

SGP Eswatini Country Programme Strategy for OP7

The Kingdom of Eswatini



Prepared by Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations (CANGO)

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OP7 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)¹

Total SGP Grants to date since (2020):	USD \$25,000
OP7 GEF Core Funds:	USD \$700,000
OP7 GEF STAR Funds:	USD \$200,000
OP6 GEF Core and STAR remaining balance (if applicable)	USD -
Other funds (secured)	USD
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD

¹ The level of SGP OP7 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF7 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP6 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP7 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

1 BACKGROUND

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a funding facility designed for community-based projects that will conserve the environment and generate income resulting in reduced poverty. As a corporate programme of the GEF, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aligns its Operational Phase strategies with those of the GEF and co-financing partners, and provides a global portfolio of innovative, impactful, and inclusive projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues. The GEF/SGP is a grant-making programme which has been implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992 and is currently operational in 125 countries. In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini joined the SGP under the 7th Operational Phase.

Building on its over 26 years of successful operations, the 7th Operational Phase of the SGP aims “to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes”. Action at the local level by civil society and community-based organizations, including women groups, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities is recognized essential to form multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-7 Programming Directions², UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025³, and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals⁴ and other international commitments.⁵

In Eswatini UNDP is coordinating the GEF SGP and it is overseen by a National Steering Committee (NSC). UNDP engaged Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations (CANGO) to develop this GEF SGP Country Strategy (CS). Previously CANGO had facilitated field visit of the GEF SGP Mission team to several NGO project sites in Eswatini and thereafter helped UNDP mobilise NGOs to participate in a stakeholder meeting to provide an overview of GEF SGP and modalities for implementation. The event was attended by over 50 participants from NGOs including CANGO in February 2019. This CS has been developed with extensive stakeholder consultation and provides details of how landscapes were prioritised for the GEF SGP and a mapping of NGOs and their existing projects in relation to the themes of the GEF SGP.

2 SUMMARY: KEY RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The GEF SGP was launched in Eswatini in December 2021, with a total funding available of \$750,000. About 10 grants of \$50,000 each are expected to be disbursed in this GEF 7th operating cycle. The grants will be disbursed by the SGP Unit to projects developed by NGOs which help achieve the GEF-7 programming goals in each of the GEF’s Focal Areas as described below:

- *Biodiversity Focal Area.* Specifically, the proposed Biodiversity Focal Area is built around achieving the Four-year Program’s three objectives: 1) Mainstream Biodiversity Across Sectors as well as Landscapes and Seascapes, 2) Address Direct Drivers to Protect Habitats and Species, and 3) Further Develop Biodiversity Policy and Institutional Frameworks.
- *Climate Change Focal Area.* The Climate Change Focal Area Strategy is focused on the following objectives: 1) Promote Innovation and Technology Transfer for Sustainable Energy Breakthroughs, 2) Demonstrate Mitigation Options with Systemic Impacts, and 3) Foster Enabling Conditions for Mainstreaming Mitigation Concerns into Sustainable Development Strategies.

² <https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-programming-directions>

³ <https://www.undp.org/publications/undp-strategic-plan-2022-2025>

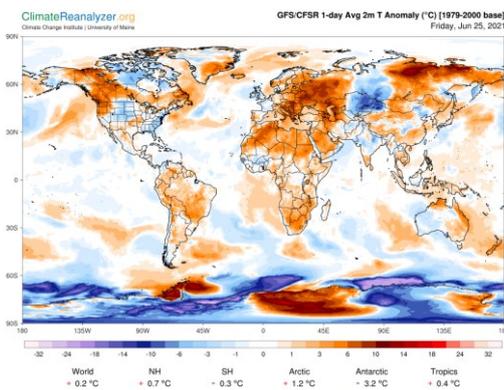
⁴ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

⁵ The initial SGP OP7 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-7 replenishment negotiations in 2017, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7” (GEF/C.54/05.rev) in June 2018.

- *Land Degradation Focal Area.* The Land Degradation Focal Area seeks to achieve the following objectives: 1) Enhance on-the-ground Implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) using the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) tool, and 2) Create an Enabling Environment to Support Voluntary LDN Target Implementation.
- *Chemicals and Waste Focal Area.* The Chemicals and Waste Focal Area focuses on eliminating chemicals covered by the above conventions that are used in or emitted from industrial and agricultural sectors.
- *International Waters Focal Area.* The International Waters Focal Area focuses on 1) Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities (which includes sustaining healthy aquatic ecosystems; catalysing sustainable fisheries management; and addressing pollution reduction of both nutrients and plastics), 2) Improving Management in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, and 3) Enhancing Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems. These objectives will be supported by investments in large marine ecosystems, transboundary rivers, lakes, aquifers and areas beyond national jurisdiction.

3 COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Eswatini is situated in the south-eastern part of Africa between 25° and 28° latitude south and 30° and 33° longitude east. The country covers a land area of 17,364 km² and has an elevation range of 60-1,860 m asl. Eswatini is landlocked, bounded by the Republic of South Africa on the north, west and south and by Mozambique to the east. Although small in size, Eswatini is characterized by a great variation in landscape, geology, soils, climate and biodiversity.



Climate change and adapting to it crosses all SGP priority areas. Eswatini has committed itself to responding to the challenges of climate change and has proposed approaches to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions as well as adapt to climate change. The 2016 National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP) describes a range of actions to guide efforts towards low-carbon and climate resilient development.

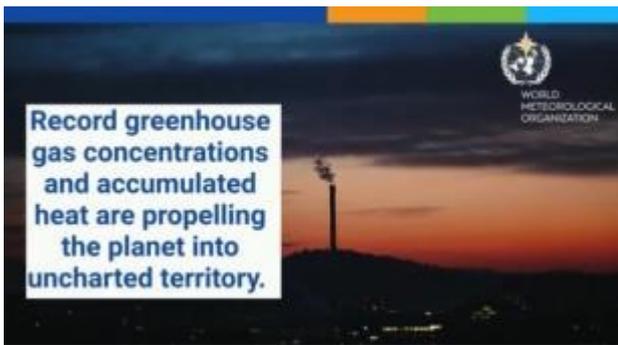
Climate change in Eswatini shows the following trends:

- The annual average temperature increased by 3°C during 1961-2010 period
- The mean, maximum and minimum temperatures increased, with more rapid increases in minimum temperatures across different regions in Eswatini with most significant warming between 2000-2010.
- Frequency of hot days increased in the last two decades (1900s and 2000s) with more days exceeding temperature of 34°C.
- Frequency of cold nights (and frost where it occurs) decreased while frequency of hot nights increased.
- There has been decline in the amount of normal rain received, number of days per annum reporting rainfall, and the total seasonal rainfall since 2000
- The inter-annual rainfall showed variation since 1970 with an increase, on average, of dry spell length and delayed onset of rain

The future climate projections for the period 2046-2065 indicate that Eswatini will be increasingly at risk to the effects of climate change.

The future projections in the country suggest:

- 1.5°C to 2.5°C increase in temperature for both minimum and maximum temperatures with highest increase expected over the Highveld and Lowveld regions;
- increase in the number and frequency of dry spells during the summer season especially between October and February;
- decrease in cold days and nights with decrease in the number of frost days in the Highveld region;



- increase in the number of days with temperatures exceeding 32°C in the Highveld and those exceeding 36°C in the Lowveld;
- greater increase in temperature during summer months compared to winter months;
- uncertain rainfall with some models predicting an increase in number of days with more than 20mm of rainfall while some models indicate a decrease; and
- increase in the intensity and frequency of the extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.

All SGP projects must integrate climate change impacts into them to ensure sustainability.

This section will discuss the country priorities with reference to GEF SGP strategic initiatives.

The SGP will give priority to the following strategic initiatives:

- 1) Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries
- 2) Low-Carbon Energy Access Benefits
- 3) Community-based Threatened Ecosystems and Species Conservation: Land and Water
- 4) Local to Global Coalitions in Chemicals and Waste Management

Cross Cutting initiatives

- 5) CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy Dialogue Platforms
- 6) Enhancing social inclusion
- 7) Monitoring and Evaluation
- 8) Knowledge Management

Example projects that Eswatini NGOs and partners could explore for replication, inspiration or adaptation can be searched for via <https://sgp.undp.org/projects-154.html>.

Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries

This SGP initiative aims at testing and promoting community-based climate resilient agriculture, fisheries and food production practices that improve productivity and increase ecological connectivity, including support for supply chains to target biodiversity-based products; agrobiodiversity and small-holder farmers; conservation of landraces and genetic resources; agro-ecological production methods; and organic agriculture, fair trade, and other relevant certifications schemes.

According to the Eswatini 2021 Revised Nationally Determined Contributions report, in the recent years, the agriculture sector has recorded a consistent decline in production that is triggered by climate change impacts. It is projected that these impacts will only worsen in future and poses a threat to the nation's food security and livelihoods of its people. Some of the immediate impacts on agriculture sector are:

- Reduced rainfall with long length of dry spells and increased evaporation leads to:
 - Induced pest attacks thereby affecting crop yields and leading to crop failure
 - Low yields as rainfed crops wither and fail to reach maturity
 - Decline in livestock size, feeding, growth and productivity
 - Low irrigation level due to reduced water availability and increased competition between water uses between humans and animals.
 - Deteriorated soil quality
- Rise in extreme events could result in:
 - Increased heat stress to crops and livestock
 - Crop damage due to waterlogging
 - Water stress due to water shortage

Over 75% of smallholder subsistence farmers in Eswatini rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Activities to support their livelihoods include direct farming on their smallholdings and employment within the rural areas and on commercial citrus and sugar cane estates. Under rain-fed conditions, maize represents, on average, 84% of the cropped area followed by cotton at 7% (Lowveld crop) and groundnuts at 6%. Other crops of significance include legumes, tubers, fruit trees, sweet and Irish potatoes, vegetables, pumpkins and groundnuts, root crops (mainly sweet potato) and sorghum. The land used for maize production has shown slight increases over the years. In the 2015/2016 Annual Report⁶ for the National Maize Corporation (NMC), land used to produce maize is presented in the figure below (Figure 1).



Data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicates that the area planted to maize has been steadily dropping from 84,371 ha in 1990 to 25,749 ha in 2016 but increasing to 70,000 ha in 2020. Agricultural production takes place on land held in customary tenure, or Swazi Nation Land (SNL), currently accounting for approximately 84% of the total land area. The bulk of high-value crops (sugarcane, pineapples, citrus fruits, bananas, conventional and baby vegetables and other fruits) are grown on Title Deed Land (TDL) which is characterized by high levels of investment, mechanisation, agro inputs and irrigation, and high productivity.

According to the 2020 State of Environment Report⁷, 61% of SNL farm holdings are less than one hectare in size. Most farms are thus very small. The population increase, land degradation and expanding settlements is, in turn, exerting pressure on land availability for cropping and grazing, forcing households to produce crops on increasingly fragile lands.



The Ministry's Agriculture Sector Strategy (2018 - 2023) also promotes bee and honey production as an emerging agricultural enterprise. The production of honey is done through harnessing of honeybees into beehives where they then use the natural methods of honey production through collecting pollen from various plant species. Smallholder farmers (youth and

gender groups) can be trained in beekeeping for marketing and household consumption. There is a huge market for locally produced honey but there is need to meet the market standards, especially for export purposes. Most smallholder farmers produce for selling in the local informal markets with limited branding and growth path towards industrial scales.

⁶ <http://www.nmc.co.sz/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2015-16-Annual-Report-low-res.pdf>

⁷ MTEA, 2020. Review and Update of the State of Environment Report

Year	Area planted	Production	Consumption	Self-sufficiency (%)
2006/07	51,000	77,500	118,500	65.4
2007/08	60,365	67,000	118,500	56.5
2008/09	52,460	83,090	118,500	70.1
2009/10	58,334	75,000	104,000	72.1
2010/11	70,344	84,868	113,000	75.1
2011/12	56,064	83,000	113,000	73.5
2012/13	61,260	81,934	116,418	70.4
2013/14	86,754	101,041	116,418	86.8
2014/15	87,164	81,623	131,220	62.2
2015/16	46,040	33,460	132,781	25.2

Figure 1 - Maize Area Planted, Production and Consumption

Productivity on SNL is relatively low as a result of low investment in land management and inputs. According to the Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme⁸ the main causes of land degradation are overgrazing, poor farming practices, deforestation, fires and construction of infrastructure such as roads and irrigation schemes. Poor land management has resulted in large areas of land becoming degraded resulting in dongas (gullies) and loss of topsoil. Nutrient mining of soils has also contributed to low productivity of the soils which at times results in abandoning land making it even more vulnerable to erosive forces. The LDN Target Setting process called for a “counterbalancing the newly degraded areas by restoring land that is already degraded and providing measures that increase the likelihood for protecting the non-degraded areas”.



that is already degraded and providing measures that increase the likelihood for protecting the non-degraded areas”.

As land management is one of the SGP focal areas, restoring or protecting productive land to ensure continued utilization and productivity is an area for interventions. The Eswatini Water and Agriculture Development Enterprise (ESWADE) are implementing an IFAD funded project called the Smallholder Market-led Project (SMLP)⁹. This project has various activities, some of which could be replicated or upscaled using DGP grants. The SMLP project objective is to enhance food and nutrition security and incomes among smallholder producer families through diversified agricultural production and market linkages.

Fisheries and aquaculture are not widely practiced. However, in the right location and with the right level of support, small scale aquaculture is possible. The Ministry of Agriculture’s Fisheries Department can evaluate aquaculture potentials with the communities. The Ministry of Agriculture’s Agriculture Sector Strategy (2018 -2023) encourages aquaculture for both food and nutrition security purposes and for marketing purposes to improve household’s livelihoods. The Ministry hopes to construct a fish

⁸ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/Eswatini_2.pdf

⁹ <https://www.eswade.co.sz/case-categories/the-smallholder-market-led-project-smlp/>

hatchery aimed at bolstering production of fish fingerlings to supply fish farmers. The Ministry also promotes aquaculture production through its extension services where farmers are encouraged to produce in small ponds. The aquaculture promotion programme is limited to training activities with no further support for construction of ponds and supply or sourcing of inputs and or facilitation of market linkages.



