



## Global Environment Facility (GEF), Small Grants Programme (SGP) Operational Phase 7 - Call for Project Proposal

### 1.0. Background – Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP)

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), that provides financial and technical support to local communities, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to develop and implement innovative local actions that address global environmental issues, while improving the livelihood and reducing poverty. Launched in 1992, SGP works closely with, and complements other GEF projects and programmes. The GEF - SGP finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental issues through a decentralized, country-level delivery mechanism managed by a multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee (NSC) and supported by a SGP Country Programme. Currently, the GEF-SGP is implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The GEF - SGP is designed to mobilize bottom-up actions by empowering local civil society and community-based organizations, including **indigenous peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities**. Its unique approach to Community Action, Global Impact has proven to be effective in helping communities respond to environment and development challenges while improving their livelihoods and reducing poverty. **The SGP acknowledges that it is at the community level where solutions and effective action can emerge.** The principle of “thinking globally, acting locally” has put the essence of sustainable development into action under the SGP. By providing financial and technical support to community projects, the GEF-SGP has enhanced conservation and restoration of the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods.

The SGP's unique approach to global environmental protection is becoming more relevant than ever with growing population and deepening levels of poverty, a vicious cycle exists that increases an ever greater need to exploit natural resources unsustainably. In this regard, addressing the scale and scope of global environmental issues require a wide range of simultaneous, integrated, innovative and multi-focused approaches. This is what the SGP delivers by mainstreaming and scaling up of community-led efforts, which in turn contribute to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty.

### 2.0. SGP's main objectives

- I. Support communities and civil society organizations to understand and practice sustainable development strategies that protect the global environment.
- II. Develop, implement, and learn from community-level approaches that reduce threats to the global environment through replication, scaling up, and mainstreaming.
- III. Build partnerships and establish networks to strengthen local and national capacities to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development.
- IV. Gather, share and scale-up successful community-based innovations and strategies to showcase



effective solutions to a wider set of stakeholders.

### **3.0. Target Groups**

#### *3.1. Gender*

Gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical element of SGP efforts. Women play a fundamental role in creating well-being in their communities and sustainably using natural resources. Thus, women are encouraged to participate and take leadership in community-based projects.

#### *3.2. Indigenous people*

Indigenous peoples play a key role in SGP efforts. SGP works closely with indigenous communities. SGP respects customary law and practice and supports securing rights to land and resources, as well as participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance.

#### *3.3. Youths*

As current and future actors and stakeholders in environmental protection and sustainable development, youth have become a priority group for SGP. Environmental protection is an intergenerational effort as it requires the expertise of the elders, as well as the formation of the youth as future leaders. Thus, SGP see great value in investing in youth, who have a unique capacity to shape a more sustainable future.

#### *3.4. Disability*

The SGP supports projects by and for persons with disabilities. Mainstreaming and engaging these groups enables them to actively participate in community efforts, which in turn improves their livelihoods.

### **4.0. GEF SGP Focal Areas**

Project ideas must address one of the following strategic themes;

- I. Biodiversity Conservation,
- II. Protection of International Water,
- III. Reduction of the Impact of Chemicals

### **5.0. The Landscapes**



Prioritized landscapes for OP7 will include the following;

- I) Upper Zambezi landscape Site – AER III: High rainfall region, densely forested region where the source of the Zambezi River is located,
- II) Middle Zambezi landscape site – AER II: Medium rainfall region moderate forest cover, characterized by over harvesting of natural resources (logging, wildlife hunting, fishing) in the Western Province and,
- III) Lower Zambezi Landscape site -AER III: Low rainfall region, characterized by heavy deforestation, significant increases and fluctuations in temperatures and prominent Land degradation,
- IV) Luapula landscape,
- V) Kafue landscape.

**6.0. Application process:** Eligible organizations should prepare a proposal using the provided template. Proponent organization must ensure their proposed project idea is **relevant, innovative**, and aligned to the GEF SGP Operational Phase 7 Country Programme Strategy for Zambia.

Encouraging and building partnership among organizations and groups is an integral part of the SGP. **Thus, less experienced community organizations are encouraged to take part in SGP activities, assisted by a local or national NGO, who play a key role as mentors and partners.**

**7.0. Budget:** The grant amount for the budget will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Please note, **\$50,000 will be considered in exceptional situations**. The implementation capacity of the CBOs and/or CSO and the ideas being proposed will be considered when approving the grant amount.

**8.0. Project Duration:** - The duration of projects proposed should not exceed 24 months.

**9.0. Submission of proposals:** Proposals must be submitted directly to GEF Small Grants Programme - UNDP Zambia, [gef.zm@undp.org](mailto:gef.zm@undp.org) and copy [registry.zm@undp.org](mailto:registry.zm@undp.org) no later than **7<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 5:00pm**.

Should you require clarification or additional information, kindly send an email to [gef.zm@undp.org](mailto:gef.zm@undp.org), requesting for a short zoom meeting.