



SGP Country Programme Strategy

For

Operation Phase Six (OP6)

(2016-2018)

Country: Afghanistan

June 2016

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Acronyms:

AACID	Adapting Afghanistan Communities to Climate-induced disaster risks
ACR	Activity Completion Report
ACSFO	Afghanistan Civil Society Framework Organization
AKDN	Agha Khan Development Network
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ASERD	Afghanistan Sustainable Energy for Rural Development
AWN	Afghanistan Women Network
BANP	Band-e-Amir National Park
BDC	Biodiversity Conservation
BPWR	Big Pamir Wakhan Wildlife Reserve
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCM	Climate Change Mitigation
CPMT	Country Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
DDA	District Development Authority
EHC	Emission of Harmful Chemicals
EIMPA	Establishing Integrated Models for Protected Areas
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gases
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountains Development
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IW	International Water
KHKPA	Kol-i-Hashmat Khan Protected Area
LEDA	Local Economic Development Afghanistan
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MAPs	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MOE	Ministry of Economy
MOIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NAC	Norwegian Afghanistan Committee
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigations for Afghanistan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme for Action of Climate Change
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NSC	National Steering Committee
PLD	Prevention of Land Degradation
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAF	Resources Allocation Framework
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNDAF	United Nations Development Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific, Cultural Organization
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WPNP	Wakhan Pamir National Park

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

AFGHANISTAN:

OP6 resources (estimated US\$)

- a. Core funds: 400,000
- b. OP5 remaining balance: 86,483
- c. STAR funds: **NEPA/NSC will decide**
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized: **Unknown**

Background:

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development). At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to "effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action." Afghanistan joined SGP during implementation of OP5 in October 2012 and the first country program strategy was launched in the same year. This is the second CPS of SGP for OP6.

SGP-OP6 Stakeholders Consultation Process:

In order to ensure that a more inclusive strategic plan is developed for SGP-OP6, a comprehensive consultation process followed including Civil Society Organizations, governmental counterparts, National Steering Committee (NSC) members, relevant national and international NGOs, cluster UN Departments and etc. The consultation process started with the evaluation of SGP-OP5, where each individual grantee was consulted verbally and through filling a specific questionnaire, to know about the program impact and effectiveness, lessons learned, and their suggestions and recommendation for future implementation of the programme. The evaluation report of SGP-OP5 then presented to NSC and received their approval. The National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) key stakeholders were directly involved to assist NSC members in landscape/seascape selection process and the strategic initiatives to be focused during SGP-OP6. The National Heritage Protection Department, Climate Change Department and Policy and Planning Department at NEPA were more frequently consulted and approached during each sector of strategy development process. The Natural Resources Management and Forestry Departments at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) were effectively consulted on a regular basis. Some of the NSC members were consulted individually to further clarify and explore the selected landscapes and to collect more useful baseline information and about the strategic interventions to be made in the selected landscapes. Furthermore, the economic directorate of Kabul province and the environmental department at Kabul University were reached for consultation purposes.

Beside cluster governmental departments, the relevant national and international NGOs like, Agha Khan Foundation (AKF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMD) and other National NGOs and private sectors potential partners were frequently consulted at various stages of the strategy development process. Regular communications were established with SGP coordinators of other countries like China and Nepal. The first draft of SGP-OP6 strategy shared with all the relevant stakeholders for their comments and feedback. Feedback received from CPMT, I/NGOs, CSOs and SGP

implementing partners incorporated into the strategy. A separate consultation workshop arranged for National CSOs/NGOs and various UN cluster organizations where all their inputs and recommendations were collected and incorporated into the final draft strategy, which afterwards presented to NSC for their endorsement.

1. SGP country programme - summary background

1.1. In general, during OP5 the country programme ensured a good start-up of the SGP in Afghanistan and considerably contributed to the GEF mandate by registering concrete achievement in GEF priority areas, as well as improvement of local people's well-being and community empowerment. The most important national results and accomplishment achieved by SGP OP5 are mentioned below. For more detail information about SGP results please refer to SGP-OP5 Evaluation report, attached in **Annex-1**.

- a) The SGP Projects have benefited indigenous communities, women and local community from conservation of biodiversity in and around three protected areas (a) Kol-e-Hahmat Khan wetland in Kabul, (b) Wakhan Pamir National Park in Badakhshan, and (c) Band-e-Amir National Park in Bamiyan provinces.
- b) SGP projects have contributed in reducing climate threats by introducing, demonstrating and disseminating various renewable energy technologies for households usage like solar lanterns, solar air heaters, solar cookers, briquette stoves, wind power turbines, solar water pumps, biogas plants and drip irrigation systems to lessen the pressure the community is putting on natural resources. In order to promote public awareness, various environmental educations, training sessions and community outreach campaigns were launched through dialogues, films, posters and presentations mostly focusing school children and public population. All the above activities/interventions were linked to the improvement of communities' livelihood and empowerment.
- c) The SGP in Afghanistan improved community action on rehabilitation and protection of forests and degraded land. The rehabilitative activities including reforestation, raising tree seedlings, planting tree, and social forestry such as home gardening. The protective functions include watershed management, soil and water conservations and desertification control. The SGP projects in land degradation and rehabilitation of forest is visible and successful. The Afghanistan SGP project in a remote Tagab district of Badakhshan Province received the **Equator Prize 2015 award** on 7 December 2015 during the special event at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.
- d) Results achieved across the GEF thematic areas include, but not limited to, the establishment and legalization of Community level environmental Organizations, promoting and institutionalizing local tourism industry by setting up regional tourism center and raising local capacities in natural resources management. The various physical and biological soil conservation measures, area closure, i.e., prevention of land from humans and animals intervention, ban on hunting to raise and protect deer and birds to restore wildlife biodiversity, plantation of indigenous and exotic tree species increasing vegetation cover thereby reducing soil erosion and deforestation. Agroforestry, compost preparation and waste management, multiplication and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants that were almost extinct, organic vegetables farming, construction of reservoirs, garbage collection points and compost rooms were other major accomplishments.
- e) The above success have contributed in achieving SGP-OP5 Global **objective # 1** (*improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous/ community conservation areas through community based action*), **Objective # 2** (*mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes and sectors through community initiatives and action*), **Objective # 3** (*promote the demonstration, and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level*), **Objective# 5** (*support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use and forestry*), **Objective 9**

(reduce pressures at community level from competing land used), and objective # 11 (promote & support phase out of POPs and chemical of global concern at community level). The programme also achieve the SGP-OP5 **objective # 12** on enhancing capacity of partner agencies and made efforts on institutional development and empowerment and improve livelihoods of vulnerable groups (women, youths, indigenous people and natural induced displaced families).

- 1.2. The SGP in Afghanistan still a new program. It started in 23 October 2012 (Year 2 of OP5) by UNDP with the support of Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). The program implementation started in the first quarter 2013. A National Steering Committee (NSC) provides overall guidance and directions to the program. Due to the late starting of program in Afghanistan, UNDP in consultation with stakeholders developed OP5 country program strategy cover only two year (2013 – 2014). A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) provides technical supports to NSC and a full-time National Coordinator (NC) is responsible for the overall program functions including projects monitoring and evaluation. Till date SGP has funded 46 projects for 43 implementing agencies in eight provinces of Afghanistan. Till 31 December 2015, only 15 projects were completed and 31 projects are in progress.

Out of 46 grants, 9 grants were allocated for biodiversity conservation (BDC), 14 grants for climate change mitigation (CCM), and another 10 grants for prevention of land degradation (PLD) focal areas. The elimination of harmful chemicals (EHC) received 4 grants and sustainable forest management (SFM) received only 3 grants in total. There was no grant approved to international water (IW) focal area. SGP-Afghanistan has also awarded five grants for public awareness. The total inductive fund of SGP according to CPS (2013-2014) was US\$ 1.26 million from Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) and US\$ 1 million from core resources (total \$ 2.26 million).

