LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR BUILDING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

LANDSCAPE GREATER CAIRO

SGP EGYPT

April 2023

Summary:

The Cairo and Giza governorates are included in the Greater Cairo metropolitan area. Cumulatively, there are approximately 20 million inhabitants in these two governorates, comprising roughly 20% of the population of the country. The Greater Cairo region is considered the largest urban area in Africa and the Middle East and is the densest in terms of population per square kilometer.

Egypt has been recently giving more attention to the climate change and emerging needs. GOE efforts in this regard is clear from the launch of the National Climate Change Strategy – 2050 (NCCS) by the Ministry of Environment in May 2022 and Egypt hosting the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 27 in November 2022.

In order to prepare this landscape strategy, a multiphase approach was adopted starting with reviewing relevant documents on country and landscape levels. One of the key reference documents is the OP7 Project document that was developed after a set of consultations on landscape levels concluding the key identified gaps and potential opportunities. The desk review phase was followed by a consultation meeting conducted in Cairo in the 5th of February 2023, under the auspices of the Governor and attended by attended by 44 participants representing relevant stakeholders; governorate representatives from Cairo and Giza governorates, ministries such as Ministry of environment, Ministry of Finance, Educational institutions such as Desert Research Center, CSOs/CBOs, in addition to the SGP Program Management Team and National Steering Committee chair. Input from the consultation meeting along with the data gathered from the desk review were analyzed and guided the drafting of this landscape strategy. During the consultation meeting, Giza governorate representative shared that Giza has an in-place climate change strategy that was launched in 2020. The representation from governmental entities attended the consultation meeting was mainly from Giza governorate which reflects the governorate's high interest in the SGP work.

The baseline survey provides the material to develop strategies to improve community resilience in Upper Egypt Landscape. Based on the community resilience's scores assessment, in general

the participants provided high scores for the “Ecosystem protection” and “Biodiversity (including agriculture biodiversity”.

Based on the baseline survey and consultation with the community, issues such as Air pollution especially in highly dense areas, the poor solid waste management system and unsafe disposal of agriculture waste, Lack of awareness among community members, inefficient energy use, Food shortage due to climate change, water pollution and inefficient water consumption and the agricultural and industrial sewage unsafe treatment and disposal have been identified. Based on the community resilience scoring and identified issues by community members, potential community-based projects may include: (1) Expanding application of renewable and clean energy solutions, (2) The recycle of agriculture waste into other in-demand industries such as innovative handicrafts, (3) Use of creative tools and methods to raise the awareness of community members (4) Establishment of a sustainable solid waste management system and self-recycling models, (5) Work on boosting agriculture lands conditions through sustainable environmentally friendly practices, (6) Recycle of sewage waste into cultivating special crops or production of organic compost, and (7) Build water recycling models and introducing water efficient use techniques for public places, and (8) Enhance air quality through tree planting in public places.

The four targeted landscapes showed common issues that need immediate attention such as excessive use of chemical fertilizers, lack of awareness of the community members of key environmental threats and alternatives, inefficient energy use, and agriculture waste management. Additionally, each targeted landscape showed special needs based on the nature of the landscape. Implementing partners shall capitalize on the learnings from the previous phase addressing the identified needs and linking their projects to GEF full size projects to maximize the benefits generated from the implemented interventions. Gender and youth were highlighted across the four landscapes as the two main targets to benefit from the proposed interventions and creation of livelihood opportunities is a cross cutting approach to be adopted by implementing partners.

Introduction:

The Seventh Phase of the Egypt Small Grants Programme (SGP) seeks to build socio-ecological resilience in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta, and Upper Egypt landscapes through community-based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development. As such, the project will support community-based organizations, which are the driving force in rural development strategies, to take the lead in role managing natural resources sustainably for social and ecological resilience and global environmental benefits, and in concert with other stakeholders and communities to multiply results. The landscape approach integrated into the project strategy is predicated on strengthening socio-ecological resilience. Involving multiple

stakeholders in the landscapes-seascape in identifying priority issues and developing strategies for addressing these increases the overall social capital of the local communities. SGP Egypt has used a COMDEKS driven approach to formulate its landscape strategy for OP-7.

The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS) was launched in 2011 as the flagship of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, and is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies. The Project is designed to support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful actions for replication and up-scaling in other parts of the world. The project aims to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities by providing direct and flexible funding opportunities to willing communities.

The developed landscape strategy is contributing to the GEF SGP OP7 Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling, Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience, Indicator 10: Participatory landscape management, as indicated by the number of landscape strategies developed or strengthened through participatory consultation and based on the socio-ecological resilience landscape baseline assessments endorsed by multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.

A landscape-wide baseline assessment of the Socio-Ecological Production Landscape (SEPL) was conducted to assess the overall performance of SEPL. The set of indicators for resilience in SEPL developed by the Satoyama initiative was used during the assessment. The resilience indicators of the scorecard exercise were developed in line with the five major goals, namely landscape/seascape diversity and ecosystem protection, Biodiversity (including agriculture biodiversity), Knowledge and innovation, governance and social equality and livelihood and wellbeing. Participants covering a diversified group of stakeholders in targeted landscapes, including local authorities, CSOs/CBOs, academia, etc. have participated in this exercise, which was performed as per the guidelines provided by the COMDEKS project by rating (scoring) with a scale between 1 to 5.

