****

****

****

**Call for Proposals**

**The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in Lesotho**

**Operational Phase 7**

**Terms of Reference – Civil Society Organizations**

**Funding Opportunity for Community Environmental Protection Projects**

1. **Background**

As a corporate Programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aligns its strategies for the Seventh Operational Phase (OP 7) with those of the GEF and co-financing partners and provides a global portfolio of innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues.

Action at the local level by civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations CBOs), including, among others, women groups, indigenous peoples, farmers associations, youth, and persons with disabilities is recognized essential to form multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-7 Programming Directions, UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international commitments.

Building on its experience spanning 26 years of successful operations in total over 133 countries, the 7th Operational Phase of the SGP (SGP OP 7) aims “to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.” This will be achieved through a set of Strategic Initiatives, out of which a few have been prioritized to guide implementation of the Programme in Lesotho.

To better focus grant making and promote strategic programming and clustering of projects, the SGP has adopted the landscape approach. The rational being that greater impact can be realized through creation of synergies and opportunities for scaling up.

This call for proposals is to solicit civil society organizations to submit proposals that will initiate grantmaking in SGP OP7.

The Table below provides the priority themes and eligibility criteria:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Strategic Initiatives and SGP OP 7 Priorities**
 |
| 1. Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
 | * Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)
* Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species
 |
| 1. Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security
 | * Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (*mountains*).
* Increase diversification and livelihood improvement
* Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.
 |
| 1. Low-carbon energy access co-benefits
 | * Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods
* Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas
 |
| 1. Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management
 | * Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy
* Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture
* Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste, and mercury management
 |
| **SGP Focal Areas**SGP projects support *biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters,* and *reduction of the impact of chemicals*, within a sustainable development framework that promotes sustainable livelihoods and citizen empowerment and within the priority strategic initiatives. |
| **Priority landscape**The Senqu River Basin (SRB) was selected as the priority landscape for SGP Operational Phase 6 (OP 6) and will continue to be the priority landscape in OP 7. There is possibility however, to avail grants for strategic and other projects outside the Priority Landscape, that have potential to generate results that can enhance the impact of ongoing initiates within the SRB.  |

1. **Duration**

Projects may be implemented over a period of up to 24 months

1. **Who may submit proposals:**
* Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) legally registered in Lesotho
* Community based organizations (CBOs) legally registered in Lesotho including among others, *women groups, indigenous peoples, farmers associations, cooperative societies, youth groups* and *persons with disability*
* Recognized grassroots organizations
* National research and scientific institutions, etc.
1. **Budget**

The maximum amount for a grant award for the entire project will be limited to USD 50,000, with applicants required to provide a detailed budgetary estimate. The SGP thrives on partnerships and thus it is a requirement that the CSO(s) provide a detailed breakdown of co-financing to match or exceed the grant award.

1. **Annexes to the Terms of Reference**
* Concept Paper template
* SGP OP7 Brochure
* SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy
1. **How to apply**

Interested organizations shall prepare project concept papers using the standard format obtainable from the UNDP GEF SGP Office at the following address: 13 United Nations Road near Maseru Club, Maseru, Lesotho. Or on the UNDP Website: ………………………………….

**Completed proposals can be hand-delivered at the United Nations House (addressed to The National Coordinator, UNDP GEF SGP) or submitted by email to:** ***registry.ls@undp.org*** **(*Subject: Call for Proposals – GEF SGP OP 7 - Y1*) no later than November 27, 2020. Late submissions will not be considered.**

1. **For more information, contact:**

National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Programme - Lesotho at the following address: *registry.ls@undp.org* *Tel: 22228000 ext. 8122* and Mobile *+266 58753319* during working hours only!

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Nthabiseng Majara, National Coordinator, UNDP GEF SGP*