During implementation of OP5, SGP has initiated and maintained good working relationship with 43 implementing agencies including 29 NGOs, 7 Associations, 3 media organizations, 2 community councils, one agricultural cooperative, and a small enterprise. This means the programme has generated implementation capacity at the field levels. The SGP was succeeded to mobilize financial resources (in cash in kind) from various organizations. The Norwegian Church Aid, Open Asia, Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), BODA and a private company were the major co-funders contributed the amount of US\$ 184,170 in cash. World Food Program (WFP) contributed 890 MT mixed food and other agencies such as AKF, WCS provided logistic and technical supports in the form of training to CBO and CSOs in their target areas. Since partnerships are critical for SGP implementation both in technical and financial terms, the SGP OP6 will strive to maintain and expand existing partnership relations with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, UN organizations, national and international NGOs (WCS¹, AKDN², AKF, FOCUS, ICIMOD³, NCA and etc.) and government agencies for complementarity and cost-sharing opportunities addressing the linkages between environment and poverty. SGP will extend its partnership with private sector to promote the public-private partnership scheme during OP6.

- 1.3. It should be noted that event during this short period of the programme implementation in Afghanistan, the OP5 has effectively contributed to some of the most vulnerable areas threatening by severe environmental threats, which have laid strong basis for future interventions. The establishment and legalization of community-based organizations is a bottom-up approach vital for communities' resilience to cope with the

¹ WCS is involved protecting wildlife biodiversity and activities to protect regional ecosystem, could play major co-financer's role in Bamyán and Badakhshan provinces, where they have currently involved with several projects under operation.

² AKDN is also to be reached as a major co-financing partner, which currently involved in Badakhshan and Bamyán provinces to reduce pressure on local NRM by introducing renewable energy technology, but this partnership need proper proposal to be written by SGP NC and to share with AKDN proposal and policy department especially in the area of renewable energy technology areas to reduce the pressure local population putting on natural resources.

³ ICIMOD is operating in Wakhan and Kol-i-Hashmat Khan protected areas and Kabul River Basin that can provide co-financing facilities, if activities coordinated well and aligned with the ICIMOD strategic directions.

major environmental threats and to better conserve regional biodiversity resources and ecosystem. Introducing various renewable energy technologies greatly reduced pressure on natural resources, especially forests, reeds and grasses alongside protected areas and prioritized ecosystems. The nurseries establishment and producing seedlings strongly supported national efforts for reforestation and greenery revolution and helped local communities in prevention of land degradation, soil erosion and endangered shrub areas and forage covers. The waste management and introducing cotton bags as replacement to plastics have deeply impacted public perception about usage of plastic bags and their dependency on it. Some of the projects had good potential and are good models for replication and further up-scaling such as (a) the community based model on preservation of wildlife in Kabul, (b) dissemination eco-friendly technologies to rural communities, (c) the Koh-e- Baba mountain rangeland conservations model and (d) the land degradation and reforestation in a remote district in northern Afghanistan that received equator 2015 prize. The establishment of community based associations, committees, unions and cooperatives can play an effective role to protect community based environment and the process need to be continued because the long lasting in-country war made most of them dysfunctional.

2. SGP country programme niche

2.1. Afghanistan has signed 13 multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) but environmental laws and regulations in Afghanistan are still evolving and not yet adequate. The list of relevant Rio Conventions ratified by Afghanistan and national frameworks is illustrated 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
CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora	28 th Jan. 1986
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	19 th Sep. 2002
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	01 st Sep. 2002, Update is Ongoing
UN Framework Convention on Climat Change (UNFCCC)	19 th Sep. 2002
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	19 th Sep. 2002
Kyoto Protocol	03 rd Dec. 2012
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	07 th Jan. 2013
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	07 th Jan. 2013
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	07 th Jan. 2013
CMS Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild animals	13 th May. 2013
Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	33 rd Jun. 2013
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	17 th Jun, 2004
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	17 th Jun. 2004
UNFCCC INDC	21 st Sep. 2015
SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	25 th Nov. 2015
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Millennium Development Goals	March 2004
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions	Finalized
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action	Finalized
SC National Implémentation Plan	In progress
Afghanistan Environnement Data Centre	In progress
MEAs Cross Cutting Project	In progress
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment	Submitted
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Under process
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing	Under process
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	INC (2012), SNC (progress)

Source: Afghanistan Context Baseline Report (Attached in Annex # 2)

- 2.2. Afghanistan committed to MDGs in 2004 with a target date of 2020 to reflect the unique challenges this country faced in building a nation after decades of conflict. Since then, there were several important achievements in environmental sector in Afghanistan. The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) established in 2005 and the final version of Afghanistan's Environmental Law promulgated in 2007. The law has nine chapters and 78 articles addressing the main environmental issues based on government commitments for international conventions. For example, chapter 3 & 4 address the management and governance of environmental affairs; the regulatory provisions for pollution control and waste management, chapter 6 focuses on biodiversity, conservation and natural resources management. Overall, the law defines the functions and powers of NEPA and reflects the role of agency as the apex body for the formulation, implementation, regulation and monitoring of Afghanistan's environmental policies and also as the coordinator for international environmental cooperation.

In regard to involvement of communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) the article 19 of the environmental law addresses public participation on preparation of project, plan, policy or activity that is likely to have highly significant adverse effects on the environment, articles 39 and 40 are about the role of NEPA to consult with provincial, district and village councils and local community in developing a management plan and preparation of proposal for protected areas. Article 45 is about the role of communities in rangeland management, and article 64 is about the involvement of CSOs to prepare and carry out public awareness campaigns about the value and sustainable use and conservation of natural resources including pollution prevention and control. All this means that Afghanistan has generated legal ground for CSOs and public organization to participate in implementation of country environmental priorities as represented in Table-1.

The civil society in Afghanistan composes of (a) modern civil society organizations including NGOs, media, professional association mainly established after 2001; and (b) grassroots organizations including community and district development councils and other community based organizations. Their roles include intermediations & facilitations between citizen and the state, executing service delivery in remote areas, advocacy and public communications etc. The NGOs are registered with Ministry of Economy (MoE). They implement donor and government humanitarian and developmental. The number of registered active local NGOs in the MoE is 1,786; the number of active International NGOs is 274. The Law on Associations, passed in September 2013, and allows the associations to access foreign funding and conduct advocacy. The Associations are registered with Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As of September 2015, about 5,789 associations registered in the MoJ. Under Afghanistan National Environmental Law, the government have established National Park / Protected Areas Associations and make them responsible to implement protected areas management plan. Other CSO that will be used in implementation of OP6 is the Media Organizations. The term "media organization" means an entity engaged in disseminating information to the general public through various means such as publications, radio, television, films etc. All media organizations are registered with Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC). SGP has provided fund during implementation of OP5 to three media organizations that produced documentary about environmental issues and broadcasting environmental related news, discussion, interview and debates through radio and TV. The Community Development Council (CDCs) and District Development Assembly (DDA) are development institutions, functioning at the village and district levels. They are registered with Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The principle functions of CDCs and DDAs are to "help their locality with management and implementation of development projects including resource mobilization. Environmental sub committees are established under each CDC. Agriculture Cooperatives established as per National Cooperative Law - 2006 and registered with Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). All this means that there are vast capacities at the local levels to execute country environmental priorities as represented in Table-1.

- 2.3. As part of the OP6 strategic directions, the SGP has the potential for complementary and synergy to government plans for rehabilitation of development of protection areas such as Kol-e-Hashtmat in Kabul,

Band-e-Amir and Koh-e-Baba protected areas in in Bamiyan and Wakhan national park in Badakhshan, The SGP-OP6 could be synergized to Government 12 years Kabul City Green Built Program and rehabilitation of eastern region forest. In-addition to the above government programs, the SGP-OP6 has the potential of complementation to UNDP CO strategic programming such as Establishing Integrated Models for Protected Areas and their Co-Management in Afghanistan, Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities to manage climate change induced disaster risk, and ASERD. More detail is mentioned in the table-3.