One area ripe for an intervention is the capture and value chain development of the invasive Australian red-claw crayfish. This crayfish was introduced into Eswatini in the early 1990's in Sand River Dam and farmed in submerged cages¹⁰. Following the collapse of that initiative, the crayfish escaped into the dam and can now be found in all Eswatini's freshwater bodies. They are excellent tasty eating fish high in nutrients and oils. A market for these crayfish is slowly emerging but with the

right support, this value chain could be exploited.



Examples of possible SGP interventions include (a) rainwater harvesting at the homestead and in fields, (ii) rehabilitation and construction of new small irrigation or water storage dams, (iii) in erosion control with a view to enhance the productivity of land and water resources in a sustainable manner (iv) introducing improved practices for livestock management, planting shade trees and constructing watering points (v) activities to reduce land degradation and erosion through use of stone lines, vegetated grass strips, shallow dugouts/shallow depressions in degraded areas to temporarily store water for animals (vi) tree planting around homesteads and community areas, constructing rain water harvesting structures to store household water, utilise the in-field grass strips through planting food trees and food shrubs, (vii) strengthening Regenerative Landscape Management of degraded lands/ecosystems, (viii) restoring and protecting wetlands and (ix) improving sustainable utilization of its resources for biodiversity and other benefits to communities.

Low-Carbon Energy Access Benefits

This SGP initiative aims to demonstrate and scale up viable low carbon technologies, including renewable energies and energy efficient technologies and approaches that improve community energy access by working with the private sector and the government.

According to a 2013 Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) assessment¹¹ Rapid Assessment / Gap Analysis of the energy sector, the main energy resources currently used in the country include electricity (imported as well as self-generation), petroleum products (paraffin and LPG gas), traditional and industrial biomass and coal.



¹⁰ <https://blogs.sun.ac.za/cib/australian-redclaw-crayfish-in-south-africa-swaziland/>

¹¹ Rapid Assessment / Gap Analysis of the energy sector https://www.se4all-africa.org/fileadmin/uploads/se4all/Documents/Country_RAGAs/Swaziland_RAGA_EN_Released.pdf



The assessment identified that a significant proportion (75%) of the country's population depend on firewood for energy (cooking and warmth) which is provided by the country's forests that in turn creates a lot of pressure on the forest resources, resulting in high rates of forest resource consumption. Now Eswatini is experiencing a rural energy crisis where demand for household energy has outstripped the natural supply.

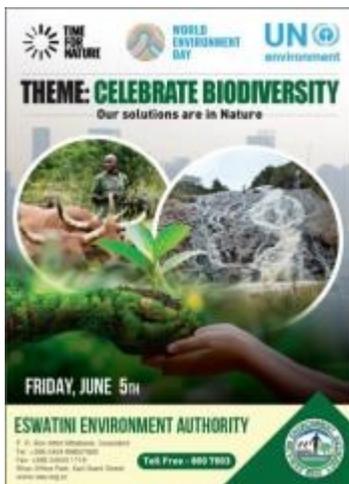
Opportunities for SGP applicants to address energy to assist rural communities use natural sourced energy efficiently include (i) interventions that seek to address strategies outlined in the Energy Policy published in 2003 and the Energy Masterplan published in 2018, (ii) strengthening the supply side measures of biomass, specifically encouraging the planting of trees for firewood purposes, (iii) the development of and access to energy efficient cook stoves, (iv) the installation of solar home systems and biogas, (v) promote renewable and energy efficient technologies for agriculture providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods, e.g., sale of small solar panels, solar water pumps, and (vi) installation of household solar energy to power household appliances like TVs, fridges/freezers, pressure cookers.

Community-based Threatened Ecosystems and Species Conservation: Land and Water

This SGP focal area aims to improve conservation and sustainable use of threatened ecosystems and species in priority landscapes, including the management of protected areas and corridors, integrated river-basins, and aquatic ecosystems with active involvement of communities. The initiative also aims to mainstream biodiversity in key production sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and infrastructure.

Climate impacts on the water sector are exposing the population to significant vulnerabilities and climate risks.

- Increased rainfall intensity and consequent surface run-off result in lower percolation, thereby reducing ground water level. A likely reduction in annual runoffs by 2-6% reduction is projected for future.
- Prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall lead to decline in ground water table.
- Fall in agricultural productivity induced by water shortage and degraded water quality puts people at risk of food insecurity and breakdown of food systems.
- Rural households are at the risk of losing their livelihoods and income as agricultural productivity and livestock declines



- Heightened climate induced water stress and shortage increase the risk of poor health outcomes, such as:
 - Increase in waterborne diseases (diarrhoea) due to poor sanitation and hygiene practices
 - Increase in cases of malnutrition, anaemia and under-nutrition mortality,
 - Increase in allergies and skin irritation as fall in precipitation leaves airborne dust, pollen suspended in air for longer duration

According to the draft Biodiversity Management Policy (2007), ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include (1) provisioning services (products obtained from the ecosystem) such as food and timber; (2) regulating services (benefits obtained from regulation of ecosystem processes) such as the regulation of climate, floods, disease, wastes and water quality; (3) cultural services (non-material benefits obtained from ecosystem) such as recreation, aesthetic enjoyment and spiritual fulfilment; and (4) supporting services (services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services) such as soil formation, photosynthesis and nutrient cycling.

Eswatini's ecosystems are highly sensitive to climate change and variability, predominantly identified as rise in annual mean temperature, fall in annual mean rainfall, variation in precipitation pattern and increased intensity and frequency of extreme events like drought and floods. Ecosystems services are important for rural communities as they rely to a great extent on the services which biodiversity, or the ecosystems, provide: traditional medicine, food, building material, fuel wood, fodder, traditional attire, etc.

Eswatini's ecosystem vulnerability poses a serious risk to plant growth, vegetation community composition, associated habitat suitability and the distribution and abundance of species.

- Habitat loss due to changes in temperature and rainfall.
- Rise in temperature creates optimal conditions for IAS of plants to grow and survive. Livestock and crop production, and water availability are also negatively affected by IAS.
- Vegetative growth is highly sensitive to rainfall. The predicted decline in rainfall will negatively affect vegetative growth. Amongst all 4 biomes found in Eswatini, Grasslands biome that has the highest floral and faunal endemism, is the most sensitive to precipitation and temperature changes
- As global temperatures increase, ecosystems are predicted to become hotter, thereby threatening the habitats across the entire country.
- Higher incidence of extreme events is likely to increase wildfires, flash floods, deplete forest cover.



Although Eswatini is still very rich in biodiversity, the effects of ecosystem conversion, overexploitation, and climate change and land degradation have resulted in a seriously diminished biodiversity base. The policy highlights that the driving forces behind the current deforestation and degradation in the natural forest and woodland areas are a complex of factors including population growth, pressure on land, land conversions, growing poverty, inequities in land tenure and utilisation rights. The direct drivers of biodiversity loss include the impacts of land use change, invasive alien species, overgrazing, climate change, poverty and over-harvesting - all of which have already had a large impact on the country's biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being, and all of which are likely to spread in the absence of positive interventions.

Community-based tourism is an emerging livelihood that communities, with support from the Strengthening the National Protected Areas System of Eswatini (SNPAS) project have embarked upon. The SNPAS is a six-year project (2014-2020) funded by GEF that aimed to develop,

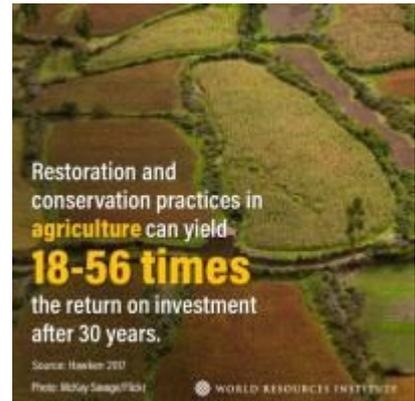


expand and effectively manage Eswatini's Protected Areas (PA) network in order to adequately protect biodiversity. This was undertaken through a 'landscapes' approach across different sectors, integrating land and natural resource management to transform the current PA patchwork into an integrated, connected network that conserves biodiversity, maintains ecosystem services and enhances vulnerable communities' livelihoods especially those adjacent to PAs. Some investments have been made to upgrade conservation equipment and infrastructure, such as at Shewula Mountain Camp, Mhlumeni and Mbuluzi Game Reserve and eco-

tourism facilities. Plans are currently under development for larger-scale construction of community based eco-tourism facilities at selected sites. Some other community eco-tourism developments are planned. Livelihood improvements projects that an SGP grant could support include establishment of new community

nature reserves, ecotourism products, IAPS clearing, wetland protection, and improved rangeland management such as regenerative agriculture practices¹².

Opportunities for SGP applicants to address threats to biodiversity include (i) interventions that seek to conserve or manage the biodiversity of Eswatini (e.g. innovative approaches to improve management of ecosystems with emphasis on areas of high biological diversity, promote community awareness and participation in natural resource management through provision of awareness, resources and training programmes and activities that lead to the control or eradicate existing alien species, with emphasis on those that threaten ecosystem integrity or indigenous species), (ii) encourage the sustainable use of biodiversity in Eswatini (e.g. introduction of community based natural resource management across all ecosystems, or the preparation and implementation of land use plans to intensify production on the most suitable land and avoid expansion into marginal and environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands), (iii) wetland rehabilitation and or protection using strategies described in the National Wetlands Strategy 2020¹³, (iii) support community-based tourism with products such as walks, horse rides, overnight accommodation, country or area wide tours, and (iv) establish local Wetland Management Committees and the development of Wetland Management Plans.



Local to Global Coalitions in Chemicals and Waste Management

This SGP focal area aims to improve communities in the forefront of threats related to chemicals and waste either as users or consumers with a focus on managing and recycling plastics, solid waste management and circular economy; and agro-chemical substitution with organic fertiliser and integrated pest control



The focal area for SGP applicants in Eswatini is around waste management. With the increasing pressure of population growth coupled with the investments being made into economic infrastructure in peri-urban and rural areas located on SNL, there is an urgent need to identify appropriate means to improve waste management in these areas. This is relevant for household waste, waste from commercial nodes, as well as health care risk waste from

health care facilities.

According to the the country's originate from waste, clinical country's waste energy mix, the to curb open emissions.



2021 NDC, waste treatment contributes 12% of emissions. The emissions from the sector waste treatment including municipal solid waste and wastewater. While part of the (woodchips and bagasse) form part of the government is still evaluating robust measures burning of solid waste and the associated GHG

The 2020 State of Environment Report identified waste management as a key national issue as improper solid waste disposal contributes to air pollution and methane releases as a result of smell and continuous burning in these sites.

¹² <https://regenerationinternational.org/why-regenerative-agriculture/>

¹³ Request copy from the Eswatini National Trust Commission

The Waste Regulations 2000 came into force during April 2000 and provide the regulatory framework for future waste management in the country. There is a wealth of regional and international experience of appropriate and low-cost waste management approaches, which can be used at limited cost to identify suitable solutions for Eswatini.

Opportunities for SGP applicants exist around developing local waste recycling initiatives. The Eswatini Environment Authority, as custodians of the Waste Regulations, have implemented a number of waste management initiatives including the Mbabane, Kwaluseni and Siphofaneni recycling pilot projects.



The pilot projects developed, tested and evaluated an operational waste management system for waste collection and disposal, the establishment of an appropriate structure, organisation and staff to manage the system, a cost-recovery system/financing schedule and plan, and implementation of a project related community awareness campaign. The Waste Regulations allow for the declaration of Waste Control Areas that includes rural areas and commercial nodal points in rural areas.



Waste management plans developed for Waste Control Areas could address local priorities such as planning for general waste generated from all sources, such as households, trade, agriculture, healthcare facilities and littering. In addition, the development of plans for public awareness campaigns; waste approach/technology investments; and proposed local legislation, for example by-laws could accompany the project. Local waste management plans will require stakeholder participation and consultative processes, and approaches to ensure this need to be developed.

With the increasing and consistent use of face masks as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, medical waste streams have significantly increased and require targeted interventions to limit their environmental impact.

Examples of possible SGP interventions include (i) developing local waste recycling initiatives with private sector interests, (ii) promote community waste management with sanitary waste disposal sites, (iii) activities that lead to the reduction in open air burning of waste, (iv) training communities on proper waste management and disposal, (v) promoting composting and use of organic waste, (vi) raising awareness among women on proper waste management and disposal to reduce sites for malaria breeding, consumption of polluted water and contamination of water supply and (vii) strategies described in the National Solid Waste Management Strategy¹⁴.

3.1 National Priorities

Eswatini’s development priorities are enshrined across a number of national policies and strategies. Important related sector policies that have been developed include:

Table 1 - Legislation and Policy Framework

SDG focal Sectors	Legislation – Policy – Strategy
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Development Strategy, 2016 - Eswatini National Development Plan, 2018 - Eswatini Economic Review & Outlook, 2021

¹⁴ Request this strategy from the Eswatini Environment Authority

SDG focal Sectors	Legislation – Policy – Strategy
	- Post-Covid19 Economic Recovery Plan, 2020
Agriculture	- Comprehensive Agriculture Sector Policy, 2005 - National Food Security Policy, 2005 - Climate Smart Agriculture Policy, 2019 - National Agriculture Investment Plan 2015-2025, 2015 - Fisheries Act, 2019 - National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources, 2019
Water & Sanitation	- National Water Policy, 2018 - Technology Action Plans for Water Sector, 2017 - National Irrigation Policy, 2005 - Integrated Water Resources Master Plan, 2016 - National Wetlands Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, 2020
Energy	- National Energy Policy, 2018 - National Energy Master Plan, 2018 - Sustainable Energy for All Country Action Plan, 2014 - Programme Framework for Affordable Energy in Eswatini, 2018 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy, 2018 - National Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan, 2019 - National Biofuels Strategy and Action Plan, 2019
Transport	- Road Authority Bill, 2021 - National Transport Policy and Masterplan, 2006 - National Biofuels Strategy and Action Plan, 2009
Urbanisation & Rural	- National Physical Development Plan, 1996 - National Land Policy, 2000 - National Rural Resettlement Policy, 2003
Forestry	- Forest Policy, 2001 - Forest Bill, 2020 - The Flora Protection Act, 2000 - National Strategy for the Control and Management of Alien Invasive Species (2020-2030)
Environment	- Swaziland Environment Action Plan, 1997 - Environmental Management Act, 2002 - National Environment Policy, 1998 - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2016 - Air Pollution Control Regulations, 2010 - Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations 2003 - Waste Regulations, 2000 - Litter Control Regulations, 2012 - Control of Plastic Regulations, 2019 - National Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2002 - State of the Environment Report, 2020
Health	- Public Health Act, 1969 - Environmental and Social Management Framework, 2020 - Eswatini Environmental and Social Commitment Plan, 2020 - National Health Policy, 2006 - Eswatini National Implementation Strategy: Improving Health Care Waste Management Systems, 2012
Disaster & Risk	- National Disaster Risk Management Policy, 2011 - National Emergency Response, Mitigation and Adaptation Plan, 2017 - Disaster Management Act, 2006 - Resilience Strategy, 2017
Social	- The Population and Housing Census, 2017 - 2017 – 2038 Population Projections, 2020

SDG focal Sectors	Legislation – Policy – Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Vulnerability Assessment & Analysis Report, 2019 - National Gender Policy, 2010

The National Development Plan (2019/2020-2021/2022) and Strategic Road Map (2019-2022)¹⁵ prioritize sustainable economic growth and inclusive governance to ensure that economic opportunities reach those furthest behind. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the country to immense vulnerability related to the slow economic performance at the regional level and is expected to exacerbate extreme poverty and inequality. The country priorities have been captured across a number of multi-lateral environmental agreements the country has ratified, mainstreamed or legislated on (see table below).