1- Priority Area: The Landscape, Issues and Assets, Boundaries and Biodiversity

The target landscape for the Seventh Operational Phase of the Small Grants Program is the Greater Cairo governorate. The rationale for the selection of this landscape is based on a number of factors; the richness of natural and cultural assets, threats and opportunities in the area,

unique and diverse biodiversity and the willingness of communities and other stakeholders for long-term engagement and to facilitate the collaborative landscape management effort. Also, important for selection is that Greater Cairo governorate was one of the landscapes for the sixth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Program, which shall offer opportunity to build on the work done and address lessons learned produced from OP6. The section below summarizes the landscape issues, assets, and biodiversity within the landscape.

Figure (1): Greater Cairo Map

The Cairo and Giza governorates are included in the Greater Cairo metropolitan area. Cumulatively, there are approximately 20 million inhabitants in these two governorates, comprising roughly 20% of the population of the country. The Greater Cairo region is considered the largest urban area in Africa and the Middle East and is the densest in terms of population per square kilometer. The Cairo Governorate is mostly urban, whereas 40% of the Giza Governorate is rural.[1] The imbalance between population growth and resources has created pockets of poverty which affect a significant percentage of the residing population. In Cairo, the population rate below poverty line is 17.5%, and in Giza it is 28.6%, which means that almost half of the population of these two governorates combined is below the poverty line. [2]

A WB macro poverty outlook warns that in case of a prolonged disruption of the economy because of the repercussions of Covid-19, Egypt might experience a new wave of inflation that will impede the government's fiscal ability to invest in people. [3] The underperformance of key

[1] Egypt National Report, Addis Ababa Declaration on Population &Development in Africa Beyond 2014 (AADPD +5) https://egypt.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Egypt%20National%20%28AADPD%2B5%29%20Report%20MidNov18%20%281%29.pdf
[2] Localizing the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level, January 2018 Report Prepared by Baseera, UNRCO and The United nations Population Fund (UNFPA, Egypt)
[3] Egypt's Economic Update — April 2020

sectors of the economy is expected to lead to higher unemployment especially among youth and women, and accordingly to increased poverty.[4] In this context, according to CAPMAS, overall unemployment has increased to a total of 9.6 % during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June), a rise of 1.9 percent from the first quarter of this year (7.7 percent) and a 2.1 increase from the same period last year.[5] Young women who experience a difficult school to work transition are the most affected by the lack of opportunities

Zooming onto the target governorates of Cairo and Giza, we note that the gender gap in employment is almost the same. In Cairo, the unemployment rate of males is 11.2% compared to 26.5% for female, while in Giza it is 9.9% for males and 25.2% for females.[6]

Illiteracy in Giza which has a number of rural areas is more pronounced than in Cairo and the gender gap is also wider. In Giza, 24.9% of the population aged 10 or more is illiterate, with 20.5% among males and 29.6% among females. In Cairo, 16.2 % of the population is illiterate, with 13.9% among males and 18.7% among females.

Air pollution is serious problem for Greater Cairo (Cairo, Giza and Qalyubiya), where emissions from industrial facilities, commercial and residential activities, the burning of municipal solid wastes, and agricultural waste, and well as traffic fumes have a negative impact on air quality. Urban air pollution is aggravated by the burning of rice straw after the annual harvest to clear the fields, releasing large amounts of soot and carbon dioxide. Air pollution has negative health and economic implications for the population at large, but more so for women and children.

The Greater Cairo metropolitan area dominates the Egyptian economy and hosts the largest concentration of businesses, industries and services. The majority of the population of Greater Cairo works in the service and industrial sectors, with a significant proportion of the working population employed in the informal sector[7]. In terms of agricultural activity, Cairo comprises only 822 feddans (345 ha) of cultivated area and hosts eight local agricultural associations, whereas Giza governorate contains 171,186 feddans (71,898 ha) of cultivated area and includes 26 agricultural associations and cooperatives.[8]

The densely populated and rapidly growing population in the Greater Cairo landscape creates chronic pressure on the local environment and on urban infrastructure. Air pollution is one of the most pressing environmental problems as it impacts public health as well as quality of life and productivity daily. Major causes of the exceptionally high particulate matter air pollution in Cairo include vehicle exhaust emissions, municipal solid waste burning, burning of fields and agricultural wastes, industrial operations like lead smelting and cement, and desert dust. The air pollution is exacerbated by Cairo's specific topography and climate that create conditions

https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/egypt/publication/economic-update-april-2020

[4] Ibid

[5] Unemployment in Egypt up 1.9% in 2nd quarter of 2020 due to COVID-19: CAPMAS https://egyptindependent.com/unemployment-in-egypt-up-1-9-in-2nd-quarter-of-2020-due-to-covid-19-capmas/

[6] Localizing the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level, January 2018

[7] World Bank. More jobs, better jobs: A Priority for Egypt, 2014.

[8] Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) website: https://www.capmas.gov.eg/

especially favorable to poor air quality. Despite the relatively high rates of solid waste collection in the more affluent districts of Cairo, waste management in the vast informal settlements and rural areas remains a major challenge. The overall waste collection coverage is estimated at 70% and 60% for Cairo and Giza respectively, whereas waste accumulated in open dumps is estimated at a staggering 8 million m^3 for the two governorates.[9]

Improving solid waste management is one of the priority objectives indicated in the landscape strategy for Greater Cairo developed under OP6, and one of the awarded SGP-OP6 grants under the CCM focal area was on raising awareness of local communities, e.g., regarding open burning of wastes. This grant complemented the UNDP-GEF full size project electronic waste "Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of POPS Originating from Incineration and Open Burning of Health Care and Electronic Waste" (GEF ID 4392).