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Table 2: SGP’s contribution to national priorities/GEF-6 corporate results

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁴ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁵	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/ seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and maintain integrity of the Kol-e-Hashmat Khan wetland habitat and associated ecosystems including restoration and safeguarding species diversity and populations of migratory waterfowl. (<i>Kol-e-Hashmat Khan 10-yrs management plan 2016 - 2025</i>) • Conserve and recover the biodiversity and environment of Band-e-Amir National Park. (<i>Band-e-Amir 5 yrs. management plan 2016-2020</i>) • Conservation of biodiversity of Shah Foladi conservation landscape by applying ecosystem-based management to the Koh-e-Baba mountainous protected area. (<i>Koh-e-Baba 5 yrs. Management Plan 2016-2020</i>) • Conserve and recover the bio diversity and environment of the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Landscape in Wakhan National Park. (<i>5 yrs. Management Plan of Big Pamir Protected Areas 2015-2019</i>) 	The intervention will complement the UNDP 5yrs (2014-2018) programme on Establishing Integrated Models for protected Areas and their Co-Management in Afghanistan. The project addresses sustainable land management as a key measure to protect biodiversity, secure ecosystem services and enhance ecosystem resilience. The project seeks to address gaps in this process through the operationalization of a National Protected Areas System Plan.
Innovative climate- smart agro- ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sustainability of conservation efforts through execution conservation-friendly economic activities in participation with local communities. (<i>Kol-e-Hashmat Khan management plan 2016 -2025</i>) • Promotion of suitable forest and fruit trees and other economically 	It will also complement to UNDP programme on Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities to manage climate change induced disaster risks (CCA 2014 – 2017)

		<p>valuable plant species in public and private lands in Kol-e-Hashmat Khan according to Kol-e-Hashmat Khan 10 yrs. management plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation of climate change by reducing air pollution and relevant diseases by absorbing the harmful gases and CO2 through sustainable improvement of green cover and forestlands (forests, bushes, and forage cover) in and around Kabul City. (<i>Kabul City Green Belt Programme 2015 – 2026</i>) • Conserve vegetation in Band-e-Amir National Park and provide opportunities for quality recreational, aesthetic, cultural and religious experiences for Afghan Citizens and international visits as per Park 5 yrs. management plan (2016-2020). • Use natural resources on sustainable manner to protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing in Koh-e-Baba (<i>Koh-e-Baba Management Plan 2016-2020</i>). • Provide livelihoods support for local population through production, conservation and sustainable collection of MAPs in Kunar and Badakhshan Provinces. 	
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the demonstration, development and dissemination of solar and other forms of green energy technologies for households and commercial purposes. This includes all forms of renewable energies technologies (micro hydro, wind, biomass, solar, bioenergy, efficient stoves etc.) at the community level. (<i>Management plan of selected landscapes</i>) 	The strategic initiative is fit with UNDP’s ASERD 2016-2019 program with aim to increase the access to modern thermal energy and electricity through a technology neutral approach in rural Afghanistan. This will results in increasing the access to clean cooking and heating options and will make a tangible reduction in the premature deaths of women and children due to indoor air pollution.
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create high-level youth committee on environmental preservation between government and CSOs. (National Youth Policy of Afghanistan-2014) • Work with farmers/communities around environmental conservation and NRs management 	This intervention will contribute in implementation of National Youth Policy -2014.

Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the meaningful participation of women, youth, and indigenous local communities in SGP affairs as per government national policies and plans. Promote awareness on environmental issues and practices amongst youth, and support youth organizations to work for environmental sustainability. (National Youth Policy 2014) 	Social equity of women, youth and minorities and vulnerable populations is increased through improved and consistent application by Government of principles of inclusion in implementing existing and creating new policies and legislation. <i>(UNDAF 3 Country Program 2014-2017) Outcome 4)</i>
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of digital library in Kabul University. 	Collect, compile knowledge & lessons learned of OP6 funded projects and share with a wide range of stakeholders to promote innovation and best practice. <i>(GEF KM Initiative)</i>

3. OP6 strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

- Awareness raising* on various environmental issues mainly climate change will be a key cross cutting issue that will be considered as key element of all SGP projects during OP6. Each grantee is obliged to include environmental awareness raising strategy in their project and implement during the course of their project implementation. One of the most important activities for awareness rising is the celebration of environmental days by organizing a function with participation of project stakeholders including government departments. NC and NSC will produce articles about the background and purpose of each individual environmental day and will distribute to grantees to use them during the celebration ceremony. Other awareness raising issues include deforestation of Kunar forest in eastern region etc. Awareness need to be localized by involvement of local religious elders, conducting exposure visits to the effected areas and involvement of CBOs.
- Capacity Development* is a cross cutting issue in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Capacity development priority in the ANDS includes a comprehensive training and skills development scheme for civil servants to improve service delivery. Lessons learned from SGP OP5 acknowledged the capacity constraints facing all aspects of country programme mainly among local NGOs, CSOs to implement SGP projects. It is worth to mention here that low capacity leads to wastage, underutilization of resources, inefficient and ineffective interventions, and suboptimal outcomes; therefore, developing the capacity of stakeholders is considered as an important element of OP6. The country team will produce and implement a capacity building program for grantees (CSOs) and provide them with technical assistance in the fields of environmental laws and policies, multilateral environmental agreements and environmental education and awareness to make them capable to transfer these knowledge to the program stakeholders in their project areas.
- Gender Equality* is an important precondition for the success of Afghanistan’s development goals is the reversal of women’s historical disadvantage in Afghan society. The government vision is a peaceful and progressive nation where women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities in all spheres of life. SGP Afghanistan will consider gender equality and women’s empowerment as essential elements of OP6 programme. Gender will remain in the SGP Afghanistan grant-making criteria to be mainstreamed throughout the SGP portfolio of projects. SGP will have a focus specifically on the engagement and empowerment of women and will strive to support projects benefitting both men and women within the same communities.

- *Knowledge Generations* is vital intention of SGP projects. In order to generate knowledge from SGP projects in Afghanistan, all OP6 projects are to be designed and implemented as pilot or action research projects to generate knowledge. The implementation of OP6 through pilot projects will divert the grantee misperception about SGP, which is not a simple service delivery programme but its main goal is to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). The implementation of OP6 pilot projects will empower the grantees to build networks, share their knowledge and promote policy dialogues with government. All applicants will be encouraged to include a component for demonstration and knowledge dissemination in the proposed projects.
- *Establishing of community based environmental and NRM associations, committees and unions* can play an effective role to protect community-based environment. This initiative will be a cross cutting issue to be considered in all OP6 project areas. For example, in all rural Afghanistan CDCs are established and the grantees will ensure that environmental sub-committee is established and functioning under the umbrella of cluster CDCs which will better implement environment actions at a broader level than as single community, support umbrella organisations that are comprised of clusters of CDC, which think and act on a landscape level.

3.2. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

Following a comprehensive scoping and screening exercise, the NSC in coordination with NEPA and other stakeholders identified four provinces (Kabul, Badakhshan, Bamyán and Kunar) as landscape areas to be focused by SGP-OP6. Beside mutual NSC agreement, multi-stakeholders consultation were made, including individual meetings with NSC members, experts and professionals from International Organizations, CSOs including SGP-OP5 partner agencies. All 34 provinces of Afghanistan were screened, filtered and crosschecked against the following common agreed criteria.

- The provinces are rich in biodiversity and exposed to severe environmental threats.
- The provinces are secure and safe for smooth implementation of SGP projects without any hesitation.
- The provinces have potential for collaboration with other partners to generate co-funding for SGP.
- Institutional capacity within the province (NGOs, CSOs, CBOs etc.)
- Level of community interest and extent to which communities are organized.
- Potential for triple wins (social, economic and environmental) through implementation of SGP in the selected provinces.

The selected four provinces contain some of the most important nationally protected areas and national parks, focus on which will be one of the key tasks in SGP-OP6. The selection of these landscapes will provide an opportunity to harmonize SGP functions with national priorities and to build on past successes, because most of these landscapes were under focus during SGP-OP5⁶. In result of a comprehensive consultation process and NSC meetings, six landscape areas determined in the selected four provinces, based on their ecological, biodiversity, recreational, cultural and economic importance. All the selected landscapes are located in one of the mightiest mountain ranges of Himalaya, Karakoram, Hindu Kush and Tine Shan.

⁶ Kabul, Bamyán and Badakhshan provinces received 78% of total SGP-OP5 budget, while one project was also awarded to Kunar province in Medicinal and Aromatic plants potential areas (SGP-OP5 Evaluation Report).