Table 2 - List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	not done
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Ratified in 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2001-2012 2016
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	2016
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Ratified in 1996
UNFCCC National Communications	First National Communication in 2002, Second National Communication in 2010, Third National Communication in 2016, Fourth National Communication currently being developed in 2020/2021.
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Not yet completed
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Not yet completed
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	INDC 2016 Revised NDC 2021
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Ratified in 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	The National Adaptation Plan is under progress
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Ratified in 2006
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2010
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	Ratified in 2016
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Ratified in 2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2019 VNR report
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies (IW) ¹⁶	Ratified the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in SADC 2000 Member of Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (RSAP)
The Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR)	Ratified in 2013

¹⁵ The Strategic Road Map 2019-2022 identifies five priorities for government policy action: (a) ease of doing business; (b) fiscal consolidation and arrears management; (c) infrastructure, investment and innovation; (d) culture of excellence and priority; and (e) social safety net. It also identifies five growth sectors for economic turnaround: (a) agriculture; (b) tourism; (c) manufacturing and agro-processing; (d) mining and energy; and (e) education and information and communication technology

¹⁶ Please also identify existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies so as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: <http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP>

Eswatini is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and acknowledges the importance of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has made strides towards creating an environment that enables the achievement of these goals by revising the national Development Strategy (Vision 2022) to incorporate emerging regional and global development issues. Since 2015, the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has been working on the administrative stages of mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into its Development Framework and got the opportunity to present its first-ever Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs during the 2019 High-Level Political Forum.

The Country is also guided by the Agenda 2063 where the 7th priority is environmental sustainability, and climate resilient economies and communities and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Document (RISDP) 2020 – 2030 in which Environment and Climate Change are priorities.

The UN Country Programme Document for Eswatini (2021-2025)¹⁷ presents the focal outcomes for cooperation with Eswatini and the UN system. A country programme is developed based on national plans and priorities of the government and implemented jointly by national partners.

3.2 Gaps and Opportunities

Eswatini has articulated its country priorities through a range of national policies, strategies and action plans that address environmental issues important to Eswatini some of which are indicated on Table 2.

Gaps: Eswatini has developed a fairly robust policy framework to guide its overall development. Environmental issues feature in all the major national policies but generally lack sufficient resources to implement all the policy statements articulated in those policies.

There have been various actions regarding the implementation of these agreements at the national level including their integration within existing national policies, strategies, and development goals.

Opportunities:

- Existence of various sector policies and regulations across levels, internationally, regionally and nationally to support UNDP initiatives geared as environmental conservation and poverty reduction
- Existence of various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who collaborate with Community Based Organisations (CBO) addressing environmental and livelihood issues. If well-coordinated, this provides a pool of expertise with various skills and expertise to be shared when it comes to stakeholders' engagement.

Challenges:

Despite the opportunities mentioned above, Eswatini has ratified several international conventions, treaties, protocols and agreements as per Table 2. However, successful implementation of these strategies at the national level remains a challenge, mainly due to the following bottlenecks:

- Inadequate institutional coordination capacity due to diverse environmental and climate change initiatives in Eswatini among other factors.
- Inadequate financial resources within responsible institutions for implementing environmental management (land, water, atmosphere) and climate change adaptation activities
- Weak economic growth that has been worsened by COVID-19 and affected almost all sectors of the economy and leading to weakened fiscal position for Government
- Weak institutional capacities of NGOs
- Lack of a coordinated approach in responding to the environment, development and climate change issues country wide.

¹⁷ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3874139/files/DP_DCP_SWZ_4-EN.pdf

The SGP offers an opportunity for NGOs and CBOs to support the broader national environmental and climate change adaptation agenda by identifying interventions that benefit communities as well as contribute towards the national environmental management goals to combat loss of biodiversity, adapt to climate change and provide safe water and energy to communities.

3.3 OP7 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Eswatini Country Programme

The State of Environment Report (2020) identified a large set of areas of environmental concern associated with land and water management, land degradation and pollution, ecosystem and biodiversity degradation, climate change, and living conditions in human settlements. In reviewing the findings of the State of the Environment report (2020) and relevant environmental policy documents, the following key challenges can be discerned and converted to SGP supported interventions:

- Limited water availability exacerbated by risks associated to the effects of climate change;
- Serious to very-serious soil erosion of communal grazing lands, mainly associated to increased livestock population together with reduction of grazing lands;
- Soil degradation of land under irrigation and with high livestock grazing densities, especially in the Lowveld and Lower Middleveld areas;
- Decline in biodiversity (mainly large mammals and indigenous flora), mainly related to expansion of agro-industry (sugar cane and timber), dense subsistence farming and settlements, over-harvesting of flora species, fuel wood exploitation, commercial exploitation of plants and animals for export, encroachment of bush in the savannah woodland ecosystem associated to over-grazing, and proliferation of invasive species;
- Deforestation and degradation in the natural forest and woodland areas, associated to conversion of land to agriculture (especially sugar cane), uncontrolled extraction of forest products from commercial land and large livestock populations;
- Water pollution due to run-off of pesticides, sanitation challenges, industrial “accidental” discharges and sediment load from soil erosion.

3.3.1 Threats within the Landscapes

The key threats to the SGP Landscapes arise from the widespread and diverse impacts brought by climate change, drought impacts on food crops and vegetation, increased incidences of wild fires during dry years threatening property, loss of biodiversity and decentralised energy opportunities, the transformation of land for agriculture, fragmentation of habitats, unplanned urbanisation, alien plant invasion, bush encroachment, land, air and water pollution, over-harvesting of natural resources like fuel wood and livestock mismanagement leading to soil erosion and land degradation. Projects enhancing livelihoods while reducing pressures on ecosystem services will positively contribute towards enhanced landscape functionality.

3.3.2 Opportunities within the Landscapes

To address the threats within the selected SGP Landscapes (Figure 2), numerous opportunities arise to manage, or reverse the threats using SGP grants including:

- Actions that could address the unplanned transformation of land for agriculture and other uses through community-based land use planning,
- introduction of climate smart agricultural practices like conservation agriculture and agroforestry,
- strengthening the integrity and function of local plant habitats,
- control or removal of alien plant and fish invasions,
- measures to limit land, air and water pollution through community-based waste management activities (e.g., recycling, reuse, composting),
- sustainably harvesting natural resources like fuel wood through a community developed natural resource utilisation plan,

- introducing improved practices for livestock management to reduce pressures leading to soil erosion and land degradation through culturally appropriate pasture management and improvement (improved grass species, rotational grazing to lessen pressure and give recovery time, fencing e.g., wire or living fences), planting shade trees and constructing watering points,
- activities to reduce land degradation and erosion like stone lines, vegetated grass strips, shallow dugouts in degraded areas to temporarily store water for animals,
- building resilience to climate change through tree planting around homesteads and community areas, constructing rain water harvesting structures to store household water, utilise the in-field grass strips through planting food trees and food shrubs.

Based on the needs and opportunities available at the country and landscape levels, the prioritized initiatives for OP7 are summarized in Table 3. It also identifies the potential for complementarity and synergy with other on-going interventions which the GEF Small Grants Programme applicant can replicate, upscale or design a new intervention.

There are a wide variety of environmental threats in the SGP Landscapes that are contributing to habitat destruction from deforestation and land use change, poaching of plant and animal species for often medicinal uses, increasing occurrences of wildfires, continuous spread of alien invasive species, unsustainable low productivity farming practices, inadequate livelihood support systems, and weak institutional capacity to support conservation and production.

The SGP Landscapes are characterized by low land productivity, increasing food insecurity, destruction of forest ecosystems and vegetation cover, dryness of water sources, land degradation, and widespread poverty. There are increasing use of agrochemicals in farming and cultivation of lands along the steep slopes and water courses that have led to excessive erosion, reduction in soil fertility, loss of flora and fauna, and streams drying up. Generally, the uses of natural resources within the SGP Landscapes are not managed sustainably.

The SGP Eswatini Country Programme will support the implementation of national priorities in attaining notably 8 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as follows; Goal 1: No poverty; Goal 2: Zero hunger; Goal 4: Gender equality; Goal 6: clean water and sanitation; Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 13: Climate action; Goal 14: Life below water; Goal 15: Life on land and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Table 3 - SGP Eswatini Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives and Country Priorities/Projects/Programmes

SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Eswatini Country Programme's OP7 Priority interventions	SGP Eswatini Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve management effectiveness of protected areas through ICCAs and shared governance with private sector and government. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.) 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.) 	<p>Support implementation of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the UNCBD Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>Contributes to UNDP Country programme document for Eswatini (2021-2025)¹⁸ Output1.1: Strengthened policy and regulatory regimes at national level for the management of natural resources, environment, biodiversity and chemical use.</p> <p>Supports the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan the Strengthening the National Protected Areas System of Eswatini project and the post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan</p> <p>Contributes to SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 13, 14, 15</p>
Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement 3) Reduce deforestation and expanded restoration of degraded lands. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems. 2) Reduce deforestation and expanded restoration of degraded lands 	<p>Support implementation of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) and the Eswatini NDC</p> <p>Contributes to UNDP Country programme document for Eswatini (2021-2025)¹⁹ Output 1.2: Capacities of small-scale food producers (in agriculture) strengthened to adopt inclusive value-chain approaches in agriculture and allied sectors to address marketing bottlenecks and losses in post-harvest</p> <p>Addresses action on the National Fisheries Policy, the Food Security Policy, the Forestry Policy, Irrigation Policy, National Disaster Risk Management Policy, Wetlands Policy and Strategy, the Eswatini National Agricultural Investment</p>

¹⁸https://www.sz.undp.org/content/dam/swaziland/docs/UNDP_SZ%20-%20Eswatini%20Country%20Programme%20Document.pdf

¹⁹https://www.sz.undp.org/content/dam/swaziland/docs/UNDP_SZ%20-%20Eswatini%20Country%20Programme%20Document.pdf

SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Eswatini Country Programme’s OP7 Priority interventions	SGP Eswatini Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
		<p>Plan (ENAIP) and the post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Projects that support this strategic initiative:</p> <p>The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Framework</p> <p>Lower Usutu Sustainable Land Management project (LUSLM)</p> <p>ESWADE’s Chiefdom Development Planning (CDP) projects</p> <p>Climate-Smart Agriculture for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods (CSARL)</p> <p>IFAD’s Smallholder Market-Led Program (SMLP)</p> <p>Contributes to Eswatini’s SDG Targets: 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 14, 15</p>
Low-carbon energy access co-benefits		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 	<p>Support implementation of the Paris Agreement, and IRENA's Post-COVID Recovery: An Agenda for Resilience, Development and Equality report</p> <p>Contributes to UNDP Country programme document for Eswatini (2021-2025)²⁰ Output 1.5: Solutions adopted to achieve universal access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy.</p> <p>Addresses actions under National Climate Change Policy, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the National Energy Policy, the Renewable Energy and Independent Power Producers Policy, the National Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan and the post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan</p> <p>Contributes to Eswatini’s SDG Targets: 7, 9, 12, 13</p>

²⁰https://www.sz.undp.org/content/dam/swaziland/docs/UNDP_SZ%20-%20Eswatini%20Country%20Programme%20Document.pdf

SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Eswatini Country Programme’s OP7 Priority interventions	SGP Eswatini Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce and promote alternative to refrigeration chemicals 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy 3) Reduce/remove use of agro-chemicals in agriculture 4) Enhance local to global coalitions on HCFC chemicals, waste and mercury management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy 2) Enhance local to global coalition on HCFC chemicals, waste and mercury management 	<p>Support implementation of Montreal Protocol and the phasing out ozone-depleting substances by 2030</p> <p>Contributes to UNDP Country programme document for Eswatini (2021-2025)²¹ Output 1.4: Data and risk-informed development policies, plans, systems and financing incorporate integrated and gender-responsive solutions to reduce disaster risks, enable climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Addresses action on the Solid Waste Management Strategy, Waste Regulations, the post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and Swaziland Environmental Action Plan.</p> <p>Contributes to Eswatini’s SDG Targets: 1, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15</p>
Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of positive concepts. 	<p>This is complementing SNPAS, SWADE projects, Climate Change Adaptation project being implemented by ACAT etc.</p> <p>Contributes to Eswatini’s SDG Targets: 1, 5, 11, 13, 17</p>
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs 3) Influence policy and scale up good practices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop and administer a new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs 	<p>M&E is included in all UNDP, GEF and donor funded projects.</p>

²¹https://www.sz.undp.org/content/dam/swaziland/docs/UNDP_SZ%20-%20Eswatini%20Country%20Programme%20Document.pdf

SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Eswatini Country Programme’s OP7 Priority interventions	SGP Eswatini Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
Enhancing social inclusion		
1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)	1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects	Align to National Gender Policy, UNDP Waste for Livelihoods Project, COVID-19 Recovery Strategy and the NDC

4 OP7 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The landscape selection and baseline assessment process were guided by the CPS Consultation and Scoping exercise. This process produced consensus for the selection of the landscape, priority areas and activities and a plan for delivering OP7 outcomes in the country.

