

EIGHTH OPERATIONAL PHASE OF THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME IN THE PHILIPPINES (SGP8)

From World at Large to Work at Hand

Established in 1992, the **Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP)** has been working for decades in creating sustainable development grounded in its advocacy of *“thinking globally, acting locally.”*

Since its inception, the programme has supported 325 projects in the Philippines. Building on the 30 years of community-driven action and lessons from SGP5 and SGP7, **SGP8**, its upcoming operational cycle, ensures an effective project implementation that improves household well-being and socio-economic conditions while advancing natural resource conservation and biodiversity protection.



Reflection to Action: Continuing Another Cycle in Momentum

The main goal of the **Eighth Operational Phase of GEF SGP in the Philippines (SGP8)** remains to center on its vision of engaging local CSOs/CBOs in a landscape-seascape approach with an intent to further capacitate and empower their community-driven initiatives targeted to achieve three primary objectives:

1. **Enhanced wellbeing;**
2. **Increased awareness and resilience; and**
3. **Generated global environmental benefits**

Aligned with the **GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0**, **SGP8** supports youth, women, and indigenous peoples while strengthening CSOs and linking complementary mechanisms such as microfinance and multi-stakeholder engagement to amplify impact.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the program will be implemented by Forest Foundation Philippines as its Project Management Unit, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), until October 2028.

SGP Strategic Initiatives

1

Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species

SGP8 promotes habitat rehabilitation, watershed and coastal protection, ancestral domain management, and the establishment of local conservation areas — both terrestrial and marine.

2

Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security

SGP8 supports enhancement of food security and promotion of sustainable rural development through adaptive, biodiversity-friendly, and resource-efficient agriculture and fishery practices.

3

Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management

SGP8 supports inclusive, community-based projects to improve waste management, addressing pollution, protecting biodiversity, and enhancing public health through sustainable practices. Turning wastes into resources.

4

Low-Carbon energy access and benefits

SGP8 supports integration of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies to improve local livelihoods, promote socio-economic development, and reduce environmental impacts.

5

Catalyzing urban solutions

SGP8 supports the empowerment of urban populations, particularly marginalized and underserved groups, and in shaping resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban areas through community-driven and socially inclusive planning.

6

CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms

SGP8 enhances and institutionalizes Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MPs) as mechanisms for strengthening social capital, fostering inclusive policy dialogues, and supporting participatory planning and decision-making.

7

Enhancing social inclusion

SGP8 fosters equitable participation and ensures that the benefits of environmental and developmental initiatives reach all segments of society, especially marginalized groups such as women, IPs, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other underrepresented communities. Prioritizing full inclusion in every stage of the project cycle.

8

Knowledge Management (KM)

SGP8 KM shall focus on capturing, organizing, sharing, and applying knowledge to enhance decision-making, promote evidence-based practices, and support continuous learning across landscapes and seascapes.

9

Results Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

SGP8 will implement a participatory M&E strategy that ensures the active involvement of all stakeholders, including marginalized groups throughout the entire project cycle — from design to decision-making.

The Landscape-Seascape Approach

The **Landscape-Seascape Approach** delivers socio-economic benefits across diverse stakeholders by integrating solutions that bring together multiple stakeholders to address challenges in a holistic manner. It fosters mindful use of resources geared towards sustainability and continuous proper utilization of various ecosystem services through an inclusive, collaborative, and adaptive process guaranteeing resiliency towards change.



SGP8 Focal Areas



Expanding beyond familiar grounds

SGP8 is expected to support not only the landscapes already reached by SGP7 but expands beyond nearby areas and a new site.

- Aurora and Quezon Province
- Calamian Group of Islands (CGI)
- Catanduanes Province (Expansion Site)
- Cluster 6 River Basin in Northern Samar
- SIPLAS and Surigao del Norte

SGP8's four (4) types of grants

Whether it may be focused on previous grants successful enough for scaling up, with promising institutional, technical, and social innovations, or the development, piloting, and testing of new innovative solutions, SGP8 shall support four (4) types of grants:

Grant for Non-Governmental Organization (NGO Hubs)

a grant provided to a **central unit that acts as a focal point for SGP8 stakeholders** within each landscape. The hub provides technical support and guidance to community-based groups and serves as a knowledge resource center in the landscape.

Grants for NGO Hubs may amount to up to **US\$ 150,000** or pesos equivalent.

Strategic Grant

Larger, targeted funds for projects aligned with national or global environmental priorities. They support initiatives with significant, lasting impacts in areas such as biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable land and water management, including scaling up successful projects or piloting innovative approaches with the potential to generate broader landscape-level impact.

Strategic grants may amount to up to **US\$ 150,000** or pesos equivalent.



Regular Grant

are **standard funding for community-based environmental and development initiatives.** While smaller than strategic grants, they support significant efforts in biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, community-driven development, and ecosystem restoration. These grants enable local NGOs, CBOs, and CSOs to implement targeted activities that contribute to the broader goals of the SGP.

Regular grants may amount to up to **US\$ 75,000** or pesos equivalent.



Planning Grant

are early-stage funding provided to CBOs/CSOs to **support proposal development and project preparation.**

Planning grants may amount to up to **US\$ 5,000** or pesos equivalent.



Who is eligible to apply for grants?

Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) that are actively engaged in the conservation and development of forest, coastal, and/or marine landscapes and their natural resources. This may include organizations involved in development work, education, scientific research, or forest, coastal, or marine resource management.

Community-based organizations (CBOs) such as user groups, Indigenous Peoples' groups, women's groups, and/or youth groups, that are engaged in environmental protection and/or community development initiatives.

Be reminded that all NGOs and CBOs must be duly registered under the Philippine laws.

They must be actively working in, or directly involved with, the landscape where the proposed project will be implemented to qualify for grant provisions.

Send Your Proposals!

Do you have project ideas that align with the objectives and strategic initiatives of SGP8 and fall within its focal areas? **Apply for a grant and partner with us to empower community-driven conservation initiatives!**

Not an NGO or a CBO? You can still collaborate with us through **policy and governance discussions, multistakeholder dialogue platforms and private sector co-financing!**

Know more about SGP8 here:



Let's Grow Together!

Stay tuned to our social media accounts for updates and announcements on our requests for proposals. For inquiries or clarifications, you may contact the Forest Foundation Philippines SGP8 Project Management Unit at sgp8@forestfoundation.ph, or call (02) 8891-0595.