Figure 1: Location of four provinces with six landscapes to be targeted in the OP6 period

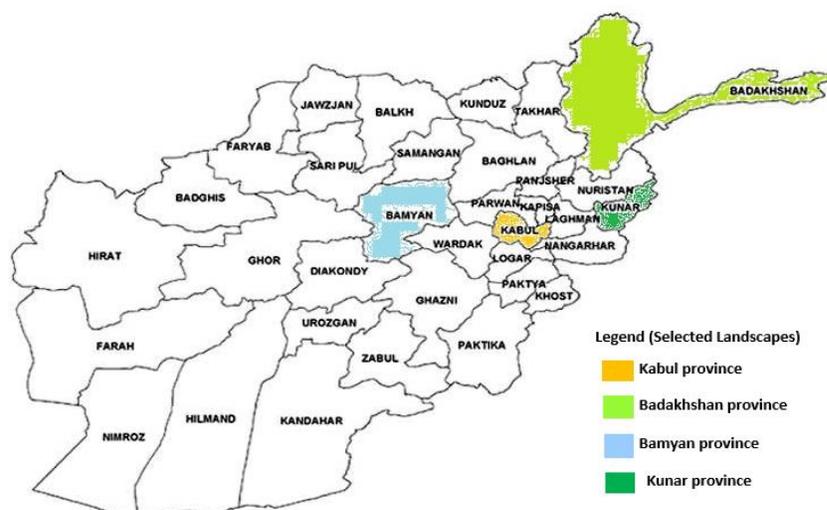


Table-3: Landscapes/seascapes selected for implementation of SGP projects in OP6 period

Province	Selected Landscapes	Landscape Importance
Kabul	Kol-e-Hashmat Khan Wetland Protected Area	Important habitat for wetland species and staging area for migratory waterfowl and wintering site for aquatic birds.
Kabul	Kabul City (urban area)	The fifth fastest growing city in the world and world's 64 th largest city. About five million people live in metropolitan areas of Kabul province.
Bamyan	Band-e-Amir National Park	High value in ecology, biodiversity, culture and tourism.
Bamyan	Koh-e-Baba (Shah Foladi) Mountain Landscape Conservation Area	A landscape of outstanding natural, ecological, cultural, historical and aesthetic value.
Badakhshan	Wakhan National Park (Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve)	Key biodiversity corridor, high value in biodiversity and culture due to existing indigenous groups.
Kunar	East region forest	High value in ecology, biodiversity and livelihoods
<p>Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) – Some of the most important and threatened Medicinal and Aromatic plant species (locally acquainted) potential areas are to be targeted both in Badakhshan and Kunar provinces in the selected landscape areas. Because of their high value in biodiversity (species conservation) and community livelihoods, MAPs selected as a surplus intervention to be made. (SGP-OP5 already worked on MAPs in Kunar)</p>		

Community landscape conservation and climate smart innovative Agro-ecology considered as priority strategic initiatives to be focused in all four provinces, while local Carbone energy access in three provinces except Kunar. The SGP during OP5 implementation phase contributed to objectives by distributing various renewable energy and low-carbon technologies. The local to global chemical management strategic initiative will not considered in Afghanistan for this phase.

The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) with technical support from WCS and funding from GEF, USAID and UNDP developed a long term national action plan for protected areas, while a separate management plan is also available for each of the individual protected area consisting baseline data and information, maps and images of the sites, various threats to the protected areas, and types of interventions to be made. By combining and filtering all these strategic, action and management plans and other formal documentation, a comprehensive baseline assessment report were drafted in close consultation with line departments and other stakeholders for OP6 please refer to Annex-III: OP6

Landscape/Seascape Baseline Assessment Report). Following national action and management plans were used to focus on the selected landscapes, in four provinces.

- National Protected Area Systems Plan (2009)
- Band-e-Amir 5-year management plan (2010-2016)
- Kol-e-Hashmat Khan 10-years management plan (2015-2024)
- Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve 5 years management plan (2016-2020)
- Shah Foladi protected area 5-years management plan (2016-2020)
- Kabul city green-belt programme management plan (2016 – 2026)

The SGP Afghanistan will use its OP6 resources to support the implementation of about management plan in relation to GEF-6 strategic initiatives. The government has requested the international organizations, NGOs, CBOs for their financial and technical resources to work closely the government line department. There are number of donors in Afghanistan that are interested to fund projects in SGP’s selected areas. The NC and NSC will communicate the SGP programme with all interested donors and NSC and NC will develop fund mobilization mechanism with individual donors.

3.3. Grant-maker+ strategies ⁷

In its 6th Operational Phase SGP Afghanistan will follow “SEED SCALE” approach, by adapting to build on previous successes from OP5 and utilizing the existing capacities for further replication and up scaling of the successful projects and lessons learned. The successful projects from previous phase are to be rolled out to other areas of the same landscape or other provinces. During next three years the SGP-OP6 strategic plan is channeling 70% of GEF funding and efforts mainly to focus inside and around the selected landscapes areas (six landscapes). Kabul province will receive 40% of SGP funding during OP6, while 25% will be allocated for each of Badakhshan and Bamyan provinces respectively and the remaining 10% for Kunar province.

During OP6, SGP grant making approach will be focused on: (a) conservation of protected areas and nationally/globally recognized critical ecosystems and biodiversity of fauna and flora (b) further expansion and introducing renewable energy, especially the innovative ideas and products (c) to restore and maintain integrity of the wetlands ecosystem (d) promoting conservation-friendly livelihoods of the local people by supporting sustainable ecotourism (e) recovery of soil, water and air quality by formation of sustainable plant cover and forestation (f) promoting participatory approach to involve local citizens and civil society organizations for environmental protection and resilience (g) enabling and promoting community based CSOs and CBOs for getting bottom up environmental conservation (h) promoting local capacity for sustainable and efficient usage of local natural resources for development (i) meaningful contribution to enhance local livelihood, especially the livelihood of women and other disadvantage groups by introducing climate smart agro-ecology and conservation measures (j) conservation of endangered medicinal and aromatic plant species.

The grants will be made available directly to the NGOs and CBOs. As in the OP5, the SGP Afghanistan will fund up to USD 50,000 for a project. However, up to a maximum of USD 100,000 grant can be allocated for strategic project initiatives that cover a large number of communities within the selected landscapes. Grant allocations in OP6 will primarily take into account of the following factors. Grants need specific season/weather must be closely considered by NSC/NC prior the awarding stages.

- NGO/CBO must be registered with the government of Afghanistan.
- Past performance, reliability and implementation or technical capacity of the NGOs/CBOs or etc.
- Level of co-funding (in cash and in kind) committed for.
- Innovative proposal and grant making mechanism.

⁷ The OP6 Grant-maker+ strategies and related activities may either be outside of the selected landscape/seascapes, or promote partnership building, networking and policy development within the target areas.

- Potential for sustaining and up scaling the outcomes.
- Contributing to national priorities, GEF strategic initiatives, MDGs and UNDP’s mission.

More detailed intervention mechanism and types of activities/projects are described in the Baseline report for each of the individual landscape. A single grant can be designed for at least one activity from table-4 matrix or several activities targeting one objective in a specified landscape. The key focus of SGP grantees during OP6 is to improve the current condition of the selected landscape in GEF-6 strategic initiatives by designing and implementing grants in the following areas.

Please refer to Annex –3 for more detailed SGP OP6 Baseline report containing background information of the selected landscapes, existing threats to the area, maps and photos of the landscape and description of activities to be focused during OP6.

3.3.1. CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

The OP6 approach is to create and strengthening a 3-ways partnership among communities, government and CSOs. In order to promote the role of CSOs as a “bridge” between and among the grassroots communities and their organizations, and also between them and the national planners and policy-makers, the SGP country programme in close consultation with NEPA will establish national and provincial level networks of all SGP implementing partners. The provincial level networks (consisting province-based SGP partners) will call together a semi-annual meeting (after each six months) to share their achievements, lessons learnt and concerns or any other obstacle to the project/program implementation process with the cluster provincial levels departments (NEPA, DAIL, PRRD, INGOs, CSOs, Private Sector and etc.). Each provincial network will make serious efforts for creating close working relations with the cluster provincial departments for facilitating to uptake good practices and further enrich communication and collaboration. The national level network (consisting countrywide SGP implementing partners) will attend an annual dialogue platform meeting consisting representatives from NEPA, MAIL, MRRD, UNEP, UNDP, NSC, NC and other stakeholders including academia. The dialogue platforms are expected to facilitate the uptake of good practices, and enhance communications among key stakeholders. Moreover, the platform can be used to communicate the experiences and lessons

3.3.2. Policy influence

SGP-OP6 information and knowledge will be shared with partners at the project and programme levels and voice of concerns from local communities; CBOs and NGOs will be raised and discussed at the central and at provincial level with the relevant authorities. NSC and NC will assess project final results and technical guidelines with the relevant policy maker bodies from NEPA, MAIL, MRRD and UNEP. They will be then shared with local programmes for mainstreaming, promoting the replication and up scaling of the successfully tested models as well as recommendations on policy change. KM products will be developed for the purpose of policy advocacy, replication and up scaling and visibility of SGP projects and programme. At programme level SGP will closely work with NEPA, MAIL and UNEP while developing and updating national level policies and strategies or action plans like National Environment Law and Strategies, NBSAP, NAMA, NAPA, preparation for various MEAs and action or management plans for protected areas or climate change mitigation measures.