4.1 OP7 Strategic Initiatives in the Landscape

The priority landscapes selected for the OP7 programme activities are the Komati, Mbuluzi and Usutu River basins (Figure 2).

As part of the GEF-7 programming directions, the GEF/SGP Eswatini will continue to strengthen and expand activities in the country to enhance local actions by civil society and communities for safeguarding the global environment. The GEF SGP Eswatini Country Strategy will adopt new approaches that are strategic, impactful, and will strengthen initiatives aimed at increasing resilience, ensuring inclusion of the most vulnerable groups (women, children, youth and elderly people), reduction of inequality and gender disparities and protecting natural resources.

The OP7 programme will:

- i. promote innovative solutions as well as traditional/local knowledge to safeguard the global environment;
- ii. systematically develop capacity and platforms among local communities, civil society groups, and other stakeholders as a key driver for environmental management and sustainability;
- iii. focus on maximizing global environmental benefits (i.e., key biodiversity areas, clean technologies, etc.) through working with communities and local livelihood issues; and
- iv. strengthen and expand partnerships, particularly with government/policy makers and private sector as well as non-GEF programmes, for replication, scaling up and sustainability.

At the community level, the programme will complement the Government of Eswatini and the related UNDP national efforts and the target strategic initiatives that will promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues.

Thematically, the strategic initiatives under OP7 will include: a) community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species; b) sustainable agriculture, contributing to strengthened food security; c) low-carbon energy access co-benefits; d) local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management; while also ensuring that there is strengthened disaster resilience in face of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.2 Grant making Within the Priority Landscape

4.2.1 Process for selecting priority Landscape

The SGP Landscape selection and baseline assessment process were guided by the CPS Consultation and Scoping exercise. This process produced consensus for the selection of the landscape, priority areas and activities and a plan for delivering OP7 outcomes in the country.

In addition, stakeholder engagements were undertaken using both virtual and physical meetings with NGOs and their partners to firstly raise awareness across the NGO networks of the forthcoming SGP Country Strategy, to explore the capacity challenges NGOs or partners have in applying or managing projects and to secure buy-in by the NGO networks in the identified SGP Landscapes (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The SGP community mobilisation began in the second week of August 2021 by reaching out to NGOs, CBOs, and other organised formations operational at community level, who are currently implementing environmental related programs or have an interest in running community led environmental programmes that address the GEF focal areas. Over 41 NGOs, CBOs and other organised formations were reached covering all four regions of Eswatini. Managers of other national programmes like the SNAPS and ESWADE LUSLIM projects, were consulted for stock taking of current environmental programs they were still running and to try and mobilise interest to replicate, upscale or propose a new initiative for SGP funding. The mapping also included the review of 29 Chiefdom Development Plans that all address local environmental issues requiring implementation. The mapping exercise also explored the capacity requirements for potential applicants focusing on Board Composition, capacity of NGOs/CBOs, specifically organisational policies, bank accounts, registration with the government of Eswatini and the Eswatini Revenue Authority, and other operational issues. The mapping further detailed how partners with capacity challenges could partner with national NGOs to access the SGP funds. A summary of the organisations met with is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**

4.2.2 Landscape Delimitation and Baseline Assessment

Following initial discussions with the National Steering Committee and other stakeholders within the environment cluster, it was proposed that the geographical scope for OP7 should be delimited as the Komati, Mbuluzi and Usutu River basins.

The selection of the basins allows for a consolidation of gains made under various GEF and UNDP supported projects in Eswatini and to replicate, scale-up or mainstream innovative technologies and approaches that will transform the landscape and the lives of the affected communities.

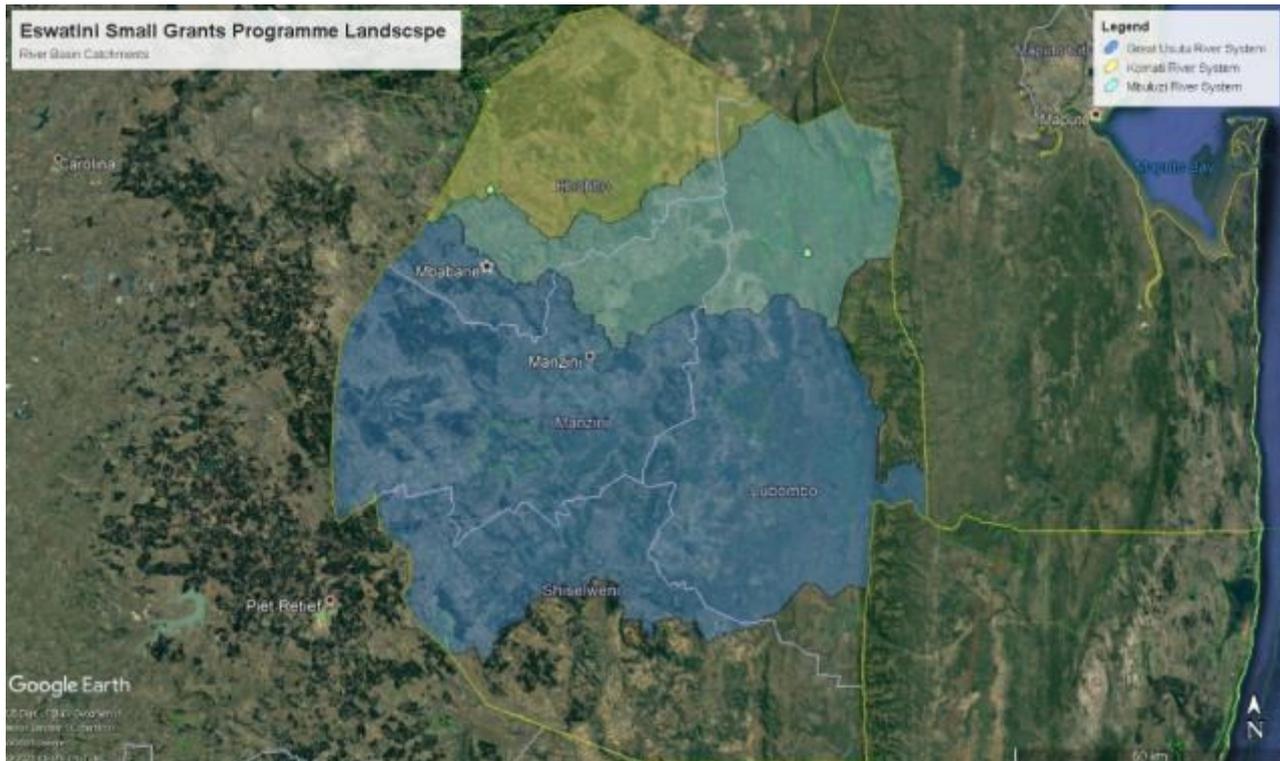


Figure 2 - The SGP Priority Landscape (Komati, Mbuluzi and Usutu River basins)

Following this decision, a stakeholder consultation workshop attended by 46 different stakeholders (including Government and private sector) and organizations was held virtually on September 2021 to seek comments and suggestions on landscape options. A short presentation was made to participants on the selected landscape for the OP7.

The purpose for selecting the three river basins as the OP7 landscape was based on the following criteria:

1. The three basins cover the widest selection of land and water resources features that have, through various studies, been found to be in urgent need of management and support including areas of biodiversity significance i.e., formally protected nature conservation areas; areas of high land/forest degradation; areas with limited energy access but high renewables potentials; high poverty/low human development index
2. The landscape captures the operational areas of the majority of NGOs and CBOs operating in the country
3. The landscape contains within it, populations of mostly rural residents in most need of SGP support
4. The landscape covers all the agro-ecological zones of the country from west to east
5. The landscape is an international water ecosystem drained by the Komati, Mbuluzi and Usutu rivers. These are all transboundary water courses and the management of these river basins is regulated under international agreements between Swaziland, South Africa and Mozambique.
6. The landscape encloses some important areas of high biological importance that have been protected or under community natural resource management including within the Komati basin the Malolotja Nature Reserve, the Phophonyane Falls Nature Reserve and Shewula Community Nature Reserve. Within the Mbuluzi basin the Hlane Royal National Park, the Mlawula Nature Reserve, the Mbuluzi Game Reserve, and the Hawane Nature Reserve and within the Usutu basin the Mantenga Nature Reserve, the Mkhaya Game Reserve, the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mhlosinga Nature Reserve.
7. The landscape is facing climate change vulnerability marked by rising temperatures, declining rainfall totals and increased variability, and high incidence of weather extremes and disasters. The National Climate Change Policy (2016) reports that the stream-flow of rivers in the country is projected to decrease by 40% in 2050, further compounding the drought issue.

4.2.3 Biodiversity and Water Characteristics of the SGP Landscapes

According to the Customizing Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures Methodology to Eswatini Context report (2020), despite the small size, Eswatini has a diverse ecosystem and habitats; it is a biodiversity hotspot in Southern Africa for flora, fauna, species richness and endemism. According to studies undertaken under the SNPAS project, Eswatini is home to a number of globally endangered and threatened plant and animal species. This is in addition to having one of the most scenic landscapes characterized by undulating mountains and deep gorges as the Ingwavuma and Usutu rivers as they cut through the eastern escarpment ranges of the country through the (Lubombo Mountain range bordering neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique).

Eswatini, despite its small size, supports a diverse assemblage of ecosystems and habitats which are home to a wide range of organisms.

- It has four major biomes: grassland, savannah, forest and aquatic. Each of the terrestrial biomes can be further divided into various vegetation types.
- Four forest types can be distinguished: Northern Mistbelt, Scarp, Lowveld Riverine and Ironwood Dry.
- Three grassland types can be distinguished: Barberton Montane, Ithala Quartzite, KaNgwane Montane.
- The savannah vegetation can be divided into three broad types (Lowveld, Sourveld and Bushveld) and nine fine types: Tshokwane-Hlane Basalt Lowveld, Zululand Lowveld, Delagoa Lowveld, Granite Lowveld, Lebombo Summit Sourveld, Northern Zululand Sourveld, Kaalrug Mountain Bushveld, Southern Lebombo Bushveld, Swaziland Sour Bushveld.
- The aquatic biome can be broadly divided into rivers, streams and marshes.
- In addition to the above natural ecosystems there are a number of man-made ecosystems and habitats including various dams, canals, forests, grasslands and savannahs.

4.2.3.1 Description of the Komati Landscape

The Komati River is a trans-national river system that stretches from west to east entering Eswatini from South Africa in Malolotja North from an altitude of around 720 m.a.s.l passing through the Silotwane Mountain range and flows through the northern part of the country down to below 265 m.a.s.l exiting near the Mananga border post. The river has many tributaries of which the Lomati is one of the largest which is fed from water coming off the Makhonjwa and Sondeza mountain ranges both areas of which are of high ecosystem value (Figure 3).

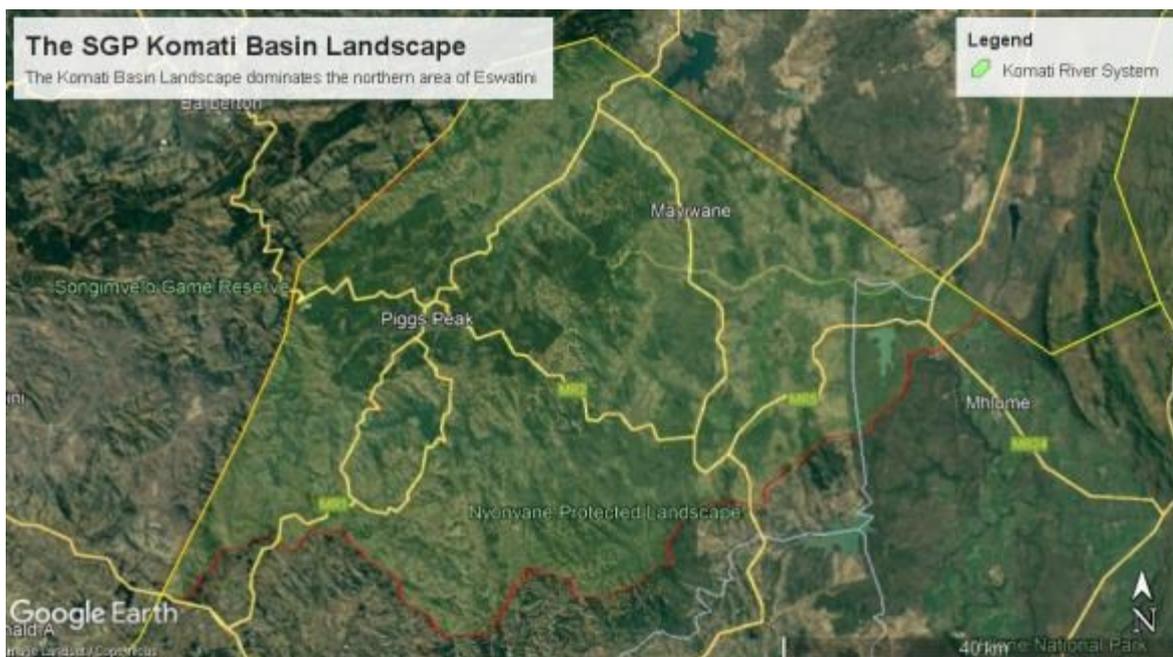


Figure 3 - The Komati Landscape

It covers the following administrative regions: Hhohho, Manzini and Lubombo. Invasive alien plants are a major land cover problem in this landscape and have invaded some 9,957ha. About 6.3% of the MAR in the Komati River within Eswatini is used by alien-invader plant species (JTK Associates, 2003²²).

In the 2019 Vulnerability Assessment Committee report²³ food insecurity is reported to be high with many households resorting to various coping strategies such as eating less preferred food and the selling of productive assets. Environmental degradation within the landscape is high with soil erosion, invasive alien plants and impacts arising from droughts and climate change.

