



## **Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grant Program (SGP) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

### **I. Mission**

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "**thinking globally acting locally**". By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action in collaboration with local authorities (municipalities), can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

### **II. SGP Country Program Structure**

The SGP operates through a National Coordinator (NC), a Programme Assistant (PA), and a National Steering Committee (NSC) for projects selection. The NSC is composed of representatives from different sectors: government and ministries, private sector, civil society organizations NGOs, academic and scientific institutions, experts and the UNDP Country Office.

### **III. Focal Areas**

The GEF Small Grants Programme, provides communities and civil society organizations with grants to enable them to implement projects in the focal areas of:

- **Conservation of biodiversity:** in protected areas, critical forest ecosystems, coastal and marine areas, and conservation of biodiversity related to sustainable agriculture, species protection, conservation and sustainable management of lands, ecosystems, wetland and freshwater sources.
- **Climate change mitigation: by reducing the percentage of greenhouses gases emission.**
- **Prevention of Land degradation and soil erosion.**
- **Protection of International Waters.**
- **Reduction of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/chemicals.**

Some of the projects funded through this call will be supported via a partnership between SGP and the MAVA Foundation, seeking to implement joint actions focused on topics of mutual interest (more information on the partnership in Annex 1).



#### **IV. Types of projects:**

Under priorities and focal areas mentioned above, grant is awarded to projects with the following activities:

- Support planning and participation of the community: The maximum grant is US \$ 2,000. The project aims to involve the community in determining the actual situation and developing plans to improve it.
- Pilot projects: including projects with innovative ideas and application of appropriate techniques and technologies, feasibility study of these projects, encouraging project replication and scaling up.
- Capacity building: aims to build the capacity of NGOs (training, technical support...) to implement local activities within the priorities and focal areas of interest of SGP.
- Monitoring and analysis: includes support of associations and research centers (especially universities) in projects that aims at assisting in monitoring existing projects, documenting successful projects, and drawing lessons learned.
- Networking, policy discussion and information dissemination: including projects that support dissemination of information on successful projects, networking projects that provide joint work among all stakeholders, and projects related to advocacy to correct policies
- The maximum grant for one project is \$ 50,000, as well as the maximum limit for one proponent is \$ 50,000.

#### **V. Project Selection Criteria**

The applicant must:

- Have experience, credibility and good governance (transparency, democracy, acceptance from the community and have previous experience in the field).
- Be representative (public committee, NGO, research center or academic institution).
- Coordinate with other local partners (public committees, NGOs, municipalities, private sector, youth clubs, women's associations, etc.).
- Have the ability to write narrative and financial progress reports and to propose ways to modify and evaluate the project.
- Be a non-profit, non-governmental body.
- Have a bank account.



#### Who is not eligible for SGP Funding?

- Profit organizations (cooperatives, companies ...),
- Individuals
- Government institutions (municipalities, ministries ...)
- Large associations with an annual budget of the past two years exceeding \$ 300,000
- International institutions
- Political parties, associations with political agenda, associations named after political figures
- Associations that have not completed by the Program (SGP)
- Associations which have active members (chairman, board member, director) in another association that has not completed the implementation of a project funded by the program (SGP).
- Associations that are members in the NSC.

#### VI. Documents required

- Official license /legal registration (علم وخبر) for more than two years.
- Last minutes of meeting for the election of the president and board.
- Financial reports for the past two years.
- List of previous similar projects and information on their management and execution
- Annual activities reports for at least 2 years
- In the case there is a need for the approval, co-financing or partnership with a third party for the implementation of the project, signed documentation of partnership, co-financing or approval from the third party should be submitted (for in-kind or in-cash) for example lease of property or office, etc. The documentation should include legal proof that the signatory (person or institution) is duly authorized.

#### Project will be rejected if it does not contain:

- Copy of the Official License /legal registration (علم وخبر) of the association.
- CV of the project manager(s) assigned to the proposal.
- Documents confirming the cash and/or in-kind contribution (real estate, offices...) or other resources related to the project (especially from other partners)
- Any proposed project with a total value exceeding \$50,000.



## VII. Project specifications

Priority is given to projects covering the following specifications:

Address an environmental focal area from the five GEF priorities as mentioned in section III.

### The project should aim to:

- Meet urgent local needs.
- Create job opportunities.
- Serves a marginalized area
- Encourage partnerships and exchange of information among stakeholders (government institutions, private sector, academic institutions, international institutions, and NGOs ...)
- Have an impact on policy making
- Meet national environmental priorities
- Contribute to:
  - o sustainable human development
  - o Contribute to capacity building of the concerned organizations
  - o poverty reduction
  - o Women empowerment

- Priority is given to small local associations.
- Large associations (with an annual budget exceeding \$ 300,000) or which is a branch of an international institution, should work through local (association) partner (s).

### Activities not supported:

- Activities not relevant to the SGP focal areas.
- Activities not related to the project proposed (buying or renting an association center, public research, scholarship ...)

