



Call for Concept Small Grants Programme (SGP), Afghanistan

I. Background:

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) provides non-governmental and community-based organizations (NGOs/CBOs) with grants to enable them to tackle global environmental challenges while addressing local sustainable development needs. SGP is a GEF corporate programme, implemented by UNDP and executed by UNOPS. SGP Afghanistan started financing projects in 2013 since then, it has succeeded in funding and providing technical support for 57 grant projects.

In its 6th Operational Phase (OP6) SGP has the following objective: “to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action”.

II. SGP Afghanistan:

UNDP, with close collaboration of National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), has operationalized Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Afghanistan on 23rd October 2012. A National Steering Committee (NSC), composed of diverse representation including Civil Society Organizations, NGOs and Kabul University and chaired by the DG, NEPA has been established. NSC provides guidance and technical oversight to the implementation of the SGP, based on a Country Programme Strategy (CPS).

III. SGP Focus Areas of Intervention:

SGP Focal Areas of intervention are:

1. Community Landscape Conservation
2. Climate Smart Innovative Agroecology
3. Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:
4. CSO-Government dialogue platforms:
5. Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)
6. Contribution to global knowledge management platforms



1. Community Landscape Conservation: under this area, SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities are as below.
 - a. Restore and maintain integrity of the Kol-e-Hashmat Khan wetland habitat and associated ecosystems including restoration and safeguarding species diversity and populations of migratory waterfowl. (Kol-e-Hashmat Khan 10-yrs management plan 2016 -2025)
 - b. Conserve and recover the biodiversity and environment of Band-e-Amir National Park. (Band-e-Amir 5 yrs. management plan 2016-2020).
 - c. Conservation of biodiversity of Shah Foladi conservation landscape by applying ecosystem-based management to the Koh-e-Baba mountainous protected area. (Koh-e-Baba 5 yrs. Management Plan 2016-2020)
 - d. Conserve and recover the bio-diversity and environment of the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Landscape in Wakhan National Park. (5 yrs. Management Plan of Big Pamir
2. Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology: under this area, SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities are as below.
 - a. Ensure sustainability of conservation efforts through execution conservation-friendly economic activities in participation with local communities. (Kol-e-Hashmat Khan management plan 2016 -2025)
 - b. Promotion of suitable forest and fruit trees and other economically valuable plant species in public and private lands in Kol-e-Hashmat Khan according to Kol-e-Hashmat Khan 10 yrs. management plan.
 - c. Mitigation of climate change by reducing air pollution and relevant diseases by absorbing the harmful gases and CO₂ through sustainable improvement of green cover and forestlands (forests, bushes, and forage cover) in and around Kabul City. (Kabul City Green Belt Programme 2015 – 2026)
 - d. Conserve vegetation in Band-e-Amir National Park and provide opportunities for quality recreational, aesthetic, cultural and religious experiences for Afghan Citizens and international visits as per Park 5 yrs. management plan (2016-2020).
 - e. Use natural resources on sustainable manner to protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing in Koh-e-Baba (Koh-e-Baba Management Plan 2016-2020).
 - f. Provide livelihoods support for local population through production, conservation and sustainable collection of MAPs in Kunar and Badakhshan Provinces.



3. Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits: under this area, SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities are as below.
 - a. Promote the demonstration, development and dissemination of solar and other forms of green energy technologies for households and commercial purposes. This includes all forms of renewable energies technologies (micro hydro, wind, biomass, solar, bioenergy, efficient stoves etc.) at the community level. (Management plan of selected landscapes)
4. CSO-Government dialogue platforms: under this area, SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities are as below.
 - a. Create high-level youth committee on environmental preservation between government and CSOs. (National Youth Policy of Afghanistan-2014)
 - b. Work with farmers/communities around environmental conservation and NRs management
5. Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples): under this area, SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities are as below.
 - a. Promoting the meaningful participation of women, youth, and indigenous local communities in SGP affairs as per government national policies and plans.
 - b. Promote awareness on environmental issues and practices amongst youth, and support youth organizations to work for environmental sustainability. (National Youth Policy 2014)
6. Contribution to global knowledge management platforms: under this area, SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities is as below.
 - a. Establishment of digital library in Kabul University.

IV. Eligibility:

- Only national NGOs (this may include community based organizations and other forms of Civil Society Organizations).
- In case of special need, the principal proponent (National NGO) may go for partnership with international NGOs



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

To be eligible for SGP support, a project proposed for funding must meet the country-specific eligibility criteria laid out in the relevant SGP Country Programme Strategy approved by the NSC. The concept paper format and SGP Country Strategy can be obtained from the link provided below: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kBUrOyG2iGKr73mG2UJ3rIGoa2Hvvdjs>

The maximum grant amount per project is US\$ 50,000, for duration of up to 24 months.

For further reference, SGP global programme document, SGP operational guidelines, case studies and other documents can be obtained from <http://sgp.undp.org>.

V. Deadline:

Please send your concept note by 30 March 2018, by email to aimal.khaurin@undp.org

Note: *Subject to continued availability of funding*

Contact Person:

More details on SGP together with further guidance for application could be obtained by contacting:

Aimal Khan Khaurin

National Coordinator

UNDP – GEF Small Grants Programme

UNDP Country Office, UNOCA Complex, Jalalabad Road, Kabul, Afghanistan

Mobile: +93 728 999 804

Email: aimal.khaurin@undp.org