OP6 grant projects also covered promotion of energy efficient street lighting and expanding the application of solar energy solutions in public buildings, including youth centres, schools, mosques, and churches. With respect to the biodiversity focal area, OP6 grants were awarded for increasing awareness and environmental education, supporting sustainable ecotourism activities and development of visitor management programmes for the Wadi Degla and Petrified Forest protected areas.

Wadi Degla was declared a national protected area by Ministerial Decree No. 47 of 1999. The protected area covers approximately 60 km2 and is situated at the eastern side of Maadi District, on the east bank of the Nile, roughly 10 km southeast of the centre of Cairo. The protected area harbours globally threatened wildlife, including the dorcas gazelle (Gazella dorcas – VU), and hosts 75 types of native plants and 20 kinds of reptiles. Wadi Degla is part of a limestone plateau, with unique geological formations, including deep canyons. The protected area has important ecological values, supporting conservation of an ecosystem unique to Egypt's northern desert, and providing important habitat such as caves, which are refugia for bats and many bird species, including rock doves and owls. The protected area is divided into zones, including a core area and a managed resource zone, which is considered a buffer zone to protect the core and provide sustainable use opportunities for local communities.

The Petrified Forest protected area contains several unique palaeobotanical sites with high concentrations of permineralized tree trunks. The petrified wood in the Maadi Forest is believed to date back to the Oligocene era and may be attributed to one of the ancient branches of the Nile River.10. The protected area, which was designated in 1989, is one of the most important geological heritage sites in Egypt, and one of the few remaining sites within the Greater Cairo area where desert wilderness and some wildlife can still be seen. The protected area is under threat by sprawling urbanization and illegal collection of petrified wood.

[9] Source: Annual report for solid waste management in Egypt, National Solid Waste Management Program (NSWMP), Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, issued in 2013

[10] http://www.eeaa.gov.eg/en-us/topics/nature/protectorates/protectoratesdescription.aspx

2- Situation Analysis

In order to build the landscape strategy a multiphase approach was adopted. First documents such as OP7 project doc, gender analysis action plan, stakeholder plan, Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, OP6 Greater Cairo landscape strategy, and the toolkit for the indicators of resilience in socioecological production landscape and seascapes were reviewed. OP7 project document is one of the key references guided the landscape strategy drafting. The landscape strategy integrates the key identified gaps and potential opportunities shared in the project document as a result of consultations conducted at a landscape level and the identified gaps and opportunities were further discussed and validated during the consultation meeting conducted in Fayoum in 2023.

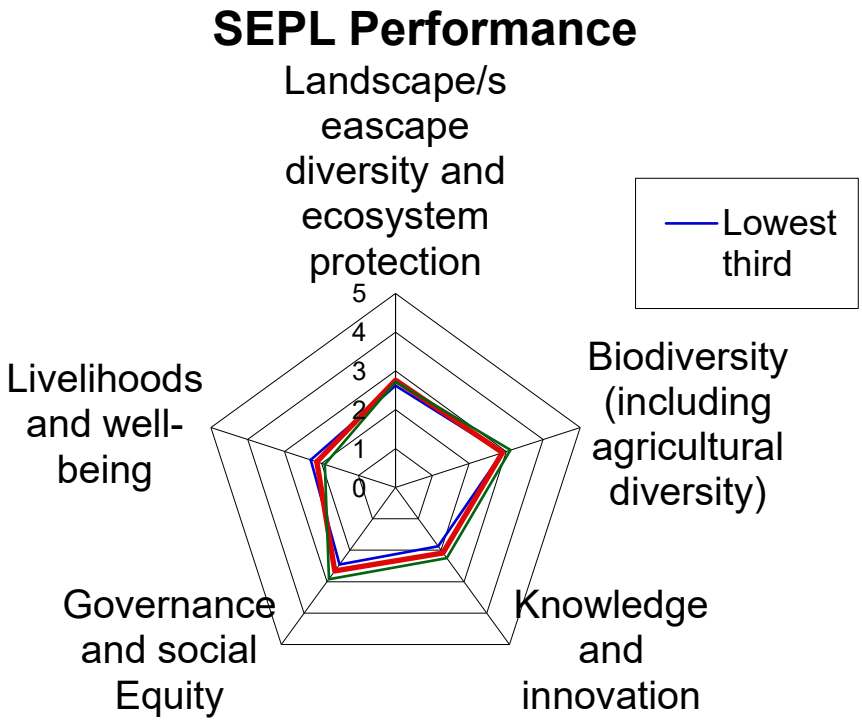
Figure (2): Strategy methodology

Second, a consultive meeting was held in Cairo governorate in 5th of February 2023. The consultation has been organized at the Olympic training center under the auspices of the Governor. It was attended by 44 participants representing relevant stakeholders; governorate representatives from Cairo and Giza governorates, ministries such as Ministry of environment, Ministry of Finance, Educational institutions such as Desert Research Center, CBOs/CSOs, in addition to the SGP Program Management Team and National Steering Committee chair. Full details of the participants are provided in Annex II. During the consultive meeting, all participants were encouraged to share their thoughts on the actual needs and priorities of local communities within the areas of the program, the proposed practical and innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by local communities, the major projects (may be funded by other donors), local

plans, or initiatives related to this matter, and the partnership opportunities that exist, whether at the governmental, civil or private sector levels, to maximize benefit. Besides the discussion they took place for 4 hours, all participants received a form to share their ideas about the four listed topics above and rate the SEPLS indicators using the Satoyama Indicators Scorecard.