### Tools and method of implementation

- To adopt a strategy to engage the community and attract support for the project
- To adopt innovation and replication in other regions
- Adopt appropriate technology (environmentally friendly)
- Take into account gender equality
- Include consultations with stakeholders
- Continue after the completion of the implementation period
- Be able to secure additional funding from other sources
- To be in line with other projects supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP projects



## VIII. Project components

The project must:

- assess the environmental impact of the project
- contain a monitoring and evaluation plan

## IX. Administrative and Formal Requirements

- The project implementation period should not exceed 18 months.
- The participation of the program in financing the project should not exceed \$ 50,000
- The project proposal document should be submitted according to the template prepared by the program
- the project proposal should include:
  - The required documents related to the project (official license, written commitment, contracts, and documents of ownership or lease of real estate ...)
  - The expected project results and impacts that can be measured based on well-defined indicator
  - The contributions of the proposed project from other sources of funding should equal the amount required from SGP (50% in kind contributions and 50% in cash contributions)

## X. Grant process (5 phases)

### Phase I - Call for proposals:

1. Announcing selection criteria and call for participation (through the media, the relevant ministries and holding meetings ...)
2. Contact the proposed project associations with the SGP National Coordinator to obtain project guidelines and application forms for the proposal.
3. Preparation of the project proposal paper explaining the project in brief and submission to the National Coordinator using the template form.
4. The National Coordinator shall review the proposals taking first into consideration GEF focal areas and other criteria adopted by the SGP national steering committee (NSC).
5. The association shall submit the full project proposal if the project meets the required conditions by **15th of August 2021, 12 noon.**



### **Phase II - Review of proposals:**

1. The National Coordinator shall review the proposed project documents and prepare a preliminary assessment of their compliance with the basic formal standards, and therefore exclude projects that do not meet these criteria.
2. The National Coordinator shall present the full and qualified project proposals to the National Steering Committee of the Program.
3. The National Steering Committee shall review, approve or reject the proposed projects or return them back to the proposed entity in order to add or make changes or clarifications related to the formulation of the project.

### **Phase III - Final selection:**

1. Approval of the projects by the National Steering Committee
2. Inclusion of projects approved in the national action plan (NAP)
3. Signing of an agreement between the Grantee and the Program, represented by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program

### **Phase IV - Training:**

Training grantees on program requirements during implementation

### **Phase V - Financing payments - include three or four installments paid:**

1. at the beginning of the project
2. after submission of a first progress report with a financial report
3. after the submission of the second progress report
4. after completion of the project on the basis of a final report and a final financial

### **XI. Documents required**

- Official license /legal registration (علم وخبر) for more than two years.
- Last minutes of meeting for the election of the president and board.
- Financial reports for the past two years.
- Background and experience in similar projects
- CV of the project managers.
- Documents confirming the cash and/or in-kind contribution (real estate, offices...) or other resources related to the project (especially from other partners).
- Annual Activities Reports



For further information, please contact the SGP National Coordinator Eng. Adnan Melki, on 00961 3 64 11 74, or Eng. Rebecca Baissari on 00961 70 71 73 50, or by e-mail: [adnanm@unops.org](mailto:adnanm@unops.org) ; [rebeccabaissari@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccabaissari@hotmail.com) .



## Annex 1

### Partnership MAVA Foundation – UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme

#### Presentation of the partnership

The MAVA Foundation and the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP, established a partnership in early 2020 and until the closing of MAVA's projects at the end of October 2022 to implement joint actions in two geographical regions – the Mediterranean and West Africa. **Topics of specific mutual interest include *inter alia*: (i) species protection, (ii) conservation and sustainable management of wetlands; (iii) coastal and marine areas; (iv) sustainable management of lands and ecosystems; and (v) sustainable management of freshwater sources.** Integration of the cultural dimension of development into conservation initiatives has been also a joint interest of both the MAVA Foundation and the SGP, each including a focus on cultural landscapes in their respective portfolios.

**The MAVA Foundation and the SGP share also key elements of their Theory of Change: (i) building the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs); (ii) enhancing benefits to communities that sustainably manage and govern biodiversity and natural resources; (iii) applying participatory approaches to involve stakeholders; (iv) promoting legal, policy and institutional improvements; and (v) fostering economic changes and models towards sustainability.**

#### The MAVA Foundation

Founded by Dr Luc Hoffmann in 1994, MAVA is a Swiss-based philanthropic foundation with a focus on biodiversity conservation.

In the Mediterranean Basin, MAVA aims to improve the conservation status of key basins and aquifers for biodiversity and ecosystem services, coastal and island wetlands of high ecological value, seagrass and coralliferous habitats, high trophic level fish species, and landscapes of high ecological value maintained by human practices. The MAVA West Africa programme focuses on the coastal zone of seven countries that share ecological processes and natural resources, as well as several socio-cultural and political processes.

#### The GEF Small Grants Programme

Launched in 1992, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF Partnership. SGP finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental and sustainable development issues. It is specifically designed to generate local action by





empowering civil society organizations (CSO) and poor and vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples and women.

The SGP supports communities to implement effective and efficient projects that aim to achieve global environmental benefits while improving livelihoods and reducing poverty, as well as promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.

### **The MAVA-SGP Partnership Framework**

The focus of the MAVA-SGP partnership focuses on 8 countries in the Mediterranean and Western Africa: Lebanon, Morocco, Guinea Bissau, Tunisia, Cape Verde, Egypt, Turkey and Senegal. In all the countries, grantmaking to CSOs is planned at various levels; in the last four countries, the focus also is on implementing national and regional policy dialogues framed under the post-2030 biodiversity conservation agenda.

**Together with advancing the conservation status of key ecosystems, objectives of the partnership are to: 1) enhance benefits to communities through sustainably managing and governing biodiversity and natural resources; and 2) build the capacity of civil society and community-based organisations.** A key thematic issue in capacity building initiatives for CSOs will be accessing sustainable conservation funding, in particular exploring access to small grants as well as potential GEF full or medium-size project funding for future GEF cycles.