The vegetation of the Komati Landscape consists of predominantly six vegetation types as described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) including Barberton Montane Grassland, Swaziland Sour Bushveld, Granite Lowveld, Kaalrug Mountain Bushveld, Scarp forest and Northern Mistbelt forest (Figure 4).

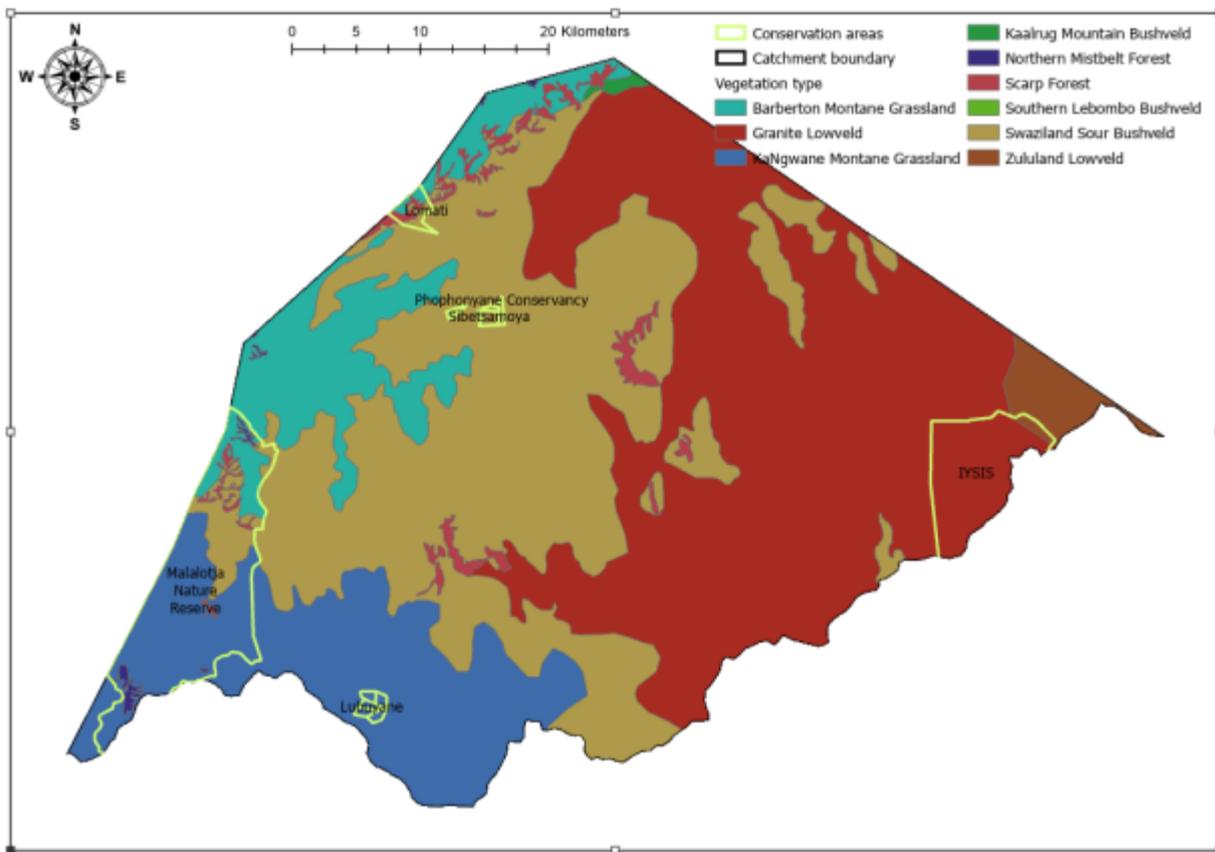


Figure 4 - Vegetation Types in the Komati Landscape showing Protected Areas within the Komati Landscape

Within the Komati Landscape there are several important areas of high biodiversity value that are either formally protected including Malalotja Nature Reserve, Phophonyane and Sibetsamoya Conservancy, informally protected areas including the northern section of Inyoni Yami Swaziland Irrigation Scheme (IYSIS) Ranch which protects Sand River Dam and then other community natural resource management areas including areas near Maguga Dam.

The Komati River flows through various ancient rock formations in the west creating incised gorges which provide riparian cover for many species of flora and fauna, including breeding areas for the threatened southern bald ibis (*Geronticus calvus*) which nest on the cliff faces. The Incomati Rock catlet fish (*Chiloganis bifurcus*) recorded in the Komati, Lomati and Phophonyane Rivers and Orange-fringed river bream (*Chetia*

²² Assessment of water availability in the Komati and Mbuluzi River Basins, Swaziland (JTK Associates, 2003)

²³ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20ESWATINI%20VAC%20REPORT.pdf>

brevis) recorded in the Lomati river are listed as Critically Endangered in the Swaziland Vertebrate Red Data Book (found on the ENTC website). Threats to these species includes the increase in water extraction of the rivers, pollution and being preyed upon by alien fish species.

There are two major dams located in the Komati system in the country; Maguga in the upper basin and Sand River dam further downstream. These wetland areas are classified as globally threatened habitats (Wetland Policy, Dec 2020). Maguga dam is an important site for water birds and provides habitat to many reptiles and amphibians. It is also one of the restricted habitats in the country where *Siphonochilus aethiopicus* (Wild Ginger) was recorded in the wild which is listed as Critically Endangered on the Red Data Lists of Southern African Plants. Despite resident hippos and crocodiles the waters below the dam are navigable by raft and support the local tourist industry and neighbouring communities with their expeditions.

Sand River Dam is also an important site for waterfowl and other water birds, and has been recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is a critical site for a number of threatened species, including the critically endangered hooded vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* and African white-backed vulture *Gyps africanus*. Despite the dam being located in the Komati River system it transfers water to the sugar cane estates in the Mbuluzi River basin via a canal.

Cannabis sativa (dagga) farming also presents a large threat to the natural habitat and ecosystem processes along this watercourse.

The Komati Landscape also includes the Songimvelo-Malolotja Transfronteir Conservation Area (TFCA). This TFCA is located on the South Africa-Eswatini border between Barberton (SA) and Pigg's Peak (Eswatini). It covers about 700 km² with potential for extension of another 500 km². Malolotja Nature Reserve together with Songimvelo Game Reserve (SA), measuring 49,000 ha form the core of the TFCA. Other identified core areas on the Eswatini side are three protection-worthy areas (PWAs), namely the Bulembu, Makhonjwa, and Sondeza National Landscapes.

Land cover within the Komati Landscape varies from industrial timber plantations (dark green) in the west to croplands (yellow), grasslands in the south (grey) with bands of shrub cover following major drainage lines and irrigated sugarcane (yellow) in the east (Figure 5).

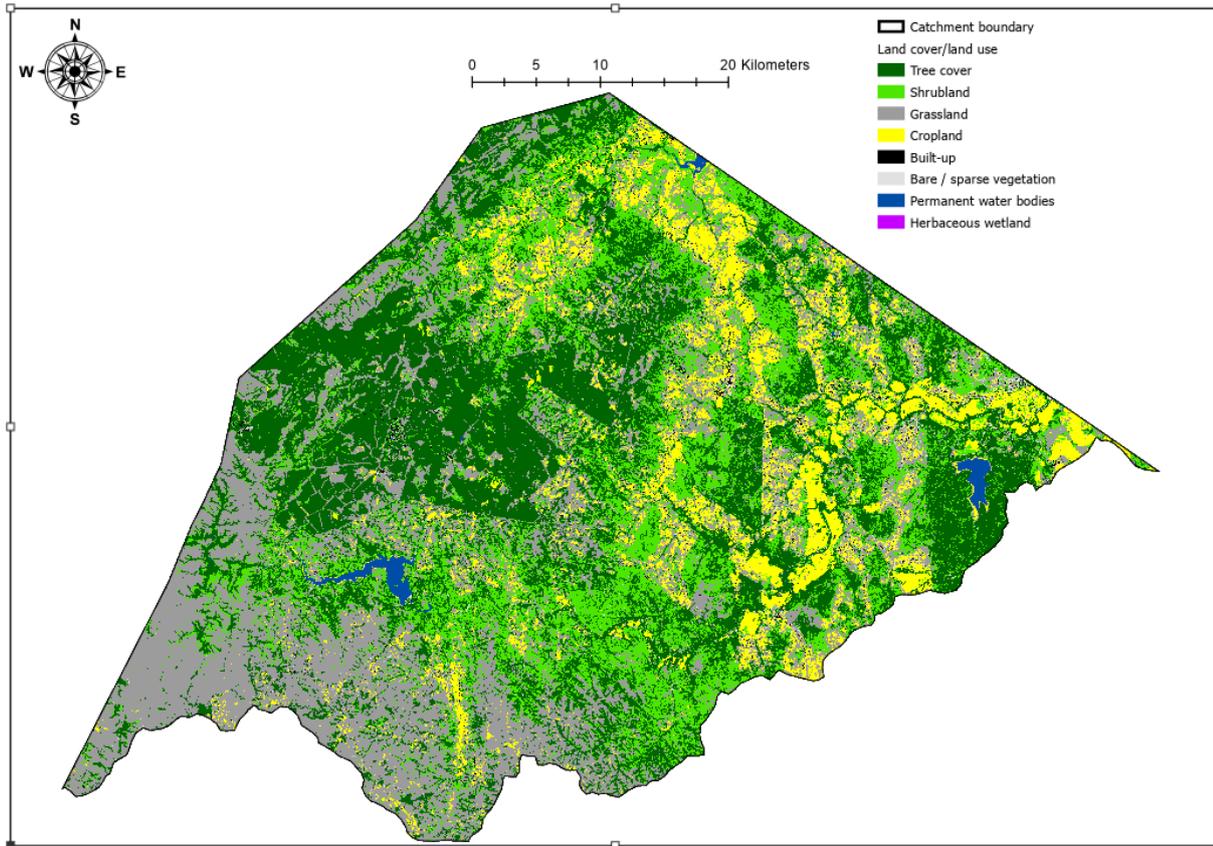


Figure 5 – Land cover in the Komati Landscape

There are two major dams in the Komati Landscape: Maguga Dam with storage of 332M m³ and Sand River Dam with storage of 50M m³ and also a RAMSAR site.

4.2.3.2 Description of the Mbuluzi Landscape

The Mbuluzi River is a trans-national river system that stretches from west to east. The landscape (Figure 6) covers an area of about 5,400 km². The catchment falls 2,160 km² (40%) in Mozambique, 3,130 km² (58%) in Eswatini and 110 km² (2%) in South Africa. It covers the following administrative regions: Hhohho, Manzini and Lubombo.

Invasive alien plants are a major problem in this landscape and have invaded some 18,765ha. About 10.6% of the MAR in the Mbuluzi River within Eswatini is used by alien-invader plant species (JTK Associates, 2003²⁴). The Mbuluzi River has its source located in the Highveld topographical region near the western border of the country with South Africa (called the Black Mbuluzi) from an altitude of near 1700 m.a.s.l. It is later joined by the Mbuluzane (White Mbuluzi) tributary in the lower altitude Middleveld region after which it flows through the Lebombo mountain range at an altitude of below 100m.a.s.l.

Poverty within the landscape is high. In the 2019 Vulnerability Assessment Committee report²⁵ food insecurity is reported to be high with many households resorting to various coping strategies such as eating less preferred food and the selling of productive assets. Environmental degradation within the landscape is high with soil erosion leading to flash floods that damage arable land and community structures, invasive alien plants and impacts arising from droughts and climate change.

²⁴ Assessment of water availability in the Komati and Mbuluzi River Basins, Swaziland (JTK Associates, 2003)

²⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20ESWATINI%20VAC%20REPORT.pdf>

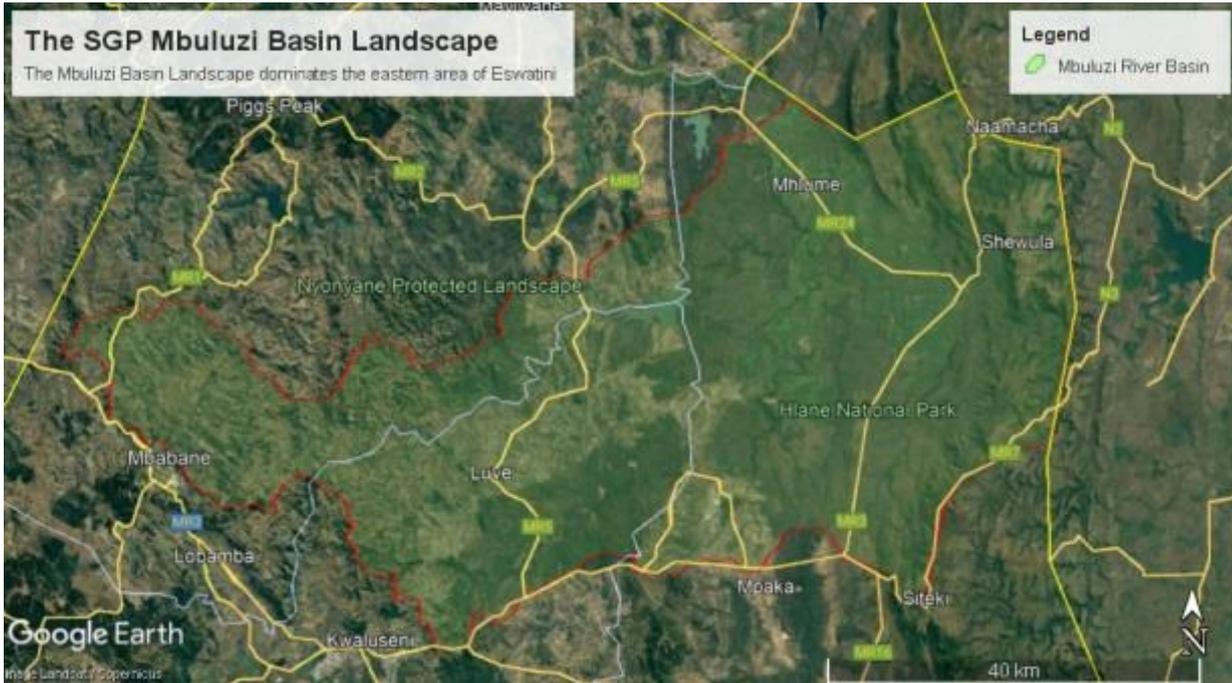


Figure 6 - The Mbuluzi Landscape

The vegetation of the Mbuluzi Landscape consists of nine vegetation types as described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) including KaNgwane Montane Grassland, Swaziland Sour Bushveld, Granite Lowveld, Delagoa Lowveld, Tshokwane-Hlane Basalt Lowveld, Southern Lebombo Bushveld, Dry Ironwood Forest, Scarp forest and Lowveld Riverine Forest.