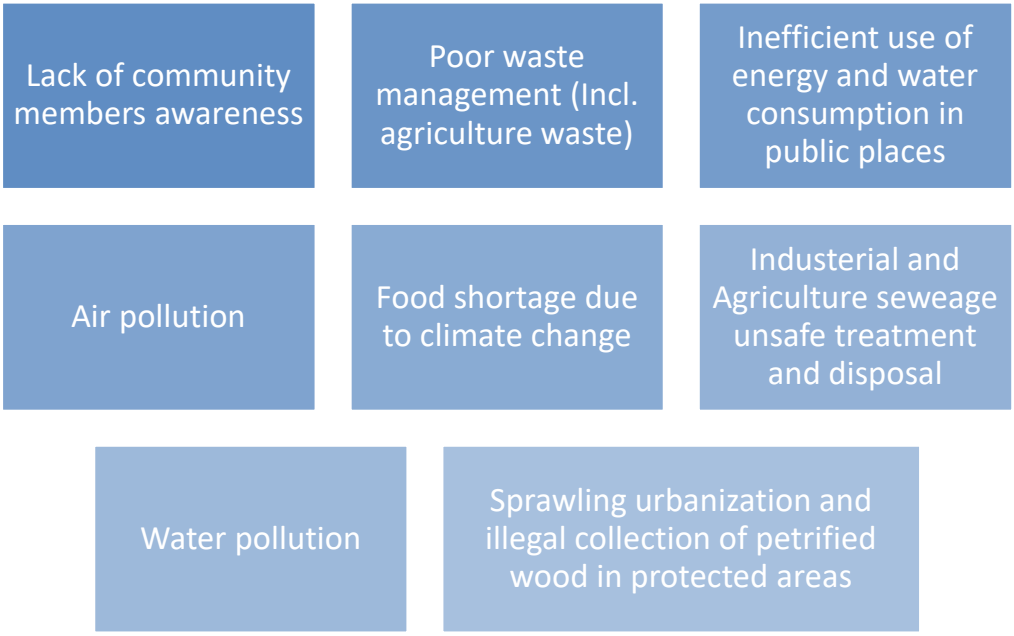
The COMDEKS excel template was used to derive the SEPLS radar diagram. The results are given in the table below followed by the radar diagram:

	Landscape/seascape diversity and ecosystem protection	Biodiversity (including agricultural diversity)	Knowledge and innovation	Governance and social Equity	Livelihoods and well-being
Lowest third	2.63	2.90	1.88	2.45	2.30
Mean rating	2.76	2.90	2.09	2.66	2.13
Highest third	2.72	3.11	2.25	2.92	1.91
Standard dev.	0.842155681	0.68707593	0.839923466	0.65195311	0.749094692



As shown in the radar diagram, the West Delta stakeholders scored the biodiversity (including agricultural diversity) and Landscape/seascape diversity with the highest scores, while Knowledge and innovation scored the lowest in Greater Cairo landscape.

During the consultation meeting the participants agreed on the following key identified problems the landscape is currently facing:



1. Both the project document and the consultation responses highlighted the poor waste management system (separation of waste components at source and the absence of adequate recycling and disposal processes) in the vast informal settlements and rural areas.
2. Both the project document and the consultation responses highlighted the consultation meeting responses added the inefficient energy use and water consumption leading to environmental and economic burdens especially in public places such as universities and schools.
3. Both the project document and the consultation responses highlighted the air pollution especially in highly dense areas due to harmful vehicles emissions, municipal solid waste burning, burning of fields and agricultural wastes, industrial operations like lead smelting and cement, and desert dust impacts public health as well as quality of life and productivity on a daily basis.
4. The project document added the risks the Petrified Forest protected area is facing by sprawling urbanization and illegal collection of petrified wood.
5. The consultation meeting responses added the lack of awareness among community members (especially young generations and farmers) on environment challenges and consequences such as the use of president organic pollutant (POPs) in daily / domestic products and electronic waste.

6. The consultation meeting responses added food shortage due to climate change.
7. The consultation meeting responses added the agricultural and industrial sewage unsafe treatment and disposal that have a direct environmental hazard.
8. The consultation meeting responses added water pollution due to unsafe disposal of sewage.

3- Landscape Strategy (Outcomes and Impact indicators)

The overall long-term objective of the SGP Egypt Landscape Strategy during its Seventh Operational Phase is to "*to build social, economic, and ecological resilience in landscapes and seascapes through community-based activities*.". The landscape strategy is recognized as a living document, which will continue being refined in view of the experiences and lessons learnt over time. This Landscape Strategy for Greater Cairo adopts the following five outcomes and defines key performance indicators for each outcome. These are consistent with and contribute towards the outcomes, indicators, and targets in the OP-7 Project Document. The targets, however, will be finalized after finalization of grantee proposals. The SGP projects selected within Upper Egypt Landscape will be expected to contribute to one or more of these outcomes along with relevant indicators.

