

SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: **UZBEKISTAN**
Resources to be invested: **US\$ 5,000,000¹**

1. SGP country programme - summary background

- 1.1 The Programme was launched in Uzbekistan in 2008. The ceremony of the GEF SGP launch in Uzbekistan took place on May 28th, 2008. More than 200 various stakeholders participated in the ceremony where a Country Programme Strategy for GEF OP-4 was accepted after prior on-line (1 month) discussion and discussion during the ceremony.
- 1.2 The GEF SGP in Uzbekistan² approved first two of its projects on September 2008 and soon their implementation started. This means that by now the Programme has been active for 3 full years in the country. During this period, the Programme has supported 45 projects for the total amount of 1,089,993 USD from the GEF funds raising additional co-financing from other resources for the amount of more than 1,380,000 USD. Out of them, 9 projects were in biodiversity (BD) thematic area, 27 projects – in climate change (CC), 5 projects in land degradation (LD), and 4 of the mixed thematic area projects. During the fist 3 years, the Programme has been gradually developing with increasing demand for its resources starting from 110,000 USD after the 1st year, 300,000 USD – for the 2nd year, and more than 670,000 USD – for the 3rd year.
- 1.3 Currently for the GEF-5 cycle the Programme in Uzbekistan has 1b status (new programme). Total core funding committed to implementation of the Programme in Uzbekistan for GEF -5 budget cycle equals to 700,000 USD.
- 1.4 Whereas the Programme has become bigger and there is growing demand for the GEF SGP resources in Uzbekistan, the potential for attracting funds from STAR country resources remains uncertain. The Government has not allocated the STAR resources for GEF SGP implementation in OP5 so far and the growing SGP needs in resources will not be met by GEF funds allocated for Uzbekistan. Currently the Programme works on attracting other funds so it would be able to operate and provide assistance to communities across the country.

¹ The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation and anticipated third party co-financing. Attraction of STAR resources, are under negotiations.

² The phrases “GEF SGP”, “GEF SGP in Uzbekistan” and “Programme” are used interchangeably if otherwise stated in the text.

- 1.5 Preliminary estimations show that in order to meet the demand for the funds from the potential applicants during GEF-5, the GEF SGP should have at least 2 million USD of funds. Therefore 1,3 million USD were sought from STAR resources or other sources in order to run the Programme effectively.
- 1.6 As concerns other sources of co-financing, Uzbekistan remains to be a country with relatively low level of donor's activity for initiative in non-governmental sector. This is why it is extremely difficult to find international donors and partners for implementation of GEF SGP projects and the Programme per se. UNDP remains the main and the most active supporter of the Programme in the country. Some of the developed country's embassies are also providing significant support to separate initiatives of the Programme. Among them: Swiss Embassy, US Embassy and Embassy of Germany. The SGP continues working with all potential donors to attract more resources to implementation of the projects in rural areas in all three thematic focuses of the Programme.
- 1.7 Nonetheless, the Programme was successful in attracting co-financing from various private sector partners. The co-financing is attracted in form of various contributions of separate initiatives. The volume and nature of the contribution varies depending on a project. There is strong belief that the Programme will be able to keep attracting this support during OP-5.
- 1.8 It should be noted that even during this short period of the Programme running in Uzbekistan many success practices were tested and disseminated with the help of various partners. Especially a few practices and technologies should be underlined that the Programme has showcased and has good potential for further dissemination and up-scaling during the GEF-5 budget cycle, namely:
- Reforestation initiatives with drought resistant species having both ecological and economic benefits for local people;
 - Various aquaculture practices diminishing pressure on natural fish stocks and having fish stock rehabilitation effect;
 - Lazer leveling of agricultural lands helping to reduce soil degradation and saving a lot of water resources;
 - No-tillage practice for improving soils qualities and increasing fertility;
 - Biogas technology;
 - Various micro technologies providing or saving energy (micro-hydro, stoves, solar energy, etc).
- 1.9 In comparison with the period of the Programme's start-up, the baseline in terms of environmental aspects has not changed much. Some of the prominent problems have become even more acute and demand stronger attention. For instance, climate change consequences are felt by local population much stronger and adaptation measures should have greater attention. The country Programme will be focusing on them and having adaptation to climate change as a cross-cutting theme as it is integrally connected with all three thematic areas where the Programme operates – climate change, biodiversity conservation and land degradation. Capacity development will stay as a separate theme although all SGP projects have capacity development components inside them. Capacity

development will be used to promote the approach to use of natural resources, to advocate for conventions supported by the GEF and the Programme inside the country.

