

The GEF Small Grants Programme

Healthy Ecosystems; Healthy Lives





About the GEF Small Grants Programme

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a funding facility designed for community-based projects that will conserve the environment and generate income resulting in reduced poverty.



GEF Partnership

The GEF/SGP is a grant-making programme which has been implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992 and is currently operational in 125 countries. In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini joined the SGP under the 7th Operational Phase.



SGP governance structure

- The SGP is governed by the National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising volunteers from NGOs, government, UNDP and experts in the GEF focal areas.
- The NSC leads the development of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS).
- The NSC evaluates proposals and approves feasible ones.



SGP Focal Areas

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Land Degradation
- Sustainable Forest Management
- International Waters
- Chemicals and Waste



SGP Key Priority Areas

- Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security
- Low-carbon energy access co-benefits
- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
- Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management
- Catalysing sustainable urban solutions
- CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms
- Enhancing social inclusion
- Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management



Who Can Apply?

- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Research Organisations, foundations (Non-profit organisations)

Types of Grants

Grant Type and Size	How it works
Planning Grants – USD5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop proposals• To train newly-formed NGOs on project planning and management
Project Grants – USD50 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be accessed over four years during the Operational Phase (OP)• More than one project can be implemented over the OP
Strategic Grants – USD150 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To upscale small projects implemented with the Project Grants.• Several projects covering a larger landscape can be part of the Strategic Grants.

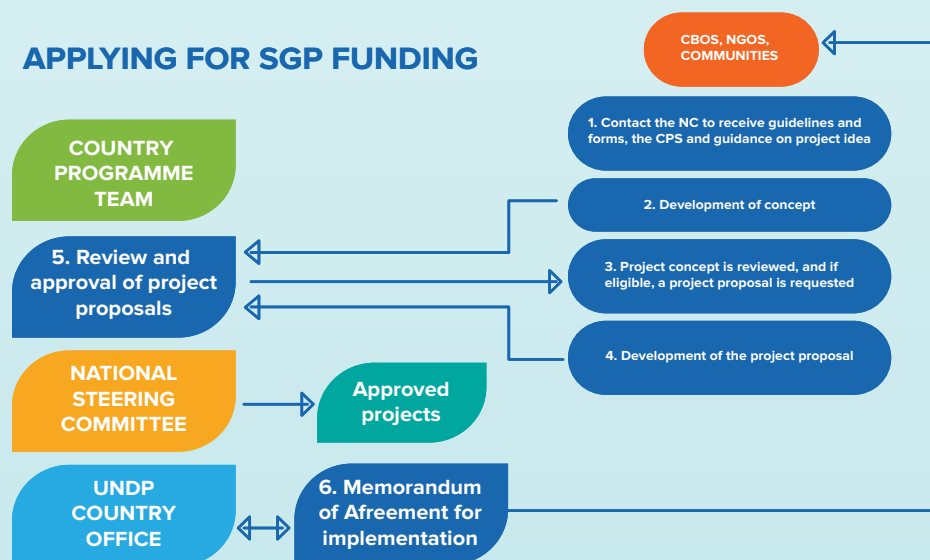
To apply, a CBO/NGO must:

- Be registered
- Demonstrate accountability – meeting minutes, annual reports, financial reports, etc
- Demonstrate experience of implementing projects

Potential projects must:

- Be linked to at least one of the SGP focal areas.
- Bring benefits to the community particularly women, youths and indigenous people.
- Be sustainable, have the potential of upscaling and replication to other areas.
- Show co-financing and in-kind contribution that matches the amount of funding being requested from SGP.
- Be endorsed by the community.

APPLYING FOR SGP FUNDING



Examples of projects that SGP can fund

Type of Project	Example
Projects that improve the management of community conservation areas, national protected areas and those that combine conservation with livelihood activities	Creation and management of conservation areas on community lands, training in natural resource management, conducting of biodiversity assessments and monitoring, and provision of equipment to do monitoring, processing of agro-products (e.g. jams); community based ecotourism; recycling; replanting of deforested areas; farming without the use of chemicals; protection of endangered animals and plants in their natural homes; education and awareness of traditional conservation knowledge, local environmental laws and international conventions.
Projects that reduce carbon emissions at the community level and show how energy can be saved, and projects that reduce or prevent deforestation.	Installation of solar panels in communities without electricity; production and use of clean and efficient cookstoves (use less fire wood); training in the use of low carbon technologies; planting of trees; community Monitoring Reporting Verification (MRV).
Projects that improve land management and maintain ecosystem services such as fresh water supply and clean air	Improved agricultural practices such as crop diversification and rotation, management of agricultural wastes, water harvesting, fire management, small scale irrigation and improved tillage practices; forest rehabilitation including raising seedlings and tree planting; soil and water conservation; community land use planning and land management
Projects that phase out POPs and chemicals of global concern at the community level	Reduction and recycling of waste (including PET plastic); reduction and elimination of POPs at the community level, including mercury from mining activities; awareness and proper disposal of POPs
Projects that enhance and strengthen capacities of CBOs/ NGOs to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	Training and education in biodiversity and climate change international conventions, governance, policy and negotiation, environmental monitoring and natural resources management, and proposal writing.

Please note that the SGP will announce a special call for proposals for these kinds of projects. While capacity building should be a component of all projects, SGP does not ordinarily fund projects that are entirely about capacity building.



For more information, contact:

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