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.

One measure of socio-ecological resilience in the target landscapes is the genuine involvement of local communities in collaborative conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions. Through additional grant support and leveraging of resources and engagement from enabling partners, as well as advocating for policy reform and expanded incentive mechanisms, landscape resilience will continue to be strengthened.

> **Indicator 6:** Strengthened agroecological systems, as indicated by the number of households (gender disaggregated) gaining livelihood co-benefits from improved agroecological practices.
>
> **Indicator 7: Strengthening gender quality and women's empowerment in control of natural resources**, as indicated by the number of projects that are contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources by women and men

Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level

This outcome targets community projects that demonstrate and/or disseminate renewable energy or energy efficiency applications that have been solidly tested during previous phases of

the SGP in Egypt (e.g., efficient lighting, bicycle transport systems, biogas) or which may benefit from demonstrations to enhance awareness or generate evidence for application.

Indicator 8: Livelihood co-benefits and strengthened resilience through low carbon agricultural practices, as indicated by (a) the amount of compost produced that displaces chemical fertilizer use and improves soil fertility (tons), and (b) the number of households benefitting from biogas cooking energy and digestate-sourced fertilizer (number of households, gender disaggregated)

Indicator 9: Strengthened resilience and increased energy security, as indicated by the number of solar PV agricultural pumping systems replacing diesel-powered units.

Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience

The landscape approach requires engagement by multiple stakeholders, with cross-sectoral representation from government, civil society, private sector, and academia-research. Multi-stakeholder collaboration will help leverage resources and facilitate impact at scale, and further strengthen mainstreaming of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives into local planning frameworks.

Indicator 11: Empowering women in natural resource governance, as indicated by the number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance

Indicator 12: Strengthening socioeconomic benefits for women, as indicated by the number of projects that target socioeconomic benefits and services for women

Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management.

The durability of the interventions implemented on the project will largely depend on building capacities of the CBOs/CSOs in the target landscapes, as well as generating and sharing knowledge on best practices and lessons learned.

Indicator 14: Knowledge shared, as indicated by the number of project and portfolio experiences and lessons systematized and codified into case studies produced and disseminated, and cumulative number of views of the case studies from the SGP website.

Indicator 15: Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment, number of women-led projects supported.

Indicator 16: Upscaling initiated, as indicated by the number of instances of scaling up or replicating best project practices and/or the number of policy advances approved by local or central government entities.

Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation.

The outcome focuses on delivering participatory and timely M&E feedback, consolidating inputs from the individual grantees and evaluating progress towards achievement of the overall project objective. The findings of the M&E activities will inform adaptive management measures, aimed at ensuring the durability of project results.

Upper Egypt landscape projects are also expected to contribute to the **GEF core indicators**:

Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares)

Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)

Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment.

4- Typology of potential community-based projects and criteria for project selection

1- Expanding application of renewable energy solutions
   a. Solar PV systems for surface and groundwater pumping for irrigation replacing diesel-powered units.
   b. Solar PV for lighting (residential – schools – commercial).
   c. Biogas for cooking and digestate to replace artificial fertilizer.
   d. bike-sharing particularly within the urban parts of the targeted landscape.
2- The recycle of agriculture waste into other in-demand industries such as innovative handicrafts (e.g., palm trees waste), fodder, and compost.
3- Use of creative tools and methods to raise the awareness of community members on different environmental issues, consequences and offered alternatives.
4- Establishment of a sustainable waste management system and self-recycling models especially for waste that has direct environmental hazards (including electronic waste).
5- Enhancing the agriculture practises to benefit biodiversity, restoring degraded agricultural land, and enhancing water conservation.
   a. Improved agricultural practices (agriculture waste to animal feed and organic fertilizer). Increased utilization of organic fertilizers – and an associated decrease in chemical fertilizers – improve the diversity and integrity of soil biodiversity.
   b. The myriad of organisms that make up soil biodiversity contribute to a wide range of essential ecosystem services, such as nutrient cycling, regulating soil organic matter, soil carbon sequestration, etc.
   c. Through adoption of good agroecological practices, not only will the functioning of ecosystems be enhanced, but habitats for flora and fauna will be improved, generating biodiversity benefits.
   d. Enhancing water conservation by clearing of irrigation canals of aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), e.g., water hyacinth will result conservation of irrigation water, improvements in irrigation processes, and enhanced soil fertility.

e. Restoring degraded agricultural land and boosting soil fertility through sustainable environmentally friendly practices
f. Introduction of modern irrigation practices that can save water and reduce economic burden on farmers.

6- Combatting desertification, sand fixation and wind breaks through construction of fencing-barriers made of woody plants cultivated with irrigation from recycled-reused wastewater.
7- Build water recycling models and introducing water efficient use techniques for public places with high water consumptions such as schools and universities.
8- Enhance air quality through tree planting in public places.
9- Strengthen Participatory conservation arrangements between local communities and protected areas (e.g., community patrol).

a. Participatory monitoring and management of protected areas
b. Community-supported ecotourism in the Wadi Degla landscape, e.g., including, but not limited to (a) promoting citizen science initiatives connected with ecotourism activities, thus providing direct support to the monitoring of globally significant biodiversity, as well as increasing the awareness of biodiversity values; (b) reducing damage to critical habitats by tourists through increasing awareness, e.g., through training of community biodiversity guides; (c) facilitating establishment of community-level business models that involve CBOs producing handicrafts for tourists that provides alternative livelihood options for local communities and reduces pressure associated with unsustainable activities in habitats of globally significant biodiversity.