2. SGP country programme niche

2.1 Uzbekistan has been a signatory to many international environmental conventions and agreement. The main ones, related to GEF focal areas are enlisted in Table 1 below.

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	17 October 1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	01 April 1998
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	20 June 1993
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd)	22 October 1999, 3 December 2008
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	n/a
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	31 October 1995
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Not adopted
Stockholm Convention (SC)	Not ratified
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	n/a
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	n/a
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2008 (c)
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	n/a
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	n/a

2.2 The SGP country programme strategy of Uzbekistan is entirely based on GEF-5 Strategic Priorities related to Uzbekistan and those SGP OP5 global programme objectives. In general, the GEF SGP in Uzbekistan will continue supporting initiatives of civil society and community-based organization in climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and combating land degradation focal areas. Assistance to develop climate change adaptation potential will be regarded as a cross-cutting theme due to its high value for sustainable development of Uzbekistan. As all of the GEF strategic priorities found its reflection in the GEF SGP OP5 global programme document, SGP country programme of Uzbekistan is outlined against OP5 objectives further on in Table 2.

- 2.3 The country programme in Uzbekistan firmly believes in necessity of knowledge sharing as a key function of the GEF SGP. The country programme strategy will closely stick to outlined statement of the global GEF SGP document saying that

“... Knowledge management will be an important cross-cutting area of activity in which SGP will apply multiple tools to promote positive information flows. This approach will support the SGP and GEF catalytic role by contributing to replication and upscaling of good practices. Knowledge sharing is also critical in the wider capacity development of other communities and CSOs. SGP provides capacity development through a learning-by-doing approach and successful projects provide good models as well as disseminators/trainers for other community-based projects”.

This approach – “demonstration – dissemination through knowledge sharing” - has been actively utilized by Uzbekistan SGP country programme strategy in OP4 cycle and proved to be very effective.

- 2.4 The country programme will be implemented through granting assistance to civil society’s and community-based organizations to implement their initiatives.
- 2.5 The country programme does not seclude any of the country regions and therefore the geographic focus is spread throughout the country.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions	Objective 1: Protected Areas System “To establish a system of protected areas with strong legal protection and effective management which is properly representative of the range of Uzbekistan’s ecosystems and species, and which covers at least 10% of the country.” (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan)	To improve individual PAs’s management by integrating better management practices, expanding protected improving infrastructure in close cooperation with local communities and environmental NGOs.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions	Objective 2: Public Awareness, Participation and Education “Achieve at all levels an adequate understanding and appreciation of the full value of biodiversity to Uzbekistan’ sustainable development and support for the efforts to adequately conserve and the Republic’ biological resources.” Objective 3: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity “Via the controlled use of	To introduce and disseminate sustainable resource use practices that adequately ensure interests of long term conservation of Uzbekistan biodiversity and provide economic benefits to communities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
	<p>biodiversity resources, achieve the maximum economic, scientific, recreational and cultural benefits for all the people of Uzbekistan, while at the same time ensuring the long term conservation of biodiversity and viability of ecosystems.” (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan)</p>	
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduction of energy losses during generation, transportation and distribution – Provision of all consumers, including population, with fuel and energy measuring devices; improvement of the centralized heating supply system; – Upgrade and replacement of inefficient boiler houses; – Transfer of the heat supply systems to the closed principle; – Thermo isolation of heating pipe-networks and buildings; – Replacement of worn out pipes in the heat supply system; – Provision of consumers with the systems of solar energy based hot water supply; – Gasification of the urban coal boiler houses; – Introduction of technologies of source water treatment for water boilers with the capacity of up to 10 Gcal/h; – Introduction of the frequency vary-drive on all housing and communal services energy sites. – upgrading of the depreciated pumping units, electric technical hardware in irrigation systems and vertical drainage systems <p>(2nd National Communication to UN FCCC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To promote various energy efficient practices of heating and insulation of households (individual and communal); – To promote various alternative or efficient energy sources with minimal carbon footprint that have specific practical meaning for households and communities; – To promote other possible low carbon technologies that mitigate GHGs emissions and support communities well-being;
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy</p>	<p>Improvement of transportation and motor pool structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to support biogas use for transportation

