The GEF Small Grants Programme

The GEF SGP funding covers the incremental costs related to projects. Incremental costs are additional costs associated with transforming a project with national benefits into one with global environmental benefits. The Programme provides small grants, up to USD 50,000, directly to Civil Society Organizations and Community Based Organizations and other recognized community entities for environmental protection projects. The Programme thrives on partnerships and thus operates on a 1:1 financing arrangement. Contribution by grantees can be in cash and or in-kind and can be raised through partnerships with donors, government, academic and research institutions, private sector, business sector and other stakeholders.



The Senqu River Basin and OP6 Projects Location

The Global Environment Facility **Small Grants Programme**

Operational Phase 7 Innovation . Inclusion . Impact





Some Executive Committee Members of Mofolaneng Grazing Association discussing rangeland resources management issues



UNDP GEF SGP Lesotho

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What's our story?

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 cofinancing 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 multistakeholder 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. See Diagram below.

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.



What's our 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 as a considered decision of the National Steering Committee of the SGP in Lesotho. As a compound landscape, the SRB is aligned with one of the major agroecological and livelihood zones and encompasses a number of sub-catchments of global significance in terms of the GEF OP 7 focal areas including the Sehlabathebe National Park – a component of the Maloti Drakensberg Park which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Letša-la-Letsie which is a Ramsar site. Furthermore, the Landscape is a water tower and home to major transboundary water resources projects. There is possibility however, to avail grants for strategic and other projects outside the Priority Landscape, that have potential to generate results that have potential to enhance the impact of ongoing initiates within the SRB.

What are the supported interventions?

SGP grantmaking in OP7 will be guided by the strategic initiatives captured above, that are multifocal in character. Supported interventions will be addressing threats to one or more focal areas of the GEF SGP namely, *Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change Mitigation and adaptation to some extent, Sustainable Land management and Sustainable Forest management, Protection of Wetlands and Water Sources, and Reduction of Harmful Effects of Chemicals, all within the scope of the highlighted Strategic Initiatives.*

The SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy for Lesotho, provides detailed information on the Programme , as well as a detailed account of the typology of projects to be supported in OP7. For more information visit: www.sgp.undp.org