Table (1): Mapping of potential projects to the main outcomes:

#	Suggested SGP projects	Enhancing ecosystem service	Strengthening the sustainability of production systems	Developing and diversifying livelihoods and income generation	Strengthening institutions and governance	Women focused	Youth focused
1	Expanding application of renewable energy solutions	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	The recycle of agriculture waste into other in-demand industries such	X	X	X	X	X	X

	as innovative handicrafts (e.g., palm trees waste), fodder, and compost.						
3	Use of creative tools and methods to raise the awareness of community members on different environmental issues, consequences and offered alternatives.				X	X	X
4	Establishment of a sustainable waste management system and self-recycling models especially for waste that has direct environmental hazards (including electronic waste).	X	X	X	X		X
5	Enhancing the agriculture practises to benefit biodiversity, restoring degraded agricultural land, and enhancing	X	X	X	X		X

	water conservation.						
6	Combatting desertification, sand fixation and wind breaks through construction of fencing-barriers made of woody plants cultivated with irrigation from recycled-reused wastewater.	X	X	X	X		X
7	Build water recycling models and introducing water efficient use techniques for public places with high water consumptions such as schools and universities.	X	X		X		
8	Enhance air quality through tree planting in public places	X	X		X		x
9	Strengthen Participatory conservation arrangements between local communities and protected areas (e.g., community patrol).	X	X	X	X		X
Total		8	8	6	9	3	8

Criteria for project selection:

The selected projects under SGP OP7 Egypt will adhere to the defining aspects of the COMDEKS programme, i.e. the centrality of "community-based" organizations in rural development strategies and taking the lead role in project planning, landscape governance, execution and monitoring. This approach is also consistent with SGP's historical focus, organizational mandate, and the spirit of the Small Grants Programme philosophy. There is recognition, however, that partners will need additional orientation and support on landscape management-related issues and methodologies. This requirement would be addressed through increased focus on training, orientation, and on-going mentoring of grantees.

The call for proposals will be made through the SGP Egypt website, social media platforms, the steering committee networks, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity. The document will include background information and guidelines for submitting technical and financial proposals. The local social solidarity directorate and the governor team will approve the submitted proposals before sharing the proposals for screening by the National Steering Committee. Field visits by the SGP National team may be undertaken to actual sites/offices for validation and/or additional information.

NSC meeting(s) will be held for finalization of short-listed proposals. After receipt and short-listing of proposals, potential partners may be provided additional information and/or support to refine proposals, if needed.

Written scoring/rating criteria for proposals will be shared amongst all members of the proposal selection committee. The following criteria will be adhered to for reviewing and appraising the organizations and proposals for implementing SGP projects in Greater Cairo landscape (which may differ from other SGP projects outside the landscape):

Eligibility Criteria for Partners/Organizations:

1. The community-based organization should be registered at the Ministry of Social Solidarity with an established presence within the boundaries of the landscape.
2. A permanent location/office at the project site will be an advantage, but not mandatory.
3. The organization proposing work related to the GEF SGP priorities or themes should demonstrate a strong ability to deliver such projects, which includes organization's profile which illustrates the CSOs/ CBOs capabilities and experience to deliver community projects
4. Possessing inclusive and broad-based membership/affiliation with community-based groups, youth groups/committees or indigenous groups will be an advantage.

5. The project team should include at least one technical staff proposed for implementation, who will also act as focal person and assume responsibility for reporting.
6. Adequate gender balance within the team will be desirable.

Criteria for project proposals:

1. Project proposals should be aligned with the Landscape Strategy and should directly contribute to one or more of the outcomes of the Landscape Strategy. The project proposal should be aligned to the National Climate Change Strategy – 2050 (NCCS), prepared by the Ministry of Environment and launched in May 2022 and GIZA proposals should be aligned with GIZA climate change strategy launched in 2020.
2. Project proposals that respond to additional areas will be given preference such as those addressing multiple threats/needs, innovations, replication potential, and policy inputs.
3. The proposed project site should be within the target landscape and based on a documented community needs assessment.
4. Each project should allocate at least 10 percent of the budget to knowledge management products at the landscape level, e.g. case study, audio-video documentation, best practices.
5. Project proposals should include a time-bound work-plan, M&E section, sustainability plan, partnership plan and log- frame.
6. Project proposals need to include a section showing the project's alignment to the programme's areas of work and landscape outcomes.
7. Gender considerations should be mainstreamed as appropriate e.g. collection of and reporting on gender disaggregated data, gender analysis etc.
8. Project proposals should explicitly state any capacity development inputs/gaps/requirements pertaining to implementation.
9. In-kind and in-cash contribution must be met by CSOs/CBOs, local community members and/or other partners (government, local authority, private sector, academia, national or international agency, etc.)
10. Project cost must be no more than USD 50,000.
11. Project proposals should explain their partnership model and the key stakeholders identified to support the project's implementation and sustainability.
12. Project proposals shall demonstrate a new technology/innovations support and adoption to maximize the project's results and possesses scope of replication.
13. Project proposal should specify clearly any activities focused on women or youth (if any)

Strategic projects grants:

14. Resources have been allocated in the OP7 budget for strategic grants, to help facilitate durable impacts. The strategic grants are envisaged to be awarded to experienced CBOs/CSOs for delivering technical and strategic support, guiding local stakeholders in the implementation of landscape approaches and delivering advocacy for policy reform and upscaling.
15. Two to three strategic projects will be granted across the four landscapes.
16. Terms of reference will be developed for the strategic grants in consultation with the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC), Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU), the UCP Global Coordinator, and the UNDP Country Office (CO), and then awarded through competitive procurement and agreed by the NSC.

