

5th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in the Philippines

Securing the world's biodiversity through community actions





The Philippines is, without doubt, one of the most biologically diverse and unique places on Earth hosting over 52,000 recorded plant and animal species, and counting. Many communities, especially the poor, depend on biodiversity for life and livelihood. It is also a big part of many cultures. Biodiversity is a source of environmental services from shelter to food, fuel, water, medicine and even protection from disasters or extreme weather events. However, habitat destruction, overexploitation and pollution, among others, continue to threaten the integrity of biodiversity. In fact, the Philippines is considered to be the most threatened megadiverse country in the world.

The poor are the most at risk with biodiversity loss. Working on their own or through their organizations and other partners, many of these communities have taken the responsibility of protecting and managing the natural resources on which they depend. Armed with legal and other policy instruments as well as customary laws and traditional practices, these local stakeholders have proven the indispensable role of community-based stewards in biodiversity conservation. Through the years, their efforts have attained varying levels of success.

The GEF-Small Grants Programme

The GEF-SGP is a grant facility that supports community-based resource management initiatives. The programme provides grants of up to US\$50,000 to NGOs, people's organizations and other community-based organizations for projects in GEF-UNDP's focal areas, which are Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, and International Waters and Chemicals. The GEF-SGP is now implemented in over 125 countries.

The Philippines was one of the pilot countries of the SGP when it was launched in 1992. Since then, the program has funded 293 projects amounting to US\$9,451,453. Its list of grantees now comprises over 200 POs, NGOs and CBOs from all over the country whose aims and goals are aligned with the GEF's main focal themes.

The first four operational phases of SGP in the Philippines saw local communities

- innovate on natural resource management and conservation financing approaches that gave birth to new national and local policy and practice ideas;
- address threats and pressures to forests and coastal areas that slowed down or reversed their degradation;
- provide economic opportunities and alternatives that shifted natural resource use patterns for many community members;
- support and pilot environment-friendly technology options such as micro-hydro-power energy and solar energy power that allowed for Greenhouse Gas emission setoff;
- promote the rights and culture of indigenous peoples and protect their ancestral domains, and expand their knowledge and capacities in natural resource conservation that allowed them to generate scientific data useful in local development and conservation planning.

Some of the results of these small projects became the basis of big projects funded by GEF and other financing institutions.



SGP-5 in the Philippines

The goal of the Fifth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP-5) in the Philippines is to secure global environmental benefits through community-based initiatives and actions in selected priority sites in the Philippines. SGP-5 is a US\$4.5 million funding facility implemented from June 2013 to July 2017. It provides funding support to initiatives of NGOs, POs and other CBOs in BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.



SGP-5 aims to (1) improve the sustainability of protected areas (PAs) through Community-based actions by building effective models for community-based governance of protected areas; (2) mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the management of production landscapes and seascapes by local communities; and, (3) increase the capacity of SGP partner NGOs, POs and CBOs to diagnose and understand the complex and dynamic nature of global environmental problems and to develop local solutions. In pursuit of these goals, individual small grant projects under SGP-5 will contribute concrete outputs to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Effective models for community-based governance of protected areas are demonstrated
- Outcome 2: Community-managed landscapes and seascapes explicitly integrate biodiversity conservation objectives
- Outcome 3: Alternative biodiversity friendly agriculture, fisheries and forestry products produced and marketed by communities
- Outcome 4: Increased capacity of GEF-SGP stakeholders to diagnose and understand the complex and dynamic nature of global environmental problems and to develop local solutions
- Outcome 5: Enhanced capacities of GEF-SGP grantees to monitor and evaluate their projects and environmental trends

SGP-5 is managed by the National Steering Committee (NSC) – a body made up of representatives from UNDP, National Government Agencies and Civil Society Organizations. It is implemented by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, with the help of the Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU).



Applying for SGP-5 Grants

Eligible Projects

SGP-5 supports projects that feature the following:

- Implemented by an NGO, PO or CBO
- Problem-oriented and focused on biodiversity issues
- Responsive to relevant community needs
- Part of an integrated development program within a larger bio-geographic area
- Intended to build the internal capability of project partners
- Coordinate, expand or strengthen other existing or ongoing initiatives
- Include process documentation as part of knowledge management
- Develop partnership with other local and national stakeholders to ensure institutionalization and sustainability

Who may apply

Any Filipino NGO, people's organization or community-based organization registered with an appropriate government agency, and that has an established track record and organizational capability demonstrated in the last two years may apply for funding support. An organization unable to fulfill the eligibility requirements may qualify for assistance through an eligible intermediary organization that will act as main proponent and project holder.

Project Sites

Proposals for projects anywhere in the Philippines are welcome. Highly encouraged are those located in Palawan, Samar Island (Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Western Samar), and Sierra Madre (Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Bulacan, Aurora, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan).

Where and When to apply

Applications for funding grants should be submitted through the Country Programme Management Unit.

The National Steering Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis to evaluate and approve project proposals. The first deadline for proposals is on 15 July 2014. Succeeding deadlines and all other announcements shall be posted on the SGP-5 website (www.sgp.org.ph).

Photo credits: Bryan Quesada, Marice Isidro and Pierre Palallos

For complete information on the grant making guidelines and proposal format, please visit: sgp.org.ph

For queries and applications, please contact:

The Country Programme Management Unit

GEF-Small Grants Programme

Biodiversity Management Bureau (formerly PAWB)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife

North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 Philippines

Telefax: +63 2 294-4082;

Mobile: +63 917 8213192; +63 917 8213181; +63 947 4231696

Email: sgp.phils@gmail.com