

Demonstrating innovative and effective community solutions to climate change

About the GEF Small Grants Programme

Established in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP, embodies the very essence of sustainable development by “thinking globally, acting locally”. By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people’s well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives. Currently, SGP is in its fifth operational Phase (2011-2014). To date, GEF SGP has invested US\$ 450million and leveraged similar levels of co-financing supporting over 14,500 community-based projects in over 125 countries.

KEY FACTS

- The programme provides grants of up to US\$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous peoples, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups.
- The decentralized structure of SGP encourages maximum country and community-level ownership and initiative.
- The unique SGP National Steering Committees are the key decision making bodies of the SGP country programmes that bring together the civil society, the government and other key stakeholders to work towards community-based environmental efforts.

Our Climate Change Work

Over the last ten years, the total investment of the GEF SGP in climate change has been US\$85,351,393 which has supported 3,194 communities in over 100 countries. The programme has been able to leverage US\$65,605,533 in in-cash co-financing and US\$54,651,521 in in-kind co-financing.

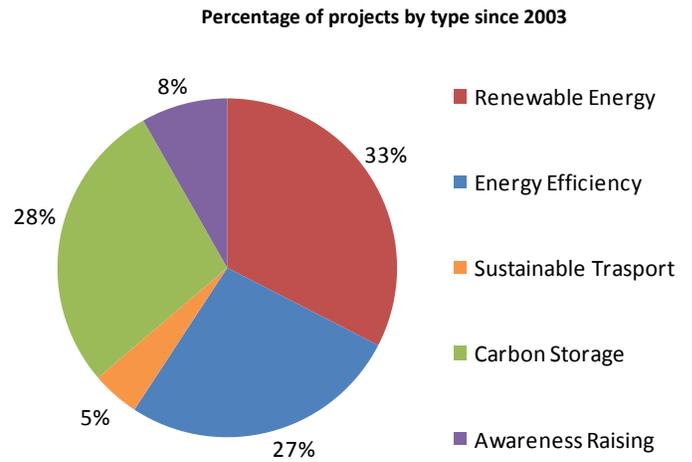
Our portfolio on climate change has focused on promoting demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies and transport with the aim of developing low carbon climate resilient communities. Recently, the programme started to develop projects on the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable land use and forest management at the community level by testing innovative approaches in low carbon technology and carbon sequestration.



Project Categories

The GEF SGP supports community-led climate change initiatives in the following areas:

- Renewable Energy (33%)
- Energy Efficiency (22%)
- Sustainable Transport (5%)
- Carbon Storage (28%)
- Climate Change Awareness Raising (5%)



Our results lead to innovation and up-scaling

GEF SGP has supported a global portfolio of more than 3,000 projects addressing climate change across 110 countries. GEF SGP works with communities on the promotion, demonstration, deployment and transfer of innovative low-carbon technologies and is playing a critical catalytic role in transferring know-how and finding innovative local solutions.

In partnership with other initiatives, the GEF SGP empowers communities to scale up successful models by forging partnerships with the private and public sector, as well as with other development partners. These interventions, often innovative and risky, are reducing barriers and creating conditions for up scaling and replicating successful solutions.



Energy Efficiency

Percentage of the portfolio: 27%

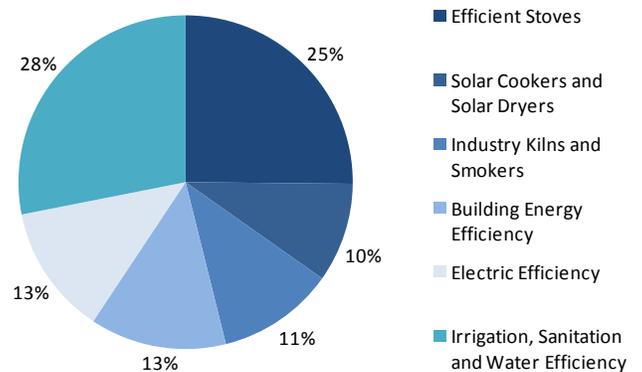
Number of projects since 2003: 644

SGP Contribution since 2003: US\$18 million

Typology of projects:

- Efficient Cook Stoves
- Solar Cookers and Solar Dryers
- Industry Kilns and Smokers
- Building Energy Efficiency
- Irrigation, Sanitation and Water Efficiency
- Electric Efficiency

Energy Efficiency projects by type since 2003



Improved energy efficient stoves are one example of a **community technology successfully adapted and scaled up globally** by GEF SGP. Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Chile, Comoros, Guinea Conakry, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Cote d’Ivoire, Pakistan, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Nepal, Namibia, Morocco, and Zimbabwe, among others, implemented efficient stove projects using locally appropriate technologies and community mobilization approaches.