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	arrangement, significant increase of the share of vehicles with diesel drive, multiple growth of gas utilization as an engine fuel, construction of roads with the hard deposition, improvement of the pool structure and vehicles in the railway and aircraft transportation (2 nd National Communication to UN FCCC)	purposes if possible;
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	The importance of the land use, land use change and forestry were underlined, impact on CO ₂ stock showcased. However, no mitigation strategies for this particular sector were clearly announced in 2 nd National Communication to UN FCCC.	– To develop all possible practices on sustainable land use enhancing carbon stock, including agricultural practices, forestry and rangelands management
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	No officially approved strategy related to agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities apart from Objective 3: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity “Via the controlled use of biodiversity resources, achieve the maximum economic, scientific, recreational and cultural benefits for all the people of Uzbekistan, while at the same time ensuring the long term conservation of biodiversity and viability of ecosystems.” (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan)	– To continue developing forestry and agroforestry practices to improve existing ecosystems’ functions and products with simultaneous sustainability of local communities livelihood
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	ibid	– To develop and disseminate any land use practices that are more sustainable in comparison with existing ones and avail less pressure on the existing ecosystems and landscapes
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	No SPAs developed	n/a

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	Uzbekistan has not ratified Stockholm convention on POPs	n/a
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	Ensuring further development of the civil society institutions, strengthening their role in providing transparency and efficiency of the ongoing reforms The Concept of further deepening the democratic reforms and establishing the civil society in the country Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov at the joint session of the Legislative chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan November 12, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dissemination of the best resource use practices and approaches to sustainable resource use among communities; - Integration of the knowledge and methods of skill transfer about best resource use practices and approaches to sustainable resource use as well as knowledge on global environmental conventions into the curriculum of educational institutions at any level through initiatives of NGOs and CBOs
<u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that all demonstrated practices have income generation component as the key factor motivating communities, businesses and/or individuals to engage in it; - To widen women participation and/or benefit directly focusing on women in/from SGP projects and results

2.6 The scope of the country programme outlined in the Table 2 does not however exclude other activities and/or projects that may produce clear environmental benefits in accordance with the guidelines of the UN CBD, UN FCCC, and UN CDLD.

3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP

- 3.1 The GEF SGP will continue providing extended support in preparation and formulation of the project design and documents. This is done through extensive consultations on the stage of development and implementation of the projects between the NGO or CBO and NC or NSC member(s). The SGP team also includes technical experts in the consultation processes that will also improve capacities of the communities or NGOs in sustainable resource management.
- 3.2 The Country Programme departs from the concept that effective natural resources preservation, conservation or utilization is only possible in case when direct users receive clear-cut benefits. Economical benefits are the most stimulating in engaging users into sustainable use practices. Having this in mind, the country programme regards this factor as the most desirable in designing and implementing SGP projects.
- 3.3 The Country Programme will put much of its focus on further integration of gender aspects in its projects design and implementation. Special attention will be paid to expansion of share of implemented practices results to benefit women.

4. OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities

- 4.1 The country programme results and indicators are given in the Table 3 below

Table 3. Results Framework

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions			
SGP BD Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas	At least 2 PAs with total area of at least 20 000 ha positively influenced through SGP support	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits	At least 2 projects
SGP BD Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas	At least 100 community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from protected areas		At least 4 projects
SGP BD Outcome 1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community-level of the importance and value of biodiversity	At least 10 significant species with maintained or improved conservation status		At least 4 projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
SGP BD Outcome 2.1: Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes / seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 100 ha of production landscapes under improved sustainable use practices – At least 20 000 USD of value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced 	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least 4 projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
SGP CC Outcome 3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level	At least 10 community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least 5 projects
SGP CC Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided	At least 200 tons of CO ₂ avoided by implementing low carbon		

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
	technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 100 tons of CO₂ emissions avoided by renewable energy measures – 100 tons of CO₂ emissions avoided by energy efficiency measures – Other 		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level			
SGP CC Outcome 4.1: Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level	At least 10 community members demonstrating or deploying low carbon transport options	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least 1 project
SGP CC Outcome 4.3: GHG emissions avoided	At least 50 tons of CO ₂ avoided by implementing low carbon transport practices technologies		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry			
SGP CC Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types	At least 100 ha of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least 3 projects
SGP CC Outcome 5.3: GHG emissions avoided	At least 100 tons of CO ₂ avoided by implementing sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem⁹ and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
SGP LD Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on	At least 100 ha under improved agricultural, land and water	GEF SGP database, project reports and	At least 2 projects

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality	management practices	monitoring visits SGP case studies	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses			
SGP LD Outcome 7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 100 ha of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices – At least 5 communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices 	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least 2 projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends			
SGP CD Outcome 10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 5 qualitative analytical papers on best practices produced, disseminated and codified in SGP knowledge base; 	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	Publication of at least 5 analytical papers
SGP CD Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 10 SGP projects' practices were presented at various fairs, conferences, and publications. 		Participation in at least 10 events

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

- 5.1 The Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plan embraces 2 levels – individual projects implementation and country programme implementation.
- 5.2 Individual SGP projects' M&E starts from the initial introduction with the project concept/idea. Any person from national civil society organizations (i.e. national NGOs or CBOs) contact with the SGP team providing initial project idea. The information about SGP *modus operandi* is shared with the communities/NGOs through operating bilingual (Russian, Uzbek) web-site and through the annually conducted capacity-development workshops and trainings, supported by the admin budget of the SGP and by UNDP core funds provided by the Country Office.
- 5.3 The introduction with the project concept is usually followed after initial e-mail or phone discussion with the pre-project site visit. During the discussion and site visit an initial project results framework is set, which will be followed by M&E activities afterwards. Certainly this is just an initial set-up of the project framework which can be well amended during the project design and formulation stage. All discussions are held jointly with the communities' members, interested parties, authorities and potential partners.
- 5.4 The grantees then start developing a project proposal where a set of project indicators and results are outlined. This set is formed in the form of the project logical framework, put into a simple language terms. All project activities and results are discussed in detail with all involved parties. This framework is becoming the reference source during the project implementation if the project is approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC).
- 5.5 The project document also contains M&E plan for the particular project. NC conducts project monitoring visits at least once a year. The frequency of the monitoring visits by the NC depends on the complexity of a project and determined by the NC according to the project results milestones.
- 5.6 The NC also conducts a monitoring visit at the end of a project or after its completion to verify that the objectives of a project are achieved.
- 5.7 Once a year, a mandatory NSC members monitoring visit is organized across selected projects to inform the NSC members with projects' progress and results.
- 5.8 The detailed M&E plan for individual project level is provided in the Table 4 below.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project

Baseline Data Collection ³	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress Reports (depending on agreed project timeframe)	Grantees, NC, PA	At request of the NC
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, NSC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective ⁴)	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

- 5.9 The individual SGP projects contribute to achieving country and global results and thus should be streamlined into a common strategy. The country results strategy is outlined in the previous section, in the Table 3. Global results are outlined in SGP global programme document.
- 5.10 The table 3 contains country programme thematic areas' results and indicators. These results will serve as an overall objective for successful implementation of the Programme to extend possible. Of course, the result framework set out in the table will not be excluding other projects suggested by potential grantees that do not fall into one or another results line but provide clear and tangible environmental benefits in line with selected thematic areas (CC, BD or LD) or in cross-cutting area.
- 5.11 The overall M&E plan for the country programme level is given in Table 5 below.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Preferably at the end of each month in case if ready projects

³ Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

⁴ To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

		are available for review but at least four times per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ⁵	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

6 Knowledge Management Plan

6.1. The strategy for every single SGP project in Uzbekistan is “*demonstrate – codify - disseminate*”. In every project, solid knowledge sharing is seen as the key mechanism and cornerstone for making an impact.