3.3.3. Promoting social inclusion (mandatory)

The most vulnerable groups included in Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) are gender, youths, persons with disabilities, IDPs and Refugees, and indigenous communities whom are expected to facilitate the greater participation at different levels of government, access to opportunities, aid packages, public services or any other sphere of life.

SGP-OP6 will make every endeavor to maximize the involvement of these disadvantaged groups. At programme level, the NSC and NC will highly encourage women and youths led CSOs/NGOs for submitting proposals as SGP implementing partner in the selected landscape areas. SGP in partnership with NEPA will make serious efforts to enhance women membership by encouraging CBOs and associations involved with the environmental

protection at grassroots level. SGP-OP5 already established strong working ties with women-led NGOs and CSOs and will try to further enrich these connections and closely monitor and encourage women-led organizations. The climate smart agro ecology, low-carbon energy access and conservation of community landscape/seascape areas are possessing great potential for enhancing women involvement. The renewable energy technology, nurseries establishment and saplings production, vermicomposting, kitchen gardens, producing cotton bags instead of plastics, and etc. are more fitting tasks for women involvement in a traditional society like Afghanistan. Therefore, SGP-OP5 will encourage the women led CSOs with innovative ideas for sustainable development of women at project and at programme level. The NSC, while reviewing grant proposal will pay high attention to gender mainstreaming throughout SGP programme.

The OP6 target areas in remote districts and Protected Areas are the homes of isolated and marginalized indigenous communities. Indigenous peoples of Afghanistan are among the poorest and most vulnerable communities, living in remote areas where biodiversity exists. The local communities live in and around national protected areas, and the farmers with the extensive experiences in ecosystem management practices are the indigenous most vulnerable individuals in axis of environmental threats. They have very limited income opportunities and heavily rely on natural resources for livelihoods. They own a very rich traditional knowledge and in many areas still live in their customary traditions, especially in living with the nature and exploiting the natural resources. During OP5, there are a number of SGP successful projects, which bring benefit to indigenous peoples by helping them to reduce poverty and preserve their cultural traditions through sustainable management of biodiversity resources, focusing on conserving ecosystem, forestlands and agro biodiversity. SGP-OP6 will continue to give priority to projects targeting indigenous peoples as the key beneficiaries by encouraging and empowering them and their institutions to remain as SGP implementing partners.

The Afghanistan Central Statistic Office (CSO) estimates 63% of Afghanistan's 27.5 million people are under the age of 25 and those between 15 and 24 years of age comprises 17% of the population. Afghanistan has developed National Youth Policy in 2014 and key policy issues of this documents is to (a) to strengthen youth-led organizations and network at national and sub-national levels, (b) promote and support youth volunteerism toward preserving vital national interests, (c) encourage dialogue among youth, government and CSOs at the national and sub-national level's. The National policy emphasis that all stakeholders should promote and support the active participation of youth in preserving and rebuilding Afghanistan's environment through the following key measures:

- Promote awareness on environmental issues and practices among youth in schools
- Support youth organizations to work for environmental sustainability and appreciate youth who work hard to protect the environment.
- Work with the growing Afghan youth movement on nature and outdoor programmes in mountains, practical action, environmental restoration and rehabilitation.
- Support youth to participate in national and global days for forest, soil, water, environment, peacemaking, climate and biodiversity.
- Create a high level committee on environmental preservation between government and CSOs.
- Enable Afghan youth to take on climate action and climate justice concepts and strategies as part of the Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Afghanistan National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA).

The SGP Afghanistan will strive to promote youth participation in OP6 and implement the above measures. To promote environmental awareness and to celebrate major environmental days and functions, SGP-OP6 will try to involve more school children and youths in advocacy and public awareness campaigns. The SGP-OP6 province-based implementing partners will highly encourage school children and youths for volunteer participation in the initiatives like clean cities and villages and planting trees and waste management practices.

3.3.4. Knowledge Management Plan

Knowledge management will be the key component of the SGP in Afghanistan. The purpose of SGP's pilot projects is to generate, documents and share knowledge, best practices and lessons learned to large group of people and networks. This makes SGP visible at local, national levels and encourages donors and private sectors to financially support the programme as co-funders. The purpose of knowledge management strategy is to facilitate the flow of information and experiences, leverage lessons learned from successful projects and to replicate and scale up the good practices to wider audience including SGP's implementing agencies and country programme partners, government authorities at local and national levels, donors and international agencies; and other knowledge global networks. Therefore, the information should be easily understandable and reachable to audiences.

The OP6 individual projects information and lesson learned will be compiled in handbooks, factsheets, case studies, films and video, and then will be disseminated among practitioners through various means such as social media, seminars, meetings, public presentations and through different electronic information networks and media. Therefore, the SGP OP6 will encourage its applicants to include knowledge management plan in their project documents. They will be expected to document the best practices and lessons learned and share these experiences from all of their previous experiences with NC and NSC for entry into the country database to be shared with grantees and stakeholders.

The SGP supported projects at the local level will continue to be part of the policy formulation processes nationally and thus can significantly contribute to policy process as they show the practical implications of these initiatives at local level. Therefore, the roles of NC, NSC, grantees and UNDP are crucial in various ways. The NSC and NC will ensure that the good practices and success stories of SGP are documented and disseminated to the wider public. The NSC and NC also participate in various academic as well as environmental civil society networks. They also take parts in many public events propaganda environmentally sound practice. Therefore, they can use all these events to share SGP success and lesson learned.

A separate grant will be designed by the Environmental Protection faculty of Kabul University for the establishment of digital/online library to make all the relevant information available for public access. This project will empower the faculty students, teachers, line departments and CSOs/NGOs to get more relevant research writings and studies, articles, laws and strategies and other relevant work done by NEPA, UNEP, SGP and etc. This initiatives will provide an opportunity for the faculty students for their practical engagement and awareness of national level priorities for environmental protection and linking the academic institutions for knowledge generating and mainstreaming activities. For this task, the NSC assigned Environment Faculty of Kabul University that will come with a practical comprehensive proposal to be funded under SGP-OP6.

3.3.5. Communications Strategy

An effective communication mechanism is vital for SGP successful implementation. During OP6 SGP will further synergize country programme operations by strengthening communication mechanism with the line ministries international donors, NGOs and UN agencies and other KM bodies. Information sources such as database, website, success stories, popular publications, and documentaries can be developed for greater awareness and dissemination. The SGP Afghanistan office will make efforts to be involving with south Asian regional network to exchange ideas, practices, knowledge, innovations, technologies and policy through the internet.

At project level, each SGP grantee will submit an interim quarterly report, annual progress report, and project completion report as per the SGP reporting format. The interim quarterly report will focuses on major activities implemented during the reporting period against the work plan, progress made, emerging issues and challenges and their coping strategies. It also includes quarterly financial report, bank statement and a clear picture of co-funding. The annual report will cover the progress against its overall objectives and outcomes and the assessment

of good practices and lessons learned. Grantees are required to submit a project completion report at the end of each project and to work with UNDP communication unit and NEPA for sharing all their feedback about strengths and weaknesses of the project and recommendation for future improvement.

4. Expected results framework

4.1. The table-4 below shows the CPS targets and the key activities for each targets and key indicators to measures achievement in each target. The SGP Afghanistan comprising of 14 targets for which five targets is selected for SGP OP6 component # 1 (community Landscape and Seascape Conservation), three targets for Component – 2 (Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology) and two targets for Component-5 (CS)-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms). One target is selected for each Component 3, (Low Carbon Energy Access benefit), Component 6 (Promoting social inclusions) and Component 7(Global reach for Citizen practice-based knowledge program). The OP6 programme will be monitored and evaluated against the depicted indicators. Please refer to table-4.

