



Call for Proposal

Development and Implementation of Landscape Strategic Plan

Middle & Upper Baram Landscape, Sarawak

Carrying out updated participatory baseline assessment and developing and implementing landscape strategies that outline priority issues and actions with focus at Middle & Upper Baram Landscape

I. Background

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) provides grants to NGOs, CBOs and local communities for community level conservation, restoration and sustainable livelihood interventions. The seventh Operational Phase (OP7) of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Malaysia aims to build upon the long-standing achievements of SGP in the country, specifically involving strengthening civil society organisations and improving socioeconomic conditions for local communities through implementation of participatory conservation, restoration, and climate change mitigation interventions.

Starting in OP7, Malaysia has been included in the Upgraded Country Programme (UCP) of the SGP. With the aim of achieving impacts at scale and ensuring sustainability of results achieved, the programme level strategy of the UCP is based on a landscape approach, following the UNDP approach of community-driven planning and management of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes. The three selected landscapes (Crocker Range Biosphere Reserve in Sabah; Middle and Upper Baram River Basin in Sarawak; and the Klang Valley in Peninsular Malaysia) cover expansive and complex rural and urban geographies. Globally significant biodiversity in these regions faces a variety of threats influenced by a variety of drivers, e.g., infrastructure development and increased global demand for food and plantation commodities. These factors, many of which have been exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, have led to biodiversity loss, degradation of fragile ecosystems, and restricted opportunities for local communities to sustain nature-based livelihoods. Many of the local communities in the target regions also lack knowledge and access to clean energy solutions. The project strategy addresses the threats and barriers in the target regions to generate multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and the well-being of local communities through participatory, integrated land and resource management approaches implemented across socio-ecological production landscapes.

Reaching an estimated 10,000 direct beneficiaries, 50% of whom are women, the project will facilitate community-driven interventions that generate global environmental benefits, including bringing an estimated 43,000 ha under improved management practices to benefit biodiversity, restoring 1,000 ha of degraded ecosystems, and increasing adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient solutions at the community level, resulting in the mitigation of more than 341,500 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions (lifetime direct). The durability of the results achieved will be ensured through implementation of integrated landscape approaches, supported by multi-stakeholder governance platforms that foster enabling partnerships among civil society organisations, national and local government entities, private sector enterprises, and academic-research institutions.



II. Project objective:

To enable community organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management in building socio-ecological resilience in i) the Crocker Range Biosphere Reserve, Sabah; **ii) the Middle and Upper Baram, Sarawak** and iii) the Klang Valley, Peninsular Malaysia for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

III. Scope of the Assignment and Indicative Activities

Competent organisations or consortium are encouraged to submit an application on the basis of the Call for Proposals below. The proposals will be reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC).

1. Landscape Assessment and Develop Landscape Strategy

Developing the landscape strategies will be carried out through participatory processes, to ensure the widest possible buy-in, support and commitment to the strategic outcomes. The process of developing the strategies will also serve to establish ties between communities in the landscape, socialize information and learn about global environmental values and their relationship to socio-ecological resilience, and agree on actions or outputs to achieve the desirable future outcomes.

Indicative Activities (Adopted from Project Document)

Output in Project Document 2.1.2	Indicative activities for Landscape Assessment and Landscape Strategy
2.1.2.1.	Deliver training to the selected NGOs on the socio-ecological resilience assessment process.
2.1.2.2.	Carry out participatory baseline assessments of socio-ecological resilience for Middle and Upper Baram Landscape, ensuring equitable participation of women and other marginalized groups.
2.1.2.3.	Prepare baseline assessment reports for the target landscapes, including updated information on priority areas for biodiversity conservation, rehabilitation of degraded land, priorities for renewable and clean energy among local communities, opportunities for introducing or enhancing alternative livelihoods for local people, and incorporating gender-responsive processes.
2.1.2.4.	Prepare landscape strategies for Middle and Upper Baram using the results of the baseline assessments and follow-up consultations with local stakeholders (government officials, NGOs/CBOs, women groups, and private sector), and including a gender mainstreaming and social inclusion action plan for ensuring representation and participation of women and other marginalised groups.
2.1.2.5.	Present the landscape strategies and action plans to the multi-stakeholder platforms and the SGP National Steering Committee for endorsement.
2.1.2.6.	Identify and train local champions in the Middle and Upper Baram landscape, with emphasis on inclusion of women and youth, for helping to facilitate the implementation of the landscape strategies.
2.1.2.7.	Prepare and disseminate information on the landscape strategies to stakeholders within the target landscapes, through print media, social media and local media outlets, taking into consideration interests and culturally appropriate communication approaches for women and other marginalised groups.