For example, in **Nepal**, a rice husk stove was developed to use local materials; in **Morocco**, efficient oven technology was used for traditional pottery and bread production; and in **Cambodia**, efficient stoves were used for sugar palm processing. In **Nicaragua**, the GEF SGP cook stove methodology is being up-scaled to cover the entire country, where 50% of the energy consumed is sourced from wood. Efficient cook stoves help decrease black carbon, a potent carbon pollutant.



Renewable Energy

Percentage of the portfolio: 33%

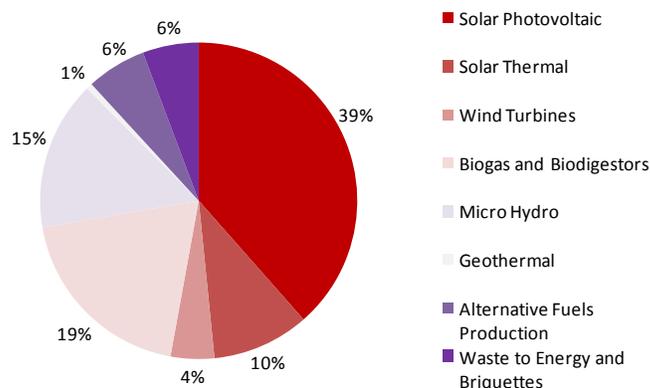
Number of projects since 2003: 787

SGP Contribution since 2003: US\$22.5 million

Typology of projects:

- Solar Photovoltaic
- Solar Thermal
- Wind Turbines
- Biogas
- Micro Hydro
- Geothermal
- Alternative Fuels
- Waste to Energy

Renewable Energy projects by type since 2003



In renewable energy (RE), solar energy is one area in which GEF SGP scaled up a number of locally appropriate solutions in numerous countries. In **Senegal**, ten of the country's 14 regions are involved in **demonstration and up-scaling of a solar cooker technology** with women particularly benefitting from training opportunities. As a direct result of GEF SGP projects, 432 tons of CO₂ were avoided annually, while as a result of up-scaling and partnerships established through GEF SGP, a total of 7,215 tons of CO₂ emissions per year were avoided. The partial substitution of butane gas, firewood and charcoal for solar energy mitigated CO₂ emissions by 40%.



Biogas is another area where SGP is **testing and upscaling innovative approaches**. In **Mongolia**, GEF SGP supported the development of an innovative methodology for biogas production in a cold climate, which was the first such experience in the country. This biogas production facility is now owned and run by the herders themselves.

In **Kenya**, biogas installation is being upscaled to trigger the benefits of economies of scale with financial institutions developing a lending scheme, masons/artisans setting up base in the target region and shops selling requisite appliances manufactured by the private sector. In **Uruguay**, biogas digesters installation on dairy farms resulted in 50% substitution of used butane gas with biogas. The project was selected for replication and upscaling by the government and a publication with methodology description and lessons learned was prepared to share knowledge.

Sustainable Transport

Percentage of the portfolio: 5%

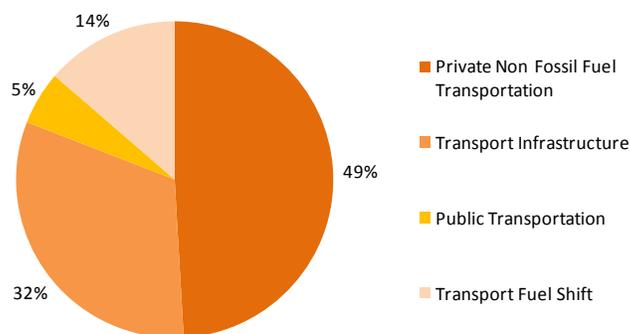
Number of projects since 2003: 110

SGP Contribution since 2003: US\$3 million

Typology of projects:

- Private Non Fossil Fuel Transportation
- Transport Infrastructure
- Public Transportation
- Transport Fuel Shift

Sustainable Transport projects by type since 2003



GEF SGP sustainable transport projects focus on **promoting innovation and scalable approaches**. In **Bulgaria**, a GEF SGP funded project installed the first charging station for electric vehicles powered by solar energy in the country. In **Ghana**, GEF SGP supported unemployed youth in manufacturing bamboo bicycles for efficient low carbon rural transportation and livelihood enterprise development. A community-based social enterprise was set up to produce the bamboo bikes. In **Macedonia**, GEF SGP is supporting a land reclamation project to remove heavy metals from the soils growing crops to be used for bio-diesel production.

In **Sri Lanka**, a GEF SGP project contributed to the evolution of an electric vehicle policy in Sri Lanka, which demonstrated the viability of zero emission electric three wheelers and other electric vehicles as public transport means, and trained unemployed youth to operate and maintain the vehicles and produce vehicle parts in order to assemble the vehicles locally.