Table 4: Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities (Social, Economic and Environmental)	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6</u> <u>Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p>	<p>1.To restore and maintain integrity of the Kol-e-Hashmat Khan wetland ecosystem, controlling siltation and pollution in the lake and surrounding areas.</p> <p>2. Conserve and recover the biodiversity and environment of Band-e-Amir National Park by development the capacity of local communities and Park staff to actively engage in development and management of Park affairs.</p> <p>3. Conservation of biodiversity of Koh-e-Baba mountainous areas through fostering broad community stewardship and commitments to the protection of the diverse values of Shah Foladi conservation landscape.</p> <p>4. Conserve and recover the bio diversity and environment of the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Landscape in Wakhan District/National Park.</p>	<p><u><i>Kol-e-Hashmat Khan</i></u></p> <p>1.1. Develop and implement waste and effluent collection, treatment and utilization system. Implement suitable sanitation solutions to the communities in the upper catchment.</p> <p>1.2. Design and implement appropriate soil and water conservation measures in the catchment area of the lake. This, among others, include reforestation on the mountain slopes, plantation in the private land, and construction of check dams where necessary.</p> <p>1.3. Design and implement public awareness programme. This among other, include development and dissemination of audio-visual materials, notice boards, conservation awareness training to local people, onsite lecturing for school children and other visitors.</p> <p>1.4. Stop harvesting of reeds and grasses in the lake area/provide suitable alternatives to poor local people.</p> <p>1.5. Promote stall-feeding system and discourage open grazing of domestic animals in the lake and its catchment.</p> <p><u><i>Band-e-Amir National Park</i></u></p> <p>2.1. Deliver park awareness programme to communities.</p> <p>2.1. Strengthen the role of the community participation in park management by improving the capacity of the Band-e Amir Community Council in participating in the Band-e Amir Protected Area Committee.</p> <p>2.2. Delivering specialist training courses commensurate with the staff duties of Park</p> <p>2.3. Provide technical advises to rangers during on-the ground management</p> <p>2.4. Support community sustainable development initiatives which reduce pressure on natural resources within the park.</p> <p><u><i>Koh-e-Baba/Shah Foladi</i></u></p> <p>Develop and distribute educational materials aim at promoting public awareness of the ecological values of the protected areas, promoting community stewardship and reducing impacts on human use on the rangelands alpine meadows and slopes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of grants successfully implemented with the visible impacts over existed environmental challenges. • Number of families applying conservation and sustainable use practices in each protected area. • Numbers of trees planted and survived and areas of land (ha.) planted. • Area (ha.) of degraded land reclaimed and put under improved land use and climate proofing practices. • Numbers of water related infrastructures constructed / rehabilitated. • Numbers of local population benefited from the training and capacity building sessions. • Numbers of local CBOs actively participated in decision-making process and management of protected areas. • Numbers and types of beneficiaries received or attended awareness programmes. 	<p>Individual project completion Report.</p> <p>Annual monitoring reports.</p> <p>CPS Review and final report</p>

		<p>3.1. To encourage research to increase knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem processes.</p> <p>3.2. Reduce potential negative impacts on the values of the Koh-e-Baba Protected Area from potentially polluting activities by undertaking education and information program.</p> <p><u>Big Pamir, Wakhan National Park</u></p> <p>4.1. Investigate sustainable grazing and shrub collection strategies, enforcing grazing regulations, undertake precise boundary determination and marking using GPS.</p> <p>4.2. Establish and regularly document a series of vegetation photo plots.</p> <p>4.3. Strengthen the role of the community participation in park management by improving the capacity of the Band-e Amir Community Council in participating in the Band-e Amir Protected Area Committee</p> <p>4.4. Delivering community awareness raising programmes to communities</p> <p>4.5. Support community sustainable development initiatives which reduce pressure on natural resources within the whole park.</p> <p>4.6. Support operations of community rangers across the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of research reports produced and disseminated • Number of endangered MAPs conserved and propagated. • SGP-OP6 synergized and completed with government programs for management of four protected areas in Afghanistan 	
<p><u>SGP OP6</u> <u>Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p>	<p>5. Enhance conservation-friendly livelihoods of the local people by promotion of suitable forest, fruit trees and other economically valuable plant species in public and private lands in Kol-e-Hashmat Khan Protected Area.</p> <p>6. Mitigation of climate change by reducing air pollution and relevant diseases by absorbing the harmful gases and CO₂ through sustainable improvement of green cover and forestlands (forests, bushes, and forage</p>	<p><u>Kol-e-Hashmat Khan Wetland</u></p> <p>5.1. Develop nurseries, produce seedling of the chosen species and implement plantation programmes in both the public and private lands.</p> <p>5.2. Encourage families to promote organic and conservation-friendly agricultural practices.</p> <p>5.3. Identify suitable vegetable species and interested farmers and provide them with necessary technical and financial supports as well as training to local staff in seasonal and off-season vegetable farming (e.g. in green houses).</p> <p>5.4. Promotion of rain water conservation techniques by assessing feasibility and demonstrate rainwater conservation system.</p> <p><u>Kabul City Green Belt Programme.</u></p> <p>6.1. Encourage local people and CSOs to participate Kabul Greenery campaigns in Kabul City.</p> <p>6.2. Construction of irrigation infrastructure constructed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects financed by SGP and successfully completed in the targeted areas. • Number of families practicing organic agricultural and other conservation-friendly agricultural and soil management systems. • Number of rain water systems demonstrated and utilized by community • Number of income generation (daily earning facilities) generated for local labours. • Number of local households to benefit of SGP green cover projects. 	<p>Individual project completion Report.</p> <p>Annual monitoring reports.</p> <p>CPS Review and final report</p> <p>NC/NSC surveys and monitoring visits</p>

	<p>cover) in and around Kabul City.</p> <p>7. Conserve vegetation in Band-e-Amir National Park and provide opportunities for quality recreational, aesthetic, cultural and religious experiences for Afghan citizens and international travellers.</p> <p>8. Use of natural resources effective manner to protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing and increase in flow of benefits attributable to natural products and services in Koh-e-Baba Mountainous Protected Areas.</p> <p>9. Provide livelihoods support for local population through production, conservation and sustainable collection of MAPs in Kunar and Badakhshan Provinces.</p>	<p>6.3. Establish green cover around Kabul City. <u>Band-e-Amir National Park</u></p> <p>7.1. Establish community woodlots in settlement zones by planning and rising trees.</p> <p>7.2. Develop and distribute awareness materials to visitors (public awareness initiatives at provincial and national levels.)</p> <p>7.3. Develop and distribute materials promoting Band-e-Amir as tourist destination. (Both protected areas and ecotourism concepts will be included)</p> <p><u>Koh-e-Baba Protected Areas</u></p> <p>8.1. Develop and implement community conservation program with income generation components.</p> <p>8.2. Analysis of potential natural capital in the protected area. Add value to natural products by processing them in local communities e.g. honey, Jams, etc.</p> <p>8.3. Introduction of more efficient cooking and heating stoves to reduce the amount of biomass required.</p> <p>8.4. Educate communities about sustainable harvesting techniques and encourage community-imposed restriction on shrub collection.</p> <p>8.5. Encourage the multiple uses of woodlands, including sustainable energy sources.</p> <p><u>MAPs in Kunar and Badakhshan Provinces</u></p> <p>9.1. Conduct research on conservation and utilization of endemic and / or threatened species and varieties of MAPs.</p> <p>9.2. Producing MAPs nurseries as per OP5 lesson learned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of irrigation structures constructed and utilized for irrigating the green cover areas. • Areas of land (ha.) Planted by trees and other crops. • Number of awareness training programmes conducted. • Number of income generation projects (add value to natural products). • Number of efficient cooking and heating stoves demonstrated and distributed and in use in each community. • Area (ha.) of land protected from shrub collection. • List of materials developed and numbers distributed. • List of promotional materials developed/distributed. • SGP contribution to implementation of management plans of 4 protected areas, government long-term program for Kabul City Greening and rehabilitation of eastern region forest increased. 	
<p><u>SGP OP6</u> <u>Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p>	<p>10. Promote the demonstration, development and dissemination of solar and other forms of renewable energy technologies for households and commercial purposes.</p>	<p>10.1. Assess feasibility and demonstrate of renewable energies technologies (micro hydro, wind, biomass, solar, bioenergy, efficient stoves etc.) for household and commercial purposes.</p> <p>10.2. Encourage local communities to use energy efficient appliances and build energy efficient housing. It also includes encourage rural population to reduce the use of firewood by promoting efficient cooking technologies.</p> <p>10.3. Provide locals with alternative energy options to protect rangelands in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of alternative energy options demonstrated and disseminated at the local levels in SGP intervention areas. • Number of families received and utilized low-GHG technologies. • SGP synergized with UNDP's ASERD program and increased access to modern thermal energy and electricity in rural Afghanistan. 	<p>Individual project completion Report. Annual monitoring reports. CPS Review and final report</p>