Table (2): Scoring Matrix for project's proposals.

Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Score
Organization	- Registered local organisation with no known conflicts/risks - Maintains some local presence. - Holds required technical expertise to deliver the proposed project	20
Technical Approach	- Aligned and responsive to OP-7 Prodoc and LS - Contributes to more than 1 outcome of the LS	25
Budget/ M&E Arrangement	- Within permissible budget - Includes SMART KPIs - Includes Knowledge Management products - Includes co-financing (cash/in-kind)	15
Scope/Innovation	- Demonstration of new technology/innovations - Possesses scope of replication	20
Team composition	- Technical focal person - Gender-balanced team	5
Partnerships	- Stakeholders mapping and analysis - Partnerships plan	15
Note: - Total score of 50 and above – shortlisted and recommended for NSC consideration - Total score below 50 points – not recommended for NSC consideration		

5- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at the Landscape Level

The method employed during the consultation process in the baseline survey is a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. A list of SEPLS indicators and scores for each indicator is used as a guideline.

SGP will continue such interactions in the future with the relevant key stakeholders to update partners on the landscape strategy and on M&E aspects for grantees. More specifically, at this early stage, participants were more forthcoming on discussing key issues, sectoral and thematic thrusts, and typology of projects. The section below on the M&E plan is indicative and will be refined at the stage of project proposal submission and approval.

The regular on-going M&E for SGP Egypt will be conducted in accordance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy procedures. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[11].

Each SGP grantee will indicate the specific Landscape Outcome(s) that it is contributing towards, and the M&E plan will be tailored according to the outcomes and KPIs in the Strategy thereby making explicit which of the key performance indicators it is contributing towards and how in the final approved proposals.

The schedule and frequency of the individual SGP projects monitoring activities will be defined in the proposals. A key lesson learnt for SGP is that the M&E plan at the project level must adhere to the SMART standards. The applicants will require additional guidance and details for this purpose, and it is expected that short-listed partners will be coached accordingly. SGP will build the capacities and provide adequate institutional support to SGP grantees to enable them to fulfill their role in serving their local communities, assessing their needs, and successfully designing, implementing, and monitoring SGP-funded projects. Besides the SGP support to grantees, the formal multi-stakeholder groups and partnerships established and formalized on landscape levels to provide strategic advice and policy guidance on landscape management will also ensure ongoing monitoring of projects and of their results and exchange knowledge across grantees.

SGP grantees are requested to submit semi-annual progress reports (including KPIs progress) along with a financial report as a requirement for disbursement of next installment, besides, periodic monitoring visits will be carried out by the SGP Egypt National Programme Manager and members of the NSC, as needed. SGP grantees will also submit a final report summarizing global benefits and other results achieved, outputs produced, and lessons learned. The final report should also include a final financial statement. Partner submitted progress reports will be used to track progress against overall outcomes and identify gaps. Partners will also be required to

[11] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

document best practices, case studies and lessons learnt as relevant, which will be compiled at the end for the entire SGP portfolio.

SGP will also build on and promote innovations in monitoring and effective reporting through use of new technologies (e.g., tablets and online surveys). The overall M&E report of SGP will aggregate results at the level of the overall outcomes and indicators specified in the Prodoc.

Table (3): M&E plan at the individual project level:

Activity	Responsible party	Timeframe
Proposed M&E plan indicating outcomes, activities and KPIs	Grantee	At time of proposal submission
Project work-plan	Grantees, CPM, NSC	Project duration (quarterly)
Baseline data collection	Grantees, CPM	At project's proposal/ early stage
On-site monitoring visits	CPM, NSC	At-least once per year and as-needed
Participatory project monitoring/review and capacity building	Grantees, CPM, NSC and other stakeholders	At least once per year (can include partners' meetings, network exchanges)
Project progress reports (technical and financial)	Grantees, CPM	As per the project proposal and with each disbursement request
Project final report	Grantees, CPM	At project completion
Project evaluation report	CPM, NSC, External party	One Month prior to project completion
Lessons learnt and knowledge Generated	CPM, NSC, External party	Mid-term and end-term of the project life.

Moreover, a multi-stakeholder landscape platform will be formed to provide guidance and support to all grantees. The multi-stakeholder landscape platform will include local government units, CBOs/CSOs received grants, MoSS representative and MoE representative, NCW among other relevant stakeholders at local level. The multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will provide direct linkages with local government development planning mechanisms and opportunities for funding upscaling and replication. Involving multiple stakeholders in the landscape platforms will enhance the likelihood that project results will be sustained after GEF funding ceases. Representatives of local government entities are important members of the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, helping to foster linkages with complementary government programmes and to identify incentives for upscaling project interventions.

The plan above provides a basis for continuous improvement and refinement of the planning and management of individual projects as well as helping communities to assess and adapt their approaches for rebuilding SEPLS, and in identifying gaps and collecting and disseminating experiences in target areas through periodic reviews. In line with COMDEKS guidelines, it is also proposed that at least two partner organizations – who are identified as "lead" partners for capacity building on COMDEKS – can be given a proactive role in mentoring and steering the M&E and knowledge management processes.