Carbon Storage

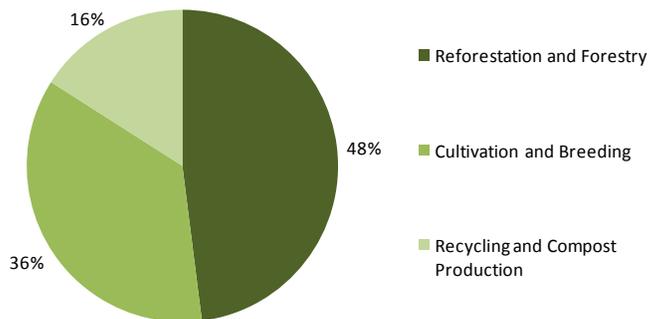
Percentage of the portfolio: 28%

Number of projects since 2003: 677

SGP Contribution since 2003: US\$19 million

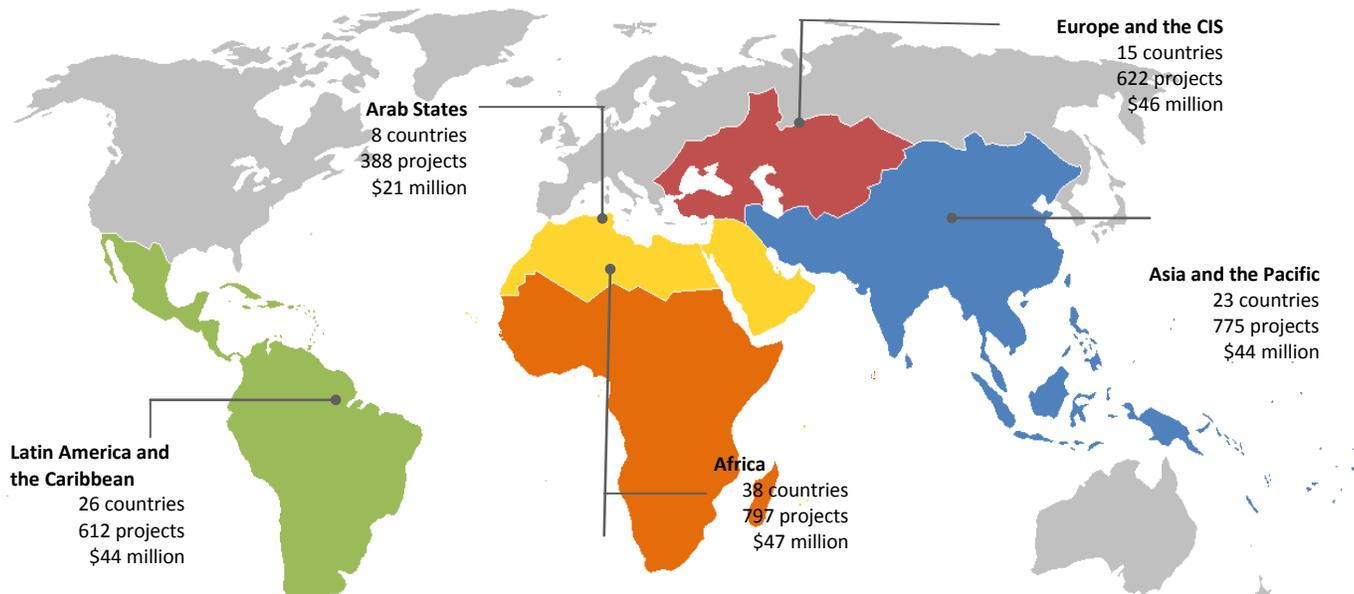
- Reforestation and Forestry
- Cultivation and Breeding
- Recycling and Compost Production

Carbon Storage projects by type since 2003



Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) is a new area for GEF SGP, which allows communities to **develop locally appropriate carbon storage and monitoring methodologies** based on the latest scientific findings. For example, in **Belarus**, local communities restored wetlands to protect carbon stocks and reduce GHG emissions. As a result, ecosystems were rehabilitated in an area of more than 800 ha and avoided about 16,000 tons of CO₂ of annual emissions. In **Panama**, GEF SGP supported the development of a novel methodology to measure carbon sequestration in indigenous community forest.

Geographic distribution of the portfolio



Policy Impact

GEF SGP projects demonstrate that despite of their small scale they have significant policy impacts at local, regional and national levels. In **Bulgaria**, GEF SGP's renewable energy demonstration projects contributed to the development of a new law on renewables and Bulgaria's energy efficiency action plan. In **Lebanon**, GEF SGP supported grantee partners in encouraging the central government to replicate a successful project model for renewable energy demonstration.



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Community Action Global Impact