
UNDP GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME Philippines

Background

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been designed to assist developing countries to deal with five main environmental problems: global warming, pollution of international waters, destruction of biological diversity, depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, prevention of land degradation and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The GEF was established in November 1990 by a group of developing and industrialized countries. It is co-managed by the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Under the GEF is the Small Grants Programme managed by the UNDP for developing countries. It supports small-scale activities that address the above-mentioned concerns initiated by community groups and non-governmental organizations.

The development goal of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is to secure global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation, and phasing out of persistent organic pollutants through community-based initiatives and action.

Launched in 1992, SGP is rooted in the belief that local solutions to global environmental problems exist and have been successfully implemented through the Programme while at the same time recognizing that there is still an unrealized potential to enhance the impact of the SGP within the GEF system as a whole.

The SGP pays special attention to local and indigenous communities and gender concerns, and aims for replication and sustainability of its initiatives. As such, the Programme has influenced national policies and donor agencies by increasing awareness of global environmental issues and communicating lessons learned, including best practices from community-based experiences.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the SGP is ***to secure global environmental benefits in the GEF focal areas through community-based initiatives and actions.***

Now in its Fourth Operational Phase (OP4), SGP focuses on achieving the following:

- *Increasing the global reach of the Programme especially in addressing global environmental problems;*
- *Implementation of a well-designed project portfolios that incorporate new GEF focal areas and themes;*
- *Strengthening of existing country Programmes;*
- *Demonstration of local and global benefits of the Programme and application of lessons learned and best practices;*
- *Enhancing sustainability of SGP-funded projects*
- *Realization of SGP's potential as a GEF corporate programme*

Project Criteria

In its Fourth Operational Phase (OP4), the SGP Philippine Country Programme is being implemented within the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) of GEF. At the moment, the **RAF funds accessed by SGP are intended to support projects on biodiversity conservation mainly**. These projects should pursue and strengthen the country's commitment to achieve significant progress in the objectives of the Convention on Biodiversity, specifically:

- 1. Identify and monitor the important components of biological diversity that need to be conserved and used sustainably;**
- 2. Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species in collaboration with local residents;**
- 3. Educate people and raise public awareness about the importance of biological diversity and the need to conserve it.**

The proposed project

- Should be implemented preferably (but not exclusively) within the four (4) geographic focus of the RAF:

Sierra Madre (Luzon)	Cebu (Visayas)
Liguasan Marsh (Mindanao)	Negros-Panay (Visayas).
- Should be problem-oriented; it should include a community-based environmental impact assessment process/component that should lead to establishing a community-owned monitoring and evaluation system.
- Should form part of an integral development program within a larger bio-geographic region.
- Must build up the internal capability of the project partners to sustain the activities in the long term when the external funding is no longer available.
- Must not duplicate other existing or on-going projects within a given area.
- Should be innovative and replicable.
- Should include process documentation to allow internal and external evaluation.
- Should include a budget that is **within the allowable cost** with the **administration cost not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total budget**.
- Must be able to develop partnership with the local government unit for institutionalization and sustainability.

Requirements in Proposal Submission

1. description of the mechanism which will ensure:
 - project continuity after fund support
 - participation of target partners in all phases of the project; and
 - project implementation and management
2. Map showing the project location.
3. Indication of the technical and financial viability of the project (specifically critical for initiatives which integrate sustainable livelihood activities and introduction of alternatives and renewable energy);
4. Linkage/consistency with the country's overall development thrust on sustainable development;
5. Description of ongoing initiatives in the area to ascertain possible complementation and avoid duplication.

Grant Process

Maximum level of funding is US\$ 50,000 per project.

The National Secretariat screens proposals according to the GEF SGP project criteria. The Project Review Committee reviews the proposal for technical viability of the projects. The National Steering Committee approves projects for funding.

Approval of projects and commitment of funds are formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed by the grantee and the UNDP in behalf of UNOPS. Grant funds are released in tranches according to provisions of the MoA and subject to submission and acceptance of narrative and financial progress reports.

Project Proponent Eligibility Criteria

1. A Filipino non-profit, non-stock organization with juridical personality such as people's organizations (POs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
2. Duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), or any of the following agencies: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Local Government Units (LGUs), and others.
3. Continuous activities in relevant areas falling within the scope of the programme for a minimum of two (2) years immediately preceding the application of assistance.
4. Established track record and organizational capability within the two (2) years immediately preceding the application for assistance as evidenced by:
 - demonstrated project competency in a similar/related project;
 - established organizational structure including an area-based structure, i.e., presence in the area where the project will be implemented;
 - expertise of management and staff in effective project planning and implementation supported by an organized working Board;
 - established financial systems and procedures which conform to generally accepted audit standards and implemented by qualified finance staff; and
 - audited financial statements for the past two (2) years prepared by a certified public accountant
 - fund sources (during the last five (5) years)