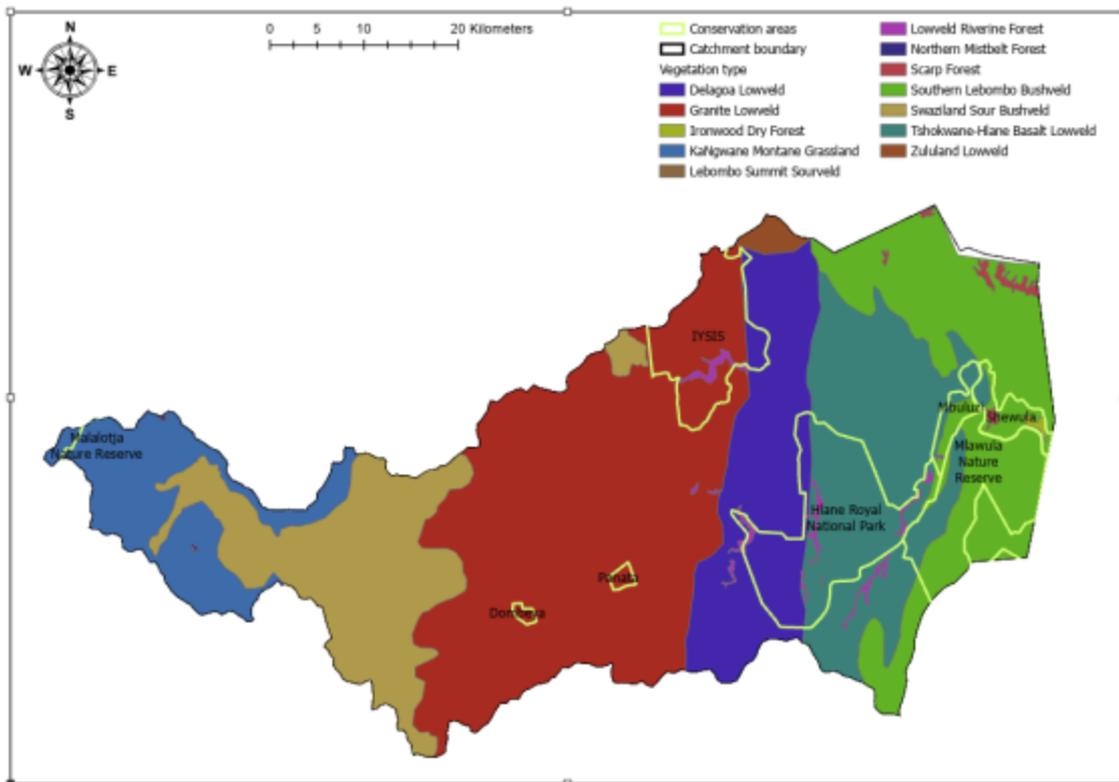


Figure 7 - Vegetation Types in the Mbuluzi Landscape showing Protected Areas within the Mbuluzi Landscape

Within the Mbuluzi Landscape there are several important areas of high biodiversity value that are either formally protected including Hawane Nature Reserve, the southern section of Malolotja Nature Reserve, Hlane Royal National Park, Mlawula Nature Reserve and Mbuluzi Game Reserve, informally protected properties including Dombeya Wildlife Estate and Panata Ranch or under community natural resource management including the Shewula and Sibebe Community Areas. The Mbuluzi Landscape also includes the Lubombo Conservancy-Goba TFCA. On the Eswatini side the five established reserves that form the Lobombo Conservancy form part of this TFCA. These are Mlawula Nature Reserve, Shewula Nature Reserve, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, and Hlane National Park which form a continuous block of about 60,000ha.

The endemic red hot poker *Kniphofia umbrina* is restricted in distribution to an area of 10x4km in the area and is threatened by habitat destruction. *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle) plantations are a threat in the upper Mbuluzi landscape as they are outcompeting the sections of natural surrounding grasslands and riverine vegetation and play a role in stream flow reduction along with various exotic *Eucalyptus* species. Within the lowveld portion of the Mbuluzi Landscape there is good representation of Lowveld Riverine Forest in protected areas which been assessed by Mucina & Rutherford (2006)²⁶ as Critically Endangered. It is important that this habitat is well conserved in the future and SGP projects to this end would contribute towards the conservation need.

Mnjoli Dam provides an important wetland habitat for many indigenous flora and fauna. Wading and waterbirds, raptors, the hippo (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) both listed as Vulnerable in the Eswatini Vertebrata Red Data List (Monadjem *et al.* 2003²⁷). The majority of the area around Mnjoli is not under any formal protection and is used for heavy livestock grazing, sugarcane cultivation and subsistence farming. The alien plants *Lantana camara* and *Ipomoea carnea* are increasing in the area often exacerbated by clearing for cultivation and flooding events and are a potential threat to the natural vegetation in the area.

Game reserves including Hlane National Park, Mlawula and Mbuluzi Game Reserves offer important protection to the riparian habitat around the river and its tributaries. More recent sightings of Pel's fishing Owl (*Scotopelia peli*) which was thought to be extinct in the country have been recorded along the Mlawula and Mbuluzane Rivers. The re-establishment of a closed canopy riparian forest has slowly taken place providing habitat for the birds after the habitat was altered significantly as a result of Cyclone Demoina in 1984. The Vulnerable African finfoot (*Podica senegalensis*) is also protected in these rivers.

The occurrence of alien invasive flora including *Chromolaena odorata*, *Lantana camara*, and *Melia azedarach* (syringa) threaten this habitat which affects the areas downstream regardless of their protection status. Uncontrolled and unmonitored *Cannabis sativa* (Dagga) farming practices are noted to be increasing exponentially along the riverine areas across the country presenting a significant threat to habitat intactness and biodiversity.

As the river exits the country into Mozambique cutting through the Lebombo mountains the gorge supports patches of intact riverine habitat, Lebombo scarp forest and Dry Ironwood Forest. Mbuluzi gorge is formally protected by Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC) as part of the Mlawula Game Reserve and the neighbouring Shewula ecotourism community area to the north both play significant roles in protecting the ecosystem. A locally endemic species of cycad (*Encephalartos umbeluziensis*) is offered protection in the gorge as are many Maputaland Endemic Plant species. Land cover within the Mbuluzi Landscape varies from predominantly grasslands in the west with bands of tree cover following major drainage lines and grassland areas occurring throughout the landscape with irrigated sugarcane in the east (Figure 8).

²⁶ Mucina, L. and Rutherford, M.C., Eds. (2006) The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Strelitzia 19, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

²⁷

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236838259_Threatened_vertibrates_of_Swaziland_Swaziland_red_data_book_fishes_amphibians_reptiles_birds_and_mammals

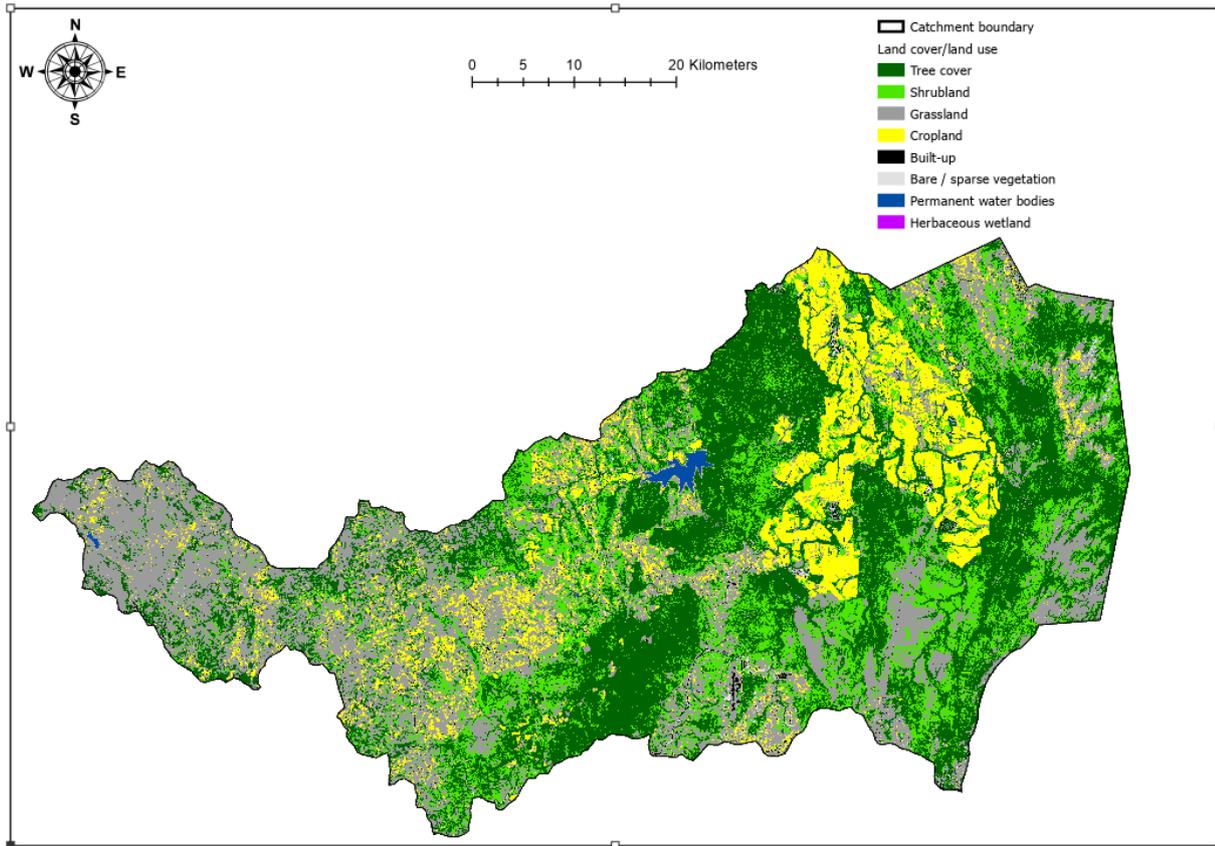


Figure 8 – Land cover in the Mbuluzi Landscape

Land cover within the Mbuluzi Landscape varies from grasslands in the west (grey) with patches of cropped land (yellow) and irrigated sugarcane (yellow) in the east (Figure 8). Tree cover dominates the central north-south area.

There are two major dams in the Mbuluzi Landscape: Hawane Dam in the upper basin with storage of 2.75M m³ and also a RAMSAR site and Mnjoli Dam with storage of 153M m³. These wetlands are classified as globally threatened habitats (Wetland Policy Dec 2020). Hawane dam is offered protection by ENTC as it is a pristine wetland supporting a variety of plants, birds, indigenous fish, reptiles and amphibians.

4.2.3.3 Description of the Usutu Landscape

The Usutu River is a trans-national river system that stretches from west to east and is the largest river basin in the country. The river has its main source in South Africa from catchments such as the Little Usuthu, Mpuluzi, Great Usuthu, Ngwempisi and Mkhondvo Rivers exiting the country through the Lubombo mountains east of Big Bend at around 60 m.a.s.l. for its final journey to the Indian Ocean. The lower basin is bordered by the Sinceni and Lubombo mountain ranges (Figure 9). The landscape covers an area of about 15,660 km² in the priority landscape.

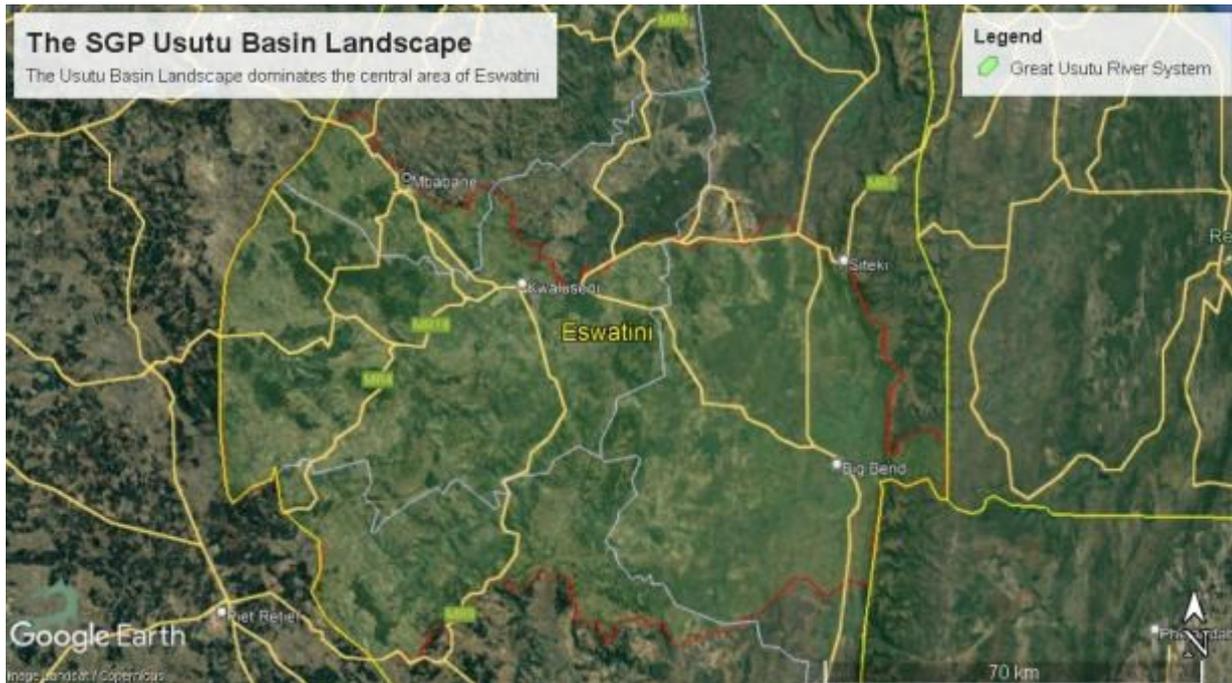


Figure 9 - The Usutu Landscape

It covers the following administrative regions: Hhohho, Manzini and Lubombo.