Output in Project Document 2.1.2	Indicative activities for Landscape Assessment and Landscape Strategy
2.1.2.8.	Engage with local government officials and other key landscape partners, advocating for mainstreaming the priority actions of the landscape strategies into local development planning and budgeting frameworks.

2. Establishing Multi-stakeholder Landscape Governance Platform

An integral aspect of the project’s landscape approach is establishment or strengthening of multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms, providing local communities enhanced opportunities to participate in development planning. The project will facilitate multi-stakeholder platforms in the project landscapes, with representation by local civil society organisations, state and local government departments, private sector enterprises and/or associations, women’s groups, and others. Preference will be given to linking into and strengthening existing multi-stakeholder platforms.

Indicative Activities (Adopted from Project Document)

Output in Project Document	Indicative activities for Multi-Stakeholders Landscape Platform
2.1.1.1.	Engaging with key stakeholders in Middle and Upper Baram Landscape, agree upon the best approach for multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms and prepare terms of reference for the platforms.
2.1.1.2.	Convene regular meetings of the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms, discussing landscape strategies, linking with complementary initiatives, facilitating capacity building, organising awareness campaigns strategic, etc.
2.1.1.3.	Sensitise and build capacity of stakeholders on gender mainstreaming and inclusion of indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups.
2.1.1.4.	Advocate and assist local government units in mainstreaming the multi-stakeholder platforms into local governance structures.

3. Capacity Building

Facilitate learning-by-doing capacity building to local CBOs through linking up with experienced NGOs, protected area management entities, and other strategic partners, on participatory conservation and restoration techniques. Building capacities of local governance mechanisms and involving multiple stakeholders in the landscape platforms will enhance the likelihood that project results will be sustained after GEF funding ceases. Representatives of local government entities are important members of the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, helping to foster linkages with complementary government programmes and to identify incentives for upscaling project interventions. These institutional level stakeholders will also have the opportunity to participate in capacity building activities under the project, providing them with an expanded knowledge base of innovative approaches and a broadened network of stakeholder alliances, including with the civil society, private sector, and other governmental partners, both at the national level and with counterparts in the other project landscapes. Mainstreaming the priority actions outlined in the



landscape strategies into local development planning frameworks will further strengthen the durability of the institutional framework and governance dimensions requisite for effective landscape management approaches.

Indicative Activities (Adopted from Project Document)

Output in Project Document	Indicative activities for Capacity Building
1.1.1.1	In accordance with the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies produced, provide assistance, e.g., through preparation grants, to CBOs for developing concepts and proposals for community projects on participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.
1.1.2.1	Facilitate learning-by-doing capacity building to local CBOs through linking up with experienced NGOs, protected area management entities, and other strategic partners, on participatory conservation and restoration techniques.
1.1.2.2.	Deliver capacity building on good agroecological practices and systems to CBOs and government officers, in partnership with local extension services, government departments, academic/research institutions and the private sector.
1.1.2.3.	Provide capacity building to CBOs (specifically women’s groups) on quality control, marketing, financial management, partnership building, etc., for strengthening initiatives regarding organic and green products and ensuring women’s participation and decision making in supply/value chains.
1.1.2.4.	Deliver capacity building on documenting traditional biodiversity knowledge among indigenous communities.
1.2.1.1	In accordance with the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies produced, provide assistance, e.g., through preparation grants, to CBOs for developing concepts and proposals for community projects on RE and EE technologies and applications in the target landscapes.
1.2.2.1.	Provide capacity building to CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) on RE and EE technologies and applications, assisting in the formulation of project proposals.
1.2.2.2.	Build understanding of CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) for enabling their participation in government programmes and schemes, as well as other initiatives sponsored by private sector or other stakeholders.
1.2.2.3.	Provide training to CBOs on financial management and access to microcredit opportunities, specifically targeting women and other marginalised groups.
1.2.2.4.	Engage with research and academic institutes, delivering skills training to CBOs on innovative approaches and techniques.
2.2.1.2.	Train CBOs (including women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups) on collecting and documenting information gained through implementation of community projects.

4.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

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



Indicative Activities (Adopted from Project Document)

Output in Project Document	Indicative activities for M&E
1.1.1.4	Assist the CBO grantees in monitoring and evaluating the results of the participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.
1.2.1.4.	Support the CBO grantees in monitoring and evaluating the results of the community RE and EE interventions.
Non	Assist GEF SGP Malaysia in developing M&E tools to monitor community projects

6. Knowledge Management

The knowledge management approach involves assessing and sharing lessons learned and best practices from Middle and Upper Baram Landscape based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to Global Environment Benefits (GEB), local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. Each small grant project will have as a primary product a case study that will be further systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and knowledge fairs and other exchanges.