<p><u>SGP OP6</u> <u>Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<p>11. Create and empower a high-level youth committee on environmental conservation between government and CSOs as per National Youth Policy of Afghanistan-2014.</p> <p>12. In consultation with Government Youth Department of MoIC, SGP supports establishment of CSO-Government policy dialogue platform during the course of CPS implementation.</p>	<p>11.1 Develop the capacity of a high-level youth committee and CSOs by providing them with technical assistance and advices in the fields of environmental laws and policies, multilateral environmental conventions etc.to make to empower to engage with government in policy and planning dialogue</p> <p>12.1. At least three CSO-Government meetings / for a convened to facilitate the policy and planning development to promote a demonstrated practice / technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of meeting / forum established between government and Youth committee/CSOs. • Strong collaboration established between SGP and Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs in implementing Afghanistan Youth National Policy - 2014. 	<p>Individual project completion Report. Annual monitoring reports. CPS Review and final report</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6</u> <u>Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<p>13. Promoting the meaningful participation of women, youth, indigenous local communities in SGP affairs</p>	<p>13.1. Encourage the involvement women-led and youth led and other vulnerable group led organization to SGO.</p> <p>13.2. Empower Afghan youth to take on climate action and climate justice concept and strategies as part of the 2nd National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Afghanistan National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA). (<i>Afghanistan National Youth Policy-2014</i>)</p> <p>13.3. Support the involvement of indigenous people in the management of protected areas mainly in Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces Local indigenous people should be consulted regarding any use of their cultural knowledge and traditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects financed for women-led, youth-led & other vulnerable groups-led CSOs/NGOs. • Number of women, youths and other vulnerable groups benefited from the SGP projects. • Number of youth supported for climate action / justice concept. • Number of indigenous communities received benefits from SGP. 	<p>Individual project completion Report.</p> <p>Annual monitoring reports.</p> <p>CPS Review and final report</p> <p>Survey or focus groups sessions.</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6</u> <u>Component 7:</u> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<p>14. Establishing digital library in Faculty of Environmental Protection University, in Kabul University.</p>	<p>14.1 Collect, compile knowledge & lessons learned of OP6 projects and share with a wide range of stakeholders to promote innovation and best practice.</p> <p>14.2 Collect and records all environmental related resources and disseminate to various stakeholders (academia, donors, government, NGOs) to digital libraries</p> <p>14.3 Hold a knowledge management event to share and disseminate best practices in implementing of SGP activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital library established and functional. • Number of type of KM events conducted. • Number of environment friendly practices advocated. 	<p>Individual project completion Report. Annual monitoring reports. CPS Review and final report</p>

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

The monitoring and Evaluation will be conducted at two levels, (a) individual projects level; and (b) country programme level. Table – 4 of CPS contains OP6 strategic initiatives, targets and indicators. This table will be used as monitoring and evaluation tools and all progress toward strategic achievement will be measured based on set indicators and targets. Indicators at the country level should be tracked and reported on through the Annual Country Report (ACR) of SGP.

5.1. At the project level, the monitoring and evaluation facilitates the identification and resolution of problems, enhances project performance and ensure congruence with the GEF criteria. It also provides the basis for technical and financial accountability, builds local capacity to implement and manage projects successfully, and promote the identification and dissemination of lessons learned by participants themselves. SGP Afghanistan encourages capacity building initiatives for grantees to enhance their skills and performances for producing higher impacts of the project intervention. The SGP country programme during OP6 will pay special attention to project level M&E as an important component in projects development and implementation phases. Each project proposal is required to provide baseline information of project site. A stakeholder meeting is required with the involvement of locals to identify the existing problems, proposed solutions, project objectives and outputs. For each project there shall be a monitoring record, which will be used to collect information that will be analyzed to produce periodic progress reports and final reports to be submitted to the GEF-SGP Country Programme by the grantees.

5.2. NC will analyze the M&E reports submitted by individual projects to keep track of the projects’ progress and give feedback to the organizations to make corrections where necessary. The release of the second and third installments shall be dependent on satisfactory reports from the organization and the visiting team. Each project will be concluded with: a final evaluation, a final financial report and a final progress report with an assessment of lessons learned. NC conducts projects monitoring visits at least once a year. The frequency of the monitoring visits by the NC depends on the security situation and complexity of a project, and is determined by the NC according to the project results milestones. The NC also conducts a monitoring visit for randomly selected projects at the end of a project or after its completion to verify that the project’s objectives have been achieved. Feedback, comments and suggestions will be given in writing to the implementing partner and reported to the NSC and UNDP country office. Below table describes the project level M&E plan.

Table - 5: M&E Plan at the Project Level

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Timeframe
Participatory project monitoring	Grantees	Throughout the project period
Baseline data collection	Grantees, NC	At concept and proposal stage
Two or three project progress and financial reports (depending on agreed disbursement schedule)	Grantees, NC	At each disbursement request
Project work plans	Grantees, NC	Duration of project
NC project proposal site visit (as necessary / cost effective ²)	NC	Prior grant approval, or as appropriate
NC project monitoring site visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	Once per year, or as appropriate
NC project evaluation site visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	At end of project, or as appropriate
Project final report	Grantees	Following project’s completion
Project evaluation report (as necessary / cost effective)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	NC	At start of project,

The involvement of provincial cluster departments (NEPA, DAIL, PRRD and etc.) in monitoring and evaluation will allow SGP grantees to follow a participatory M&E approach and adaptive management. Public auditing of projects will be encouraged in order to maintain financial transparency and contribute to result-based management approach.

5.3. Following table identifies key tasks for programme level Monitoring and Evaluation process.

Table - 6: M&E Plan at the Programme level

<i>M&E Activity</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Responsible parties</i>	<i>Budget source</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis ⁸ to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR) ⁹	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ¹⁰ and Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

6. Resource mobilisation plan

Co-financing (both in cash and in kind) is an eligibility criterion for project selection and approval by SGP country programme. The resource mobilization goal for SGP Afghanistan is to build the trust of donors and government, by demonstrating the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the SGP delivery mechanism for the financial sustainability at the program level.

During OP5 the country programme was successful in rising co-funding from various international organizations, but ensuring future co-financing support, needs strong efforts of SGP country team (NSC, NC, TAG) and UNDP to align and mainstream the SGP with UN and donor agencies, I/NGOs, and government programs. Therefore the

⁸ The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

⁹ The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

¹⁰ The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.

first strategy of resource mobilization for OP6 will be to strengthen working partnership and networking with those organizations that previously contributed to SGP projects during OP5. Norwegian Charge Aids (NCA), Open Asia, Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) and Borda Research Development Association (BRDA) were the main co-funders of SGP OP5 projects. WFP supported SGP with its in kind co-financing. Other agencies such as Wildlife Conservations Society (WCS) and Agha Khan Foundation (AKF) have provided technical and logistic assistance to SGP grantees and local communities in form of training and capacity building in Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces. The SGP county team (NSC, NC and TAG) will list their priorities and present them to these organizations to seek their cooperation.

SGP during implementation of OP6 will target all possible sources to provide in-kind and cash co-financing for SGP at project, landscape and country levels. To this effect, the programme aims to establish and maintain strong partnership with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, UN agencies, government and private sector. The SGP country team will map all donors who already invested in OP6 project areas / selected landscapes and present the SGP desired needs and present them with success evidence to encourage partnering with SGP.

The OP6 project areas and selected landscapes are included in government development plans. SGP will seek partnership with government ministries mainly the two main bodies, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) as key government body for all environmental issues in term of policy and program development and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MAIL) are the key government body for programme implementation. SGP will be working in six selected landscapes (protected areas) in partnership with MAIL and their main counterparts such as ICIMOD in Kol-e-Hashmat Khan Wetland, WCS in Band-e-Amir and Wakhan National Parks, UNEP in Shah Foladi in Koh-e-Baba mountain protected areas. NEPA launched SGP in Afghanistan in October 2012, and can play stronger roles in integrating SGP in government environmental related national plans and establish an enabling ground for SGP to operate in MAIL programme areas such as rehabilitation and development of Afghanistan National Parks and protected areas, and Kabul City Green Belt Programme.