Poverty within the landscape is high. In the 2019 Vulnerability Assessment Committee report²⁸ food insecurity is reported to be high due to low levels of rainfall in the eastern side of the landscape with many households resorting to various coping strategies such as eating less preferred food and the selling of productive assets. Environmental degradation within the landscape is high with soil erosion leading to flash floods that damage arable land and community structures, invasive alien plants and impacts arising from droughts and climate change. The poverty within the landscape is exacerbated by other factors such as HIV, poverty and unemployment. The high HIV prevalence in the region (30%) affects its food and income productive capacity. Over a third of the population in the region live below the extreme poverty line.

The vegetation of the Usutu Landscape (Figure 10) consists of eleven vegetation types as described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) including KaNgwane Montane Grassland, Itala Quartzite Sourveld, Swaziland Sour Bushveld, Granite Lowveld, Delagoa Lowveld, Tshokwane-Hlane Basalt Lowveld, Southern Lebombo Bushveld, Zululand Lowveld, Northern Mistbelt Forest, Scarp forest and Lowveld Riverine Forest.

Within the Usutu Landscape there are several important areas of high biodiversity value that are either formally protected including Mantenga Nature Reserve, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Mkhaya Game Reserve and informally protected areas including Big Bend Conservancy, Mhlosinga, Libhetze, Emantini, Nkonyeni, and Rosecraft or under community natural resource management including the Mahamba Gorge Protected Landscape, Ngwempisi Wilderness Area, and Mambane.

Two endangered bird species have been recorded in the lower basin including African Hawk-Eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*) and Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) and the near-threatened Yellow-billed Stork listed in the Swaziland Red Data Book (Monadjem et al., 2003). Three mammal species listed in the Swaziland Red Data Book (Monadjem et al., 2003), have been recorded in the lower Usutu Landscape including Red Duiker (*Cephalophus natalensis*), African Civet (*Civettictis civetta*) and Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), which are classified as Near Threatened (duiker, civet) and Vulnerable (Hippopotamus). High cliffs in the Usutu gorge support important plants such as *Encephalartos senticosus* (Jozini cycad) and can also act as

²⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20ESWATINI%20VAC%20REPORT.pdf>

good nesting/breeding sites for bird species. The Critically Endangered Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) is protected in Mkhaya Game Reserve as is the endemic bulbous herb *Drimiopsis reilleyana*.

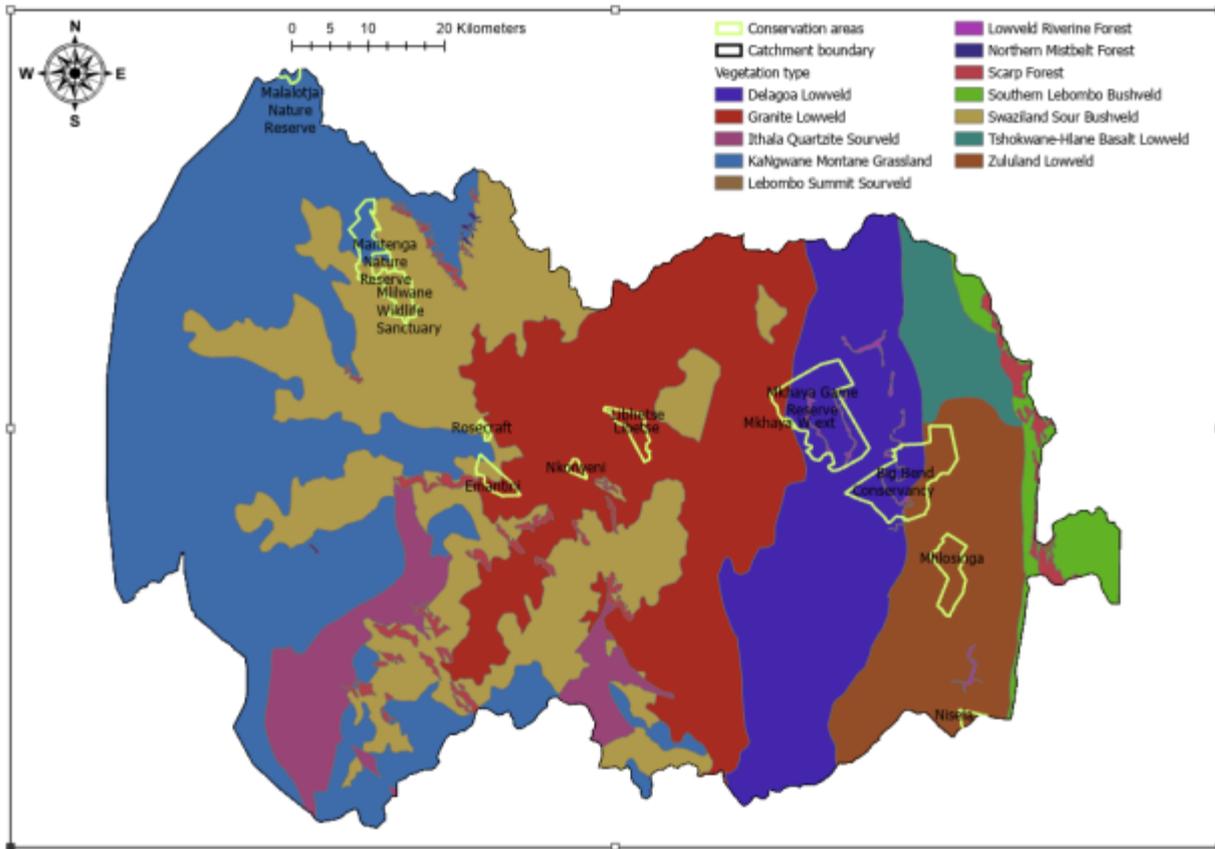


Figure 10 - Vegetation Types in the Usutu Landscape showing Protected Areas within the Usutu Landscape

In the lowveld drainage lines of the Usutu basin there is representation of Lowveld Riverine Forest which been assessed by Mucina & Rutherford (2006) as Critically Endangered. Much of it is not formally protected and it is important that this habitat is well conserved in the future. The occurrence of alien invasive flora including *Chromolaena odorata*, *Lantana camara*, and *Melia azedarach* (syringa) threaten this habitat which affects the areas downstream regardless of their protection status. It is further threatened by the unmonitored and uncontrolled expansion of *Cannabis sativa* (dagga) plantations where the forest structure and thus the dynamics of it are altered because of slash and burn bush clearing activities and areas are opened up to invasion by alien weeds. The landscape biodiversity is threatened by transformation for agriculture, urbanisation, alien plant invasion, bush encroachment, pollution, over-harvesting, livestock mismanagement, soil erosion and climate change.

The landscape is a highly endemic zone with Lubombo Ironwoods (*Androstachys jonsonii*), Lubombo Cycads (*Encephalartos lebomboensis*), and has also recently discovered a new *Barleria* species (*Barleria Lubombensis*) and transformation for agriculture, urbanisation, alien plant invasion, bush encroachment, pollution, over-harvesting, livestock mismanagement and soil erosion are some of the threats faced by Eswatini's flora and fauna.

The landscape also covers the Usutu-Tembe-Futi TFCAs that covers an area of approximately 9,290ha, this area lies in the Lubombo region, along the south of the Lubombo mountains and is bordered by the Usutu River in the South where it dissects the Lebombo mountains (Usutu Gorge) and enters Mozambique. High cliffs adorned with cycads and abundant birdlife are features of this 8km long gorge, which is wild and uninhabited. Important wildlife species that have been spotted in this area include kudu, side-striped jackals, oribi and mountain reedbeek, among others. The river itself is Eswatini's largest watercourse and its waters are

navigable by raft or canoe for most the major vegetation types include mixed forests and woodlands, including bushveld. The Mowane Gorge in this area is also a sacred site in Swazi culture (CBD 4th National Report²⁹).

Land use within the Usutu Landscape is dominated by grasslands (grey) with more dense vegetation cover following the main drainage lines of the basin. The western side is dominated by sugarcane plantations (Figure 11).

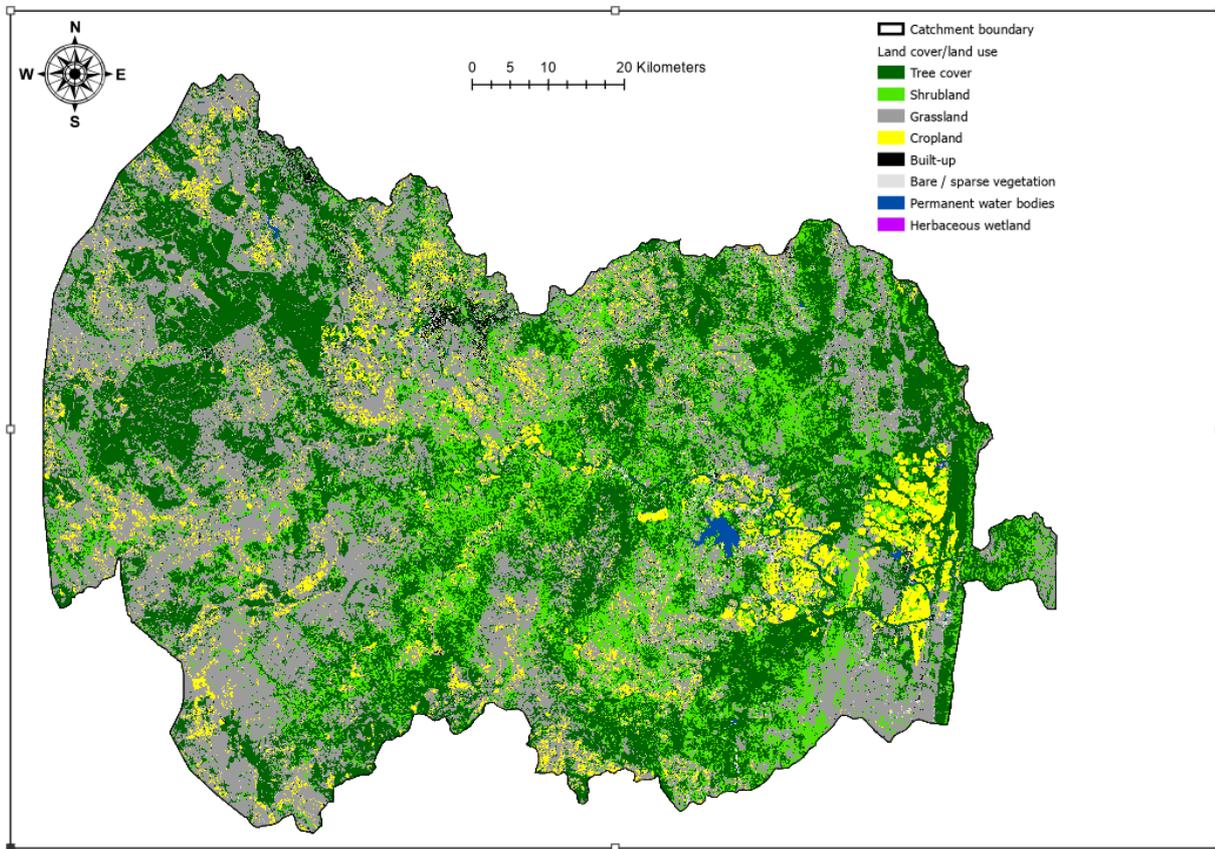


Figure 11 – Land cover in the Usutu Landscape

There are three major dams in the Landscape: Lumphohlo Dam near Mbabane with storage of 23.6M m³, Lubovane Dam near Siphofaneni with storage of 155M m³ and Van Eck Dam in Big Bend with storage of 10.4M m³ which is also a RAMSAR site. These wetlands are classified as globally threatened habitats (Wetland Policy Dec 2020) and play important roles in supporting a variety of aquatic flora and fauna.

4.3 Selected Landscape for OP7

The landscape selected for the OP7 covers three river basins (Figure 2). The River basins have been used for development planning and management in many countries around the world³⁰ as they create natural boundaries.

Although there are some processes or activities that cross the boundary, basins are bio geophysical units with a high degree of functional integrity, and are relatively homogeneous systems, even when upper, middle and lower sections have different conditions and human activities. Each basin is unique, but there is enough commonality of hydrological, geomorphological and ecological characteristics for them to serve as widely

²⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/sz/sz-nr-04-en.pdf>

³⁰ River Basin Development Planning and Management: A Critical Review, CHRISTOPHER J. BARROW. 1998. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222474737_River_Basin_Planning_and_Development_A_Critical_Review_World_Development]

applicable, non-ephemeral, operational landscape units for planning and management, and for maintaining environmental quality and pursuit of sustainable development¹⁹.

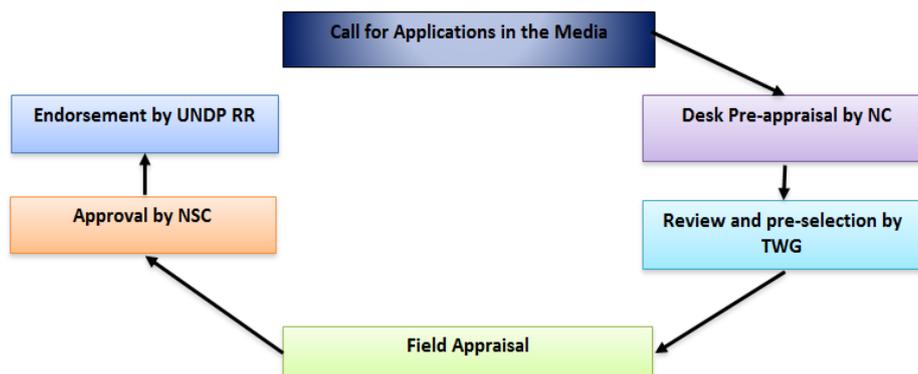
4.4 Stakeholder Engagements

The development of the GEF SGP CPS involved multiple stakeholder engagements including a survey where mapping of NGOs, in which 30 indicated their areas of interest through project ideas relevant to GEF SGP themes. A separate virtual meeting was held with Government and private sector and specific efforts were made to identify projects already funded by GEF, in the pipeline for Green Climate Fund and those prioritised in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) document for possible scale up and replication. This will be further consolidated through the regional consultative meetings. Further efforts were made to be as inclusive as possible by engaging representatives of youth, women and persons with disabilities. This helped formulate the CPS in an inclusive and participatory manner.