6- Knowledge Management Plan at the Landscape level

In Egypt OP6, a stand-alone Capacity Development project supported the production of case studies and disseminated them at national and local levels through different knowledge channels. It produced factsheets, newsletters, knowledge management and audio-visual materials. These knowledge products along with the individual case studies make up a "living" knowledge platform, which can be further strengthened and expanded during Egypt OP7.

At the broader landscape level, the SGP Egypt Country Programme has been producing case studies of the landscape planning and management experience. These case studies highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning. The results of these studies planned to be published and disseminated throughout landscapes through print and digital media and SGP's institutional partners, SGP-supported CSOs/CBOs networks, universities and others.

The project will implement an inclusive knowledge management strategy across the four landscapes as a standalone project that is also linked with the Upgraded Country Programme (UCP) and Small Grants Programme (SGP) knowledge management priorities, facilitating collaborative interactions across local, national, regional, and global levels. The receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs is an important impact driver in this regard. The coordination, collaboration, and knowledge management strengthened by the project will foster systemic change and replication, thus maximising the effectiveness, durability, and scale of socio-ecological resilience.

Building on the OP6 efforts to document and share good practices and lessons learned, each grant project has as a primary product a case study, and each grant a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to GEB, local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. The knowledge products will be disseminated using print media, social media, radio, or other communication approaches. At least one of the knowledge products is envisaged to highlight women's role in ensuring social and ecological resilience. This knowledge is being systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and knowledge fairs and other exchanges. The individual grant project case studies are anticipated at project design and based on a participatory methodology, so that the production of the case studies strengthens the community organization's capacities for reflection and action through learning-by-doing.

To record and disseminate the knowledge gained through the implementation of the community small grants, the CBOs will be trained on collecting, recording and documenting knowledge and experiences on community development initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term. Another channel for knowledge sharing and dissemination is the multi-stakeholder landscape platform to be formed after the CBOs/CSOs proposals are approved. SGP team will put efforts to influence the multi-stakeholder landscape platform activeness and encourage participants to meet frequently and provide support whenever needed.

The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP's global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The project will facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform and PANORAMA[12]. Considering the mature UNDP country programme in Egypt and the long-standing experience of SGP in the country, Egypt is in a unique position to share experiences and lessons to younger, less experienced programmes in the region. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and community-level clean energy solutions in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Egypt.

[12] https://panorama.solutions/en

Annex

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Details of consultive meeting

No.	Name	Organization
1.	Osama Badie	Kayan for Social Development Association
2.	Nermen Zakaria	General Office of Giza Governorate
3.	Nashwa Yousry	Sonnaa El Hayah Association
4.	Hesham Ibrahim	International Foundation for Development, Environment and Climate
5.	Naglaa El Hadidi	Giza Governorate
6.	Adel El Shafie	Ministry of Environment
7.	Rasha Raslan	Nohod & Tanmet Al Maraa Association
8.	Amira Ragab	Al Taeawun al Mehny Association
9.	Shrief Momen	Al Taeawun al Mehny Association
10.	Sherihan Sharabi	LEAD Association
11.	Gomhouria Abdel Rehim	Women for Development Association
12.	Soaad Hussein	Hawaa Al Mostaqbal Association
13.	Fathy Rashwan	Ministry of Environment
14.	Ahmed Moawad	Ain Al Biaa Association
15.	Saber Al Bendary	Scientific Research Academy of Technology
16.	Ali Samir Ali	Earth's Climate for Sustainable Development Foundation
17.	Abdel Fattah Mostafa	Ministry of Finance

No.	Name	Organization
18.	Sameh Abu Al Soud	Forum of Dialogue and Partnership for Development
19.	Zizi Kamel	Giza Governorate
20.	Moamen Mohamed	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
21.	Shaimaa Farag	Ain Al Biaa Association
22.	Mary Nabil	Habitat for Humanity
23.	Mariam Amr	Ebtekar Khana
24.	Nehal Atia	Ebtekar Khana
25.	Gamal Zekry	Cairo Governorate
26.	Hala Mohamed	Sustainable Development Association
27.	Hanan Makram	Coptic Association for Social Care
28.	Enas Samir	Giza Governorate
29.	Mamdouh Rashwan	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
30.	Nemaa Ibrahim	Al Amal Al Gad Association
31.	Tareq Al Agamy	Nile Royal Association
32.	Samar Yousef	Forum of Dialogue and Partnership for Development
33.	Mohamed Naser	Sonaa El Kheir Association for Development
34.	Ali Ahmed	Al Afaq Association
35.	Mohamed Feisal	Giza Governorate

No.	Name	Organization
36.	Amira Shoukry	Desert Research Center
37.	Marwa Al Shaer`	Desert Research Center
38.	Essam AL Din Hosny	Al Qurrah For Sustainable Development
39.	Iman Kamal	Coptic Association for Social Care
40.	Mona Abdel Salam	NHI Support Team
41.	Mohamed Hussein	NHI Support Team
42.	Dr. Hala Yousry	NSC Chair
43.	Dr. Emad Adly	GEF SGP CPM
44.	Ms. Ghada Ahmadein	GEF SGP Program Manager