6.2. Knowledge management is accepted along the following lines:

A project is implementing along its designed activities. The first major important element of any project design is demonstration of a technology/practice which entails production of clear environmental benefits along with livelihood benefits. Then the results of the technology and a very detailed description of the technology are produced in form of a separate manual/instructions/recommendations. Together with the technology description, a project also prepares a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of the technology that clearly depicts all economical benefits of a technology to potential users. The preparation of the CBA is very important as farmers/resource users are mostly interested in economic benefits, and the country programme is providing them the clear picture of the return on investments.

After these publications are ready, they are widely disseminated across potential interested parties. The scope of dissemination depends on the scale of a project. However, CBAs and manuals are usually distributed across the country. The country programme has a data base of many partners that includes all governmental authorities on national, province and district levels, educational and scientific institutions, CBOs across the country, different types of resource use associations (water users associations, farmers associations, etc). All materials are sent by post, published on our programme web-site (www.sgp.uz) and through e-mail distribution list. Our web-site serves as a reference point, where a number of materials on various practices are collected for free download and use.

This distribution covers very wide list of population. All results are also copied on the community page of the country programme at <http://facebook.com/sgp.uz>.

6.3. There was a good suggestion from our partners that an SGP project, demonstrating a good practice/technology, that brings environmental benefits and produce economic benefits, should also produce a model business plan. This business plan can be used by any potential user of the technology as a starting ground to adopt and apply for loans to financial institutions in order to repeat the demonstrated

⁵ The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

practice/technology. In OP5, the country programme will be producing this model business plans (feasibility studies) within the projects.

- 6.4. Then, after a project has produced results, it trains as many local people as possible on the tested practice. The published materials are provided to trainees.
- 6.5. From time to time, the country programme produces newsletter, funded by UNDP CO resources as well as analytical notes. Those products are also widely disseminated across governmental agencies and local governing bodies. The purpose of this information sharing is to provide the Government and/or local governing bodies with a solid ground that will suffice to make or trigger further policy decisions which will upscale results of the projects activities/technologies/practices.
- 6.6. The country programme team also actively participates in various academic networks and environmental civil society networks. The team takes parts in many public events propagating environmentally sound practices. The country programme also closely works with various governmental bodies both on national and province levels and plans to continue this practice. The country programme has been participating in organized by the Ministry of Economy annual innovation technologies fair and avails its readiness to support the initiative of the Government to build innovation-based economy.
- 6.7. It should be noted that the country programme is very open to sharing its experience and is ready to provide whatever needed for up-scaling tested technologies by other partners/government. We have several best resource practices that have good potential for upscaling them on the national level. We also use practices and technologies tested in other countries or by other partners, which have not received proper recognition in Uzbekistan.

7 Resource Mobilization Plan

- 7.1. At the moment of the current country programme strategy preparation, the Government has not endorsed allocation of STAR resources to the SGP implementation in the country. Only 700,000 USD is available for distribution among grantees during the period of the OP5 from GEF SGP core funding. The estimated demand for grant resources is at least 2 million USD. This means that the country programme is in great deficit of financial resources if it plans to operate effectively.
- 7.2. Only a few donors present in Uzbekistan and none of them specializes or is able to support communities or civil society sector. This leaves the country programme with the only possibility to seek additional resources for its operation outside the country.
- 7.3. The resource mobilization plan of the country programme is to seek partnership with ongoing initiatives of UNDP and other donor organizations. The programme will also be applying to various financial support programmes of bigger bilateral and multilateral donors.

- 7.4. On the project level 1:1 co-financing ration is strictly followed to raise additional funds for projects implementation. The co-financing is expected to be raised from grantees and private sector.
- 7.5. Big support to implementation of the country programme is provided by Uzbekistan UNDP Country Office which allocated resources for covering management and big share of knowledge sharing costs of the Programme.