4.4.1 OP7 SGP Grants within the Landscape

SGP Grants applications: Applications for the small grants will to be solicited through a public call for applications to be launched by early 2022. Applicant project approval process will follow the steps as per illustration in Figure 12.

Figure 12 - Small Grants Application and Approval Process



4.4.2 Project level strategies

At the SGP community level, a three-pronged approach will be used as follows: (i) focus on degrading or degraded ecosystems/sites within the SGP Landscape, (ii) establishing innovative institutional and financial support mechanism to expand the value and impact of projects nationally and globally (iii) systematically developing the capacity of local and national civil society stakeholders as a key factor for environmental sustainability. Some community members and NGOs operating in the landscape have been sensitized through the stakeholder engagement process through which local actions such as the construction of sand and earth dams to improve availability of water, have been mentioned by stakeholders. Projects must include training and capacity building of communities with planning and implementation of water and biodiversity management at the landscape level. This approach must ensure that actions taken under such SGP projects must be developed with the full participation of beneficiaries.

4.4.3 Selected landscapes to be focused under OP7

Under SGP programming directions, most of the grants will go to the 3 selected landscapes to be the focus under OP7 (Figure 2). Selection of the landscapes is based on the work over the last few years of many initiatives e.g., the Lower Usutu Sustainable Land Management Project (LUSLM), the scoping study and baseline assessments and outcomes. Continuation with interventions in the selected landscapes will allow for

completion and consolidation of on-going initiatives addressing the GEF focal areas. The National Steering Committee has endorsed these areas as the landscapes of this SGP Country Strategy.

Below are indicative strategic initiatives which can be implemented and provided for guidance to potential SGP applicants.

Table 4 - Institutions and their projects for upscaling

Institutions in the proposed landscape	Potential project ideas to initiate and upscale
ENTC	Wetlands restoration, tree planting, community management of ecosystems
ESWADE	Climate smart agriculture, beekeeping and honey production, tree planting, agroforestry, donga restoration
EEA	Wetlands restoration, donga restoration, tree planting, waste management
NDMA	Wetlands restoration, donga restoration
NGOs	Waste recycling, backyard gardens, rainwater harvesting, solar water pumping, tree planting, community participation in environmental work, wetlands rehabilitation, awareness raising, community dialogues, knowledge exchange, training
NAMBOARD	Vegetable production, marketing, capacity building

4.5 Grant making Outside the Priority Landscape

The SGP Eswatini Country Strategy will devote up to a maximum of 30% of its grants outside the landscape targeting innovative initiatives. The SGP plays a crucial role in providing strategic services to the civil society and community organizations by enhancing their institutional, technical and financial capacities; develop platforms and networks; and expand partnerships and resource mobilization for scaling up. Communities that fall outside the priority landscape, i.e., those residing in the Ngwavuma River basin or broadly the Shiselweni region, can also apply for SGP support that promotes the priority areas.

4.6 CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform

Eswatini has established a Government-CSO-Private sector coordination mechanism as articulated in the country’s Climate Change Policy and representation in the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC). NCCC Members are drawn from government ministries and departments, private sector, CSOs, and the academia. This committee however, is not fully operational. With the GEF Small Grants up and running there is a need to have dialogue platforms under the NCCC. This will serve to generate ideas that would positively impact the Small Grants programme. The existing Food Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Network (FANRPAN) National Node includes Government, academia, private sector, farmers and civil society could be used as a platform for dialogue for GEF SGP. There is also a Climate Change Task Force established in 2017 including NGOs, Government and parastatals. This team can be revived as a platform for dialogue too. Civil society also has networks and groups such as PELUM and CANGO also hosts a Food Security, Livelihood and Environment Consortia, Youth Consortium, Gender Consortium. There is also the Federation of the Disabled which could also be a platform to engage on GEF SGP.

4.7 Promoting Social Inclusion

The SGP Eswatini Country programme will address social inclusion for women, the youth and disabled. This will be addressed as follow:

4.7.1 Gender Inclusion

Gender inequality in Eswatini remains a serious challenge fuelled by patriarchy, legal and social norms. To this end women are marginalised from accessing resources such as land, yet women are the backbone of subsistence farming in rural areas. Though the constitution of the kingdom of Eswatini provides for the right

to equality, and also access to acquire land in Swazi Nation Land (SNL), some traditional structures at community level have not fully warmed up to that right. 65.3% women against 60% of men face severe food insecurity; and are below the poverty datum line. Without any means of survival, women are more prone to get involved and participate fully in projects or activities that can positively affect their lives. Women and men of course use natural environment differently. For women access to water, and natural resources to access wood for energy and other products like grass which they use in producing household goods such as mats is critical; and hence the need for women to play a key role in environmental management. Women are also the face of poverty and HIV and AIDS as statistics show that they are the most affected.

In this GEF Small Grants Programme, the women led organisations, the CANGO organised Gender Consortium, and handcraft women groups, the recently established all-inclusive Liphimbo LaboMake, women lead NGOs involved in environment e.g., Temvelo and Green Living will be sensitised about the initiative with a view to ensure that their constituents are also sensitised to develop and participate in projects to contribute to the GEF Small Grants priorities. NGOs who work in the women savings and cooperatives space, and economic empowerment will also be sensitised to ensure that women participate in the projects to be funded through GEF Small Grants.

4.7.2 Youth Inclusion

The youth also face structural and anxiety challenges in Eswatini. Over 58%, according to recently released unemployment statistics by Ministry of Labour are currently unemployed. They face challenges in accessing productive resources like land as unmarried men face difficulty in being allocated land by traditional authorities due to cultural constraints. Access to credit is also a problem for the unemployed youth. Recent surveys in Africa and the European Union have found high levels of eco-anxiety amongst the youth who are deeply worried about the climate crisis and concerned about the indifference and banality of their leaders in dealing with it.³¹

CANGO has established a youth consortium which has articulated their interests in getting involved in national development initiatives. The youth consortium is composed of legally registered youth organizations, though some of them are still at nascent stages. These organizations operate at local and national levels. There is the National Youth Council under the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs which has collaborated with the youth consortium in various activities for a positive impact on youth development. The SGP will be one initiative where these youth structures can be engaged to contribute towards the GEF environmental priorities. Some of these youth organizations have a footprint in addressing climate change, these includes planting trees; conducting community clean-up campaigns; small waste management and agriculture amongst others. Youth working with Eswatini Farmers Union, youth in faith based organizations; and in tertiary institutions (i.e. Luyengo University campus); Enactus (which is a network of global business, academic and student leaders are unified by our vision—to create a better, more sustainable world. They use innovative business to solve community challenges, creating sustainable improvements in the lives of the people their projects serve, and in turn, impact their lives). Enactus Eswatini has been active in recycling, environmental management and biotechnology.

4.7.3 People with special needs

People with disabilities in Swaziland are estimated to be at 171 347. Accordingly, people with disabilities accounts for 16,8% of the country's population. Out of the total population with disabilities 58% when disaggregated by sex are women with disabilities and 42% are men with disabilities. These numbers have not been updated since 2016, which might be even higher owing to the recent developments in the country. The

³¹ <https://blogs.bmi.com/bmi/2021/10/06/the-climate-crisis-and-the-rise-of-eco-anxiety/>

Swaziland National Census of 2007 also recognises that the majority of people with disabilities are poor and marginalised with little to no access to services such as public transport, employment and education.

The disabled in Eswatini bear the brunt of poverty, inequality and social exclusion. The Deputy Prime Minister’s Office has a Disability Unit which has facilitated the domestication of the Disability Convention into national law that serve to address the structural challenges facing the disabled in Eswatini amongst others. The Federation of the Disabled in Swaziland (FODSWA) is the umbrella body that represent the disabled in Eswatini. FODSWA is made up of Disabled Peoples organisations such as the visually impaired, physically disabled to mention a few who address special needs faced by their members. These organisations including FODSWA face structural challenges in that they are not funded and hence very weak institutionally.

The SGP Coordinator will target the Federation of the Disabled in Eswatini (FODSWA) and Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) with information on GEF Small Grants so that they in turn will reach their members with information regarding the GEF Small Grants Programme. One of CANGO’s mandates is to build institutional and technical capacities for its members; hence under this project capacity enhancement will be undertaken to support efficient participation of the marginalised groups. There will be trainings that will be organised through these groups to strengthen governing policies and project management skills.

4.7.4 Mainstreaming socially excluded groups

All projects will also have to demonstrate how they will mainstream women, youth and disabled in the implementation. This will ensure the social inclusion is addressed in all funded projects.

4.8 Knowledge Management

The following methods would be used for capturing, sharing and disseminating lessons learnt and good practices identified through country portfolio of SGP projects with relevant stakeholders.

Table 5 - Knowledge sharing methods, stakeholders and types of knowledge products

Knowledge sharing methods		Target stakeholders	Type of knowledge product as output
1	Sharing knowledge products through emails, social media posts	Ministries, NGOs, CBOs and general stakeholders	Social media posts and newsletters
2	Webinars for sharing stories and experiences within Eswatini	National Government, Sub-National Government, NGOs, Educational Institutions, Private Sector, Media	Webinar recordings, social media posts
3	Experiences, successes and lessons learnt shared through video shows	General stakeholders in Eswatini and internationally	Videos posted into UNDP channels
4	Peer- to peer Webinars for sharing stories and experiences across GEF SGP countries	Other countries GEF SGP implementers	Webinar recordings
5	Knowledge fair for NGOs	NGOs and CBOs, Development partners	Report with photographs of knowledge fair. Social media posts
6	Site visits for educational institutions to GEF SGP projects	Schools, tertiary institutions	Site visit reports, social media posts
7	Presentation at National Agriculture Indaba	Agri businesses	Presentation

Knowledge sharing methods		Target stakeholders	Type of knowledge product as output
8	Exhibition of GEF SGP reports and photos on Environmental Commemoration Day events	Government, Parastatals, NGOs	Photographs of the exhibition stand and visitors log book
9	Exhibition stand at Pelum and CANGO meetings	NGOs	Photographs of the exhibition stand and visitors log book
10	Exhibition stand at UNDP meetings	Development Partners	Photographs of the exhibition stand and visitors log book

5 COMMUNICATION PLAN

The objectives of the Communications plan are:

1. to develop knowledge products and establish knowledge sharing platforms (including social media);
2. to create awareness about the GEF SGP funding modality in Eswatini with all stakeholders, particularly the beneficiaries, who are NGOs and CBOs;
3. to provide regular updates of the progress of GEF SGP to stakeholders;
4. to promote partnership for GEF SGP;
5. to create awareness of the connections between environment and sustainable development; and
6. to share lessons learnt and success stories from the GEF SGP to stakeholders.

The Communications Plan has been summarised into Table 6 below where the audience, message type, delivery method and message source are provided.

Table 6 - Communications Plan with audience, message type, delivery and message source

Audience	Message type	Delivery method	Message source
Government Ministries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Official letter from UNDP to Principal Secretaries announcing the GEF SGP 2) Regular (quarterly) updates 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Email (2) Newsletters and videos 	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator
NGOs and CBOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Announcement of start of GEF SGP and application process (2) Training of NGOs to apply for GEF SGP 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Newspaper advertisement, Radio announcements 	<p>Newspapers, Radio stations</p> <p>Training materials, presentations</p>

Audience	Message type	Delivery method	Message source
	(3) Knowledge Exchange	2) Training workshops (face to face and virtual) 3) Knowledge Fairs	Exhibitions held as part of Knowledge Fairs
General stakeholders	1) Announcement of start of GEF SGP 2) Regular (quarterly) updates 3) Photos, brochures, social media posts and newsletters 4) Site visits 5) Open Days / Exhibitions	1) Inception Workshop 2) Social media posts and uploading of brochures and newsletters 3) Site visit reports 4) Photography book 5) (5) Exhibition stall products	1) UNDP to host an inception workshop and invite stakeholders representing multiple sectors 2) UNDP social media team 3) UNDP could organize site visits for multiple stakeholders
Media	1. Information on GEF SGP 2. Updates and stories of GEF SGP successes and lessons learnt	1) Press release 2) Videos to be shown in TV	GEF SGP Committee (through press meeting)
GEF SGP Committee	Regular updates for monitoring and oversight	Emails and face to face (or virtual) meetings	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator
General stakeholders	Updates every six months	Webinar, videos, radio programs, social media	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator will host these online sessions and post videos on UNDP channels, air radio shows, social media posts
GEF SGP Global Office	Regular updates as required by the Global Office Other GEF SGP countries knowledge exchange	Emails, virtual calls Peer to peer webinars with GEF SGP countries	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator
International audience and interested parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates Videos on GEF SGP success stories and lessons learnt 	Social media posts Webinars	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator
Private Sector	Social media updates Email	Social media posts	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator
Academia	Email updates	Emails	UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator

Using existing national avenues such as PELUM's and Eswatini Environment Authority's radio shows, there could be awareness raising done for the GEF SGP. Videos made by community-based groups who are beneficiaries of the GEF SGP projects can be developed and shared widely through media including social media.

6 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Fund mobilization will be done by GEF SGP Coordinator through engaging the above organizations and exploring partnerships and grant opportunities.

Table 7 - Resource Mobilization

Grantmakers	Roles
ESWADE	Linkages with existing projects
ACAT, PELUM, Conference of Churches, World Vision	Expand and upscale efforts of GEF SGP through NGOs projects Support GEF SGP through their existing projects
Private Sector	Corporate Social Responsibility grants
NDMA	Create linkages with resilience building projects that NDMA does.
EEA	Create linkages with Environment Fund
Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Through mobilising funds from grants
ENTC	Through already funded projects for linkages
Development partners and Embassies