The project will strengthen knowledge management platforms to facilitate links among communities, promote information sharing, and provide access to knowledge resources that are relevant to their individual projects. The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP’s well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP’s global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term.

Indicative Activities (Adopted from Project Document)

Output in Project Document	Indicative activities for Knowledge Management
2.2.1.3	Distil information from the individual case studies produced by the grantees in the projects into consolidated knowledge products highlighting best practices on adaptive management for landscape resilience, including at least one case study highlighting the role of women.
2.2.1.4	Disseminate the case studies and other knowledge products among relevant stakeholder groups through appropriate communication techniques, including print media, social media and other local media outlets, and stakeholder gatherings.
Non	Provide training to CBOs on collecting, recording and documenting knowledge and experiences of community development initiatives.
Non	Develop a case study of the landscape planning and management experience in Middle and Upper Baram landscape to highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning, using the Satoyama Resilience



	Indicators. ¹ A detailed analysis should be produced of the successes and failures in the landscape in regard to the generation of synergies between individual community projects around landscape level outcomes, lessons learned, and future efforts to strengthen the landscape planning and management processes.
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7. Delivering advocacy for policy reform

Assist in partnership building and policy advocacy among governmental stakeholders, civil society, financial institutions, and private sector for facilitating broader adoption of participatory approaches supporting landscape approaches, delivering advocacy for policy reform, and facilitating upscaling.

Indicative Activities (Adopted from Project Document)

Output in Project Document	Indicative activities Advocacy & Policy Reform
2.1.1.4.	Advocate and assist local government units in mainstreaming the multi-stakeholder platforms into local governance structures.
2.1.3.2.	Based on evaluations of portfolio results and lessons, prepare policy briefs to advance the enabling environment for incentivising participatory approaches.
2.1.3.3.	Advocate for policy reform through liaising with key stakeholders and convening stakeholder workshops, inviting local and national government officials, financial institutions, donor agencies, civil society, private sector, and research-academic institutes.
Non	Delivering technical and strategic support, guiding local stakeholders in the implementation of landscape approaches and delivering advocacy for policy reform and upscaling.

7. Upscale Projects

Output in Project Document	Indicative activities for Upscale Projects
2.1.3.1.	Through support from strategic partners, facilitate CBOs/NGOs in identifying and fostering potential partnerships to upscale successful interventions.
Non	Proposed systematic outreach activities as an effort to promote scaling-up of community practices by involving government, research and technical support institutions, foundations, and NGOs.
Non	upscale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge from analysis of community innovations from past experience gained during previous phases of the SGP Malaysia Country Programme.
Non	Build on and upscale earlier achievements of SGP interventions such as successful project in protecting the Urban Forest through conservation, education, and research in partnership with other civil society organizations, national and local government entities, private sector enterprises, and the donor community.

¹ UNU-IAS, Bioversity International, IGES and UNDP. 2014. Toolkit for the Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS).



IV. Who may submit proposals:

All the activities may be organized by appropriate, experienced consortium of national or subnational NGOs or by local experts. The proposal will clearly present the experience of the applicant and their partner organizations in the issues to be addressed.

V. Competencies of Team Members:

- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking, and expertise in landscape management.
- Proven experiences in working with community-led initiatives.
- Proven capacity to produce high quality qualitative research and ability to absorb, analyze and synthesize large amounts of complex information within tight deadlines.
- Strong presentation and facilitation skills.
- Exceptional writing skills of policy and communication materials for a variety of audiences, including the civil society and policymakers.
- Excellent command of English with exceptional writing, presentation, communication and facilitation skills.

VI. Budget:

The maximum amount per grant award for such baseline assessment project will be limited to US\$150,000, with applicants required to provide a detailed budgetary estimate.

VII. Duration of services:

36 months

VII. Relevant Resources:

1. Strategic Grant Proposal Template & Guidance Notes
2. Budget Template
3. Guidance on Landscape Strategy
4. GEF SGP OP7 Project Document

VIII. Deadline for proposal submission:

Completed proposal should be received by the SGP National Coordinator no later than **12 November 2022** with subject: **Proposal Strategic Grant for Middle and Upper Baram**

ONLY qualified applicants will be notified.

For proposal submission and more information, please contact:

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