The AKF is introducing renewable energy and low carbon technologies and rehabilitating the agroforestry and rangelands in SGP-OP6 selected landscape areas in Bamyán and Badakhshan provinces. SGP-OP6 is to establish a proper coordination and co-financing mechanism with AKF in these areas, where both the programs are focusing entirely the same strategic initiatives but this process of co-financing and technical partnership needs comprehensive proposal for strategic alignment and partnership mechanism to be shared by NSC and NC with AKF Policy and Planning Department.

The WCS is operating in SGP-OP6 selected landscapes in Badakhshan, Bamyán and Kunar to protecting wildlife biodiversity, natural ecosystem, climate change and building capacities to improve livelihood opportunities and can play vital partnership and co-financer's role for SGP-OP6. WCS works in partnership with community natural resource management institutions within the national park landscapes and they have already indicated their interest to co-financing SGP in cash if the SGP channeling their fund directly through them. The ICIMOD is operating in Hindu Kush Himalayas ranges for poverty alleviation, environmental conservation efforts and climate change adaptation efforts and can assist SGP-OP6 grantees in the form of capacity building and co-financing services.

The grantee organizations, especially CSOs and CBOs do not have much experience on technical issues in the strategic initiatives of GEF for OP6. Therefore, technical assistance from the academic institutions is needed for project design and project implementation, especially for knowledge management. Establishing partnerships with organizations and individuals who can provide technical assistance is necessary. In-addition, the NSC, NC and TAG members need to play more proactive role to empower CBOs and CSOs by raising their capacities in writing more professional and technical proposals and to align it with the strategic priorities of GEF and major donors that will not only introduce SGP as a service delivery mechanism, but will also assist donor organizations in achieving sustainable development goals. The NC in consultation with NSC and TAG will prepare a long term

capacity building plan for SGP grantees to link these partners with the major donors for future partnership and service delivery process.

In Afghanistan, the participation of private sector in environmental management has been limited. But the SGP will try to seek the possibility of public-private partnership for development and hope SGP beneficiaries could benefit from such cooperation. Introducing and demonstration of renewable technologies, establishing nurseries and produce plant saplings are the major areas where private sector can make good contribution and partnership with SGP-OP6.

In term of partnership with multilateral organization, the SGP will enhance integration with on-going programs and initiatives of UNDP and other UN organizations. SGP will build partnership with other UNDP projects and programs including Afghanistan Sustainable Energy for Rural Development (ASERD), Local Economic Development Afghanistan (LEDA), Establishing Integrated Models for Protected Areas and their Co-Management in Afghanistan (EIMPA), Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood option for Afghan communities to manage climate change-induced disaster risks (CCA) and Adapting Afghan Communities to Climate-Induced Disaster Risks (AACID). In addition, partnership will also be generated with other UN offices such as WFP, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO and UNIDO to assist the SGP programme with their technical and financial inputs. SGP projects and best practices can serves as case studies for researches and policy work as a key objective of UNDP projects.

7. Risk Management Plan

7.1.No major risk and constraints that can be predicted to negatively or suspend the program in all landscape areas. The programme will receive political support from its main government Counterpart (NEPA) and has already generated implementation in the grass roots level. Due to political instability in whole country, the country programme anticipates social and environmental risks in implementation of CPS during OP6.

Table 5: Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Deteriorating of security condition in some of the remote areas of Kunar and Badakhshan provinces will delay the implementation process of SGP projects.	Medium	High	The NSC and NC will closely monitor the security situation in the selected landscapes areas, prior to the grants approval process to ensure maximum possibilities exist for grants implementation.
Accessibility in some of the remote areas of Badakhshan, Bamyan due to snow during winter and or insecurity (in Kunar and Badakhshan) on the way to project side will delay the program implementation and program monitoring will be a challenging task for NC and UNDP.	High	Medium	The priority will be given to the local CBOs/CSOs in each of the selected landscape areas. The local CBOs/CSOs are well familiar with the site and can find better solution for such accessibility problems.
The international community support is narrowing down for the country and some grantees would not be able in provinces like Kunar to find 1:1 co-financing support from other donors.	Medium	Medium	The grantee and NC should try to effectively coordinate the SGP work with bilateral and multilateral donors, INGOs, UN agencies, Government and Private Sector at provincial and central levels to find more funding opportunities for the program. NSC will use co-financing as project selection and approval criterion during proposal review.

Some CBOs and NGOs will possess limited technical and professional expertise and knowledge relevant to the environment to effectively manage the projects and add to the GEF focal areas.	Medium	Medium	The NSC is to award projects to the highly qualified CBOs/CSOs while the NC in consultation with NSC & TAG is to develop a long term capacity building plan to establish a cluster of more professionalized organizations by networking them to share their skills and knowledge.
UNDP strict security measures for staff movement will provide limited access to NC to visit project sites and that will negatively influence SGP monitoring and evaluation process.	Medium	Medium	In order to provide enough space for UNDP to coordinate SGP missions, the NC is to develop a comprehensive M&E and missions plan by sharing in advance with UNDP security and administration departments. The second option to sub-contract for UNDP to sub-contract the monitoring of program with third party. Participatory M&E approach and remote monitoring approaches are good tools to be uses.
Cultural Barriers in some areas will limit women active participation in the programme.	High	Low	The NSC/NC will ensure gender mainstreaming in SGP-OP6 by selecting maximum women-led CSOs as SGP-OP6 implementing partners.
Lack of strong political support at central and provincial level will cause implementation delay of some projects.	Low	Medium	The NEPA and UNDP will further empower their coordination mechanism with central government and provincial line departments to ensure that good working environment is available for the grantees and government strong support exists for SGP-OP6.

7.2. The NC in consultation with UNDP security department will conduct risks analysis of SGP project areas quarterly and report to NSC that will consider insecurity issue prior individual project reviews. Identified risks may be omitted and appropriate mitigation measure strategy will discussed among NSC members for new risks that may be generated during CPS OP6 implementation.

7.3. As a recipient of GEF funds, SGP has to implement Social and Environmental Safeguard policy according to the GEF requirements in order to review and screen the individual project and introduce a clear standards and procedures for project selection and approval. The implementation of safeguards policy will help satisfying stakeholder requirements and avoid possible unintended harm in the complex situations with potential for conflicts. Clear standards and procedures will also help address possible criticisms. To ensure individual projects are in compliance, a simplified screening procedure will be conducted by NSC and TAG for each project.

To achieve this at the country program level, SGP country teams are required to develop basic project checklist (or modify the checklist that already have it). A question on Social and Environmental Safeguard compliance should be added to the checklist. A sample checklist can be found in Annex 4. During the project review process, the NSCs members are expected to respond to checklist questions. The SGP National Coordinators guided by CPMT will develop guidance, presentations and other materials for NCS help the the members to understand the nature of safeguards policy and be enable to respond to the checklist question on whether the project is in compliance with safeguards requirements. The NSC members should also be able to identify any problems/red flags in the project and request further review if necessary. Please refer to Annex –4 for Social and Environmental Safeguard Checklist for SGP-OP6

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

Note: The signature of endorsement at this point is for the complete and final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Programme.

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Prince Mostapha Zaher – Director General - National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)	
Mr. Aman Amanyar – Director of Forestry Department – NRM/MAIL	
Prof. Lutfullah Safi – Professor – Environment and Disaster Risk Management Department, Kabul University	
Eng. Aziz Raifi, Director of Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFo)	
Ms. Haseena Safi, Director General of Afghan Women Network (AWN)	
Dr. Mohammad Naim Eqrar – Dean of Geosciences Faculty -Kabul University	
Eng. Najia Kharoti – Advisor to the Minister - Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	
Mr. Jocelyn Mason - Senior Deputy Country Director – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Abdul Muqtader Nasary, Director, Policy and Planning, Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)	

Note: The NSC endorsed the CPS on 22 June 2016.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: SGP OP5 Country Program Evaluation Report
- Annex 2: Baseline Report of Afghanistan Environmental Context
- Annex 3: SGP OP6 Landscape / Seascape Baseline Assessment Report
- Annex 4: Social and Environmental Safeguard Checklist