsible agricultural practices in Highlands, where groundwater is being overexploited without clear strategy for conservation. Build the capacity of 2 selected famer leaders in all aspects of sustainable agriculture practices	10-12 projects Sustainable agriculture Water saving and harvesting Forestation (reuse of treated wastewater in irrigation) Greywater utilization Exchange visits and training workshops.	5 water harvesting (rain and storm)(practices/ infrastructure 3 wastewater reuse projects Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators (TBD) Building the capacity of two farmer leaders in sustainable farming See Annex 1 and 2	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams. Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs). Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs). List of attendees and certificates.
SGP OP6 Component 3: Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits: 3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries	At least one innovative typology of locally adapted solutions demonstrated and documented Social marketing campaign including promoting awareness and demonstration actions that are related to energy conservation such as turning off lights, using solar energy (PVs) and solar water heaters. Reduce local population dependence on forest wood, thus keeping the forests from the illegal cutting practices. Extra attention should be given to Debbin forests in this regards. Researching co-benefits of alternative energy sources, which could potentially guide and inform scaling up and policy development (e.g. reduced deforestation, improved carbon sequestration and climate resilience; reducing poverty, improving livelihoods, and stimulating economic development).	5 awareness and educational campaigns Educational/ awareness raising on energy conservation and efficiency though implementing pilot/ demonstration renewable energy projects	Number of the targeted stakeholders/ community groups in the awareness and educational campaigns. The type of the targeted groups i.e. women, religious leaders, schools, etc participating in the awareness sessions. Number of communities achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co- benefits estimated and valued i.e. on-site solar power (PV) and on-site solar water heaters. Number of alternatives that can be offered to offset the illegal cutting of forests,	AMR, country reports AMR, global database, country reports Special country studies Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

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SGP OP6 Component 4: Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions: 4.1 Innovative community- based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner	 Outline of innovative tools and approaches to: pesticide management solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on), and local to global chemical management coalitions Strengthen the governance of the Federation for Environmental (FANGOs) 	Approx. 5 projects Biological Pest Control Solid Waste Management Waste recycling Waste reduction at source Waste to energy (Composting)	10% reduction of waste generational and disposal. Number of community- based tools/ approaches to avoid and reduce chemicals demonstrated, deployed and transferred Number of coalitions and networks established or strengthened	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams The municipal records of solid waste collection and disposals. Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review
SGP OP6 Component 5: CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+): 5.1 SGP supports establishment of "CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms", leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries	Providing technical information about GEF focal areas to the policy makers through Participating in the national committee and sharing the reports. Preparing policy papers and guidance documents to feed into the national policies and guidelines. Development of theme- specific training modules based on SGP experiences in Jordan, the region and globally. Development of a collection of best practices and case studies of SGP projects in Jordan and abroad, and exchanging ideas for new projects based on regional and international experiences.	Global level OP6 priority Establishment of a platform to enhance the dialogue between all stakeholders at the selected landscape. Promoting good governance and participatory planning practices. Mainstreaming of natural/ cultural heritage into the local/ national planning;	Initiated the activities of the platform. The structure/ membership of the platform i.e. gender representation, youth, local communities and public sector. 2-3(mainstreaming) projects.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams SGP Global Database Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review



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SGP OP6 Component 6: Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant- makers+): 6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners 6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries 6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries	Proactive promotion of women-led projects (at least 25% of projects) Mainstreaming gender in all relevant projects, as well as the national and global networking of women grantee-leaders for knowledge-sharing and policy advocacy. Supporting the youth and disabled sector by collaborating with the youth center and disabled associations at the selected landscape.	Capacity development related to SDGs Targeting women and youth sectors. Research-policy collaboration Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level	25% of project led by women Signing off 2 Memorandum of Understanding. 2 projects for youth and disabled in the selected landscape.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams SGP Global Database Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review

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SGP OP6 Component 7: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+): 7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries 7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south- south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries	Connections between CPS and global priorities for the digital library and SSC Innovation Exchange Platform (i.e. examples of tested technologies, comparative advantage and experience of SGP country programme). Establishing regional coordination between the GEF SGP Jordan and GEF SGP Palestinian Authority	Global level OP6 priority SGP country teams (NC and PA) global database inputs. Connection with regional databases. Connection with databases/ clearing house mechanisms of Rio conventions. Annual conference to share/ exchange knowledge and lessons learned between south-south countries Implementing the agreement between the GEF SFP Jordan and GEF SGP Palestinian Authority, particularly carrying out joint project of relevance to the selected land scape.	1 regional event 2 joint projects application in Jordan and Palestine.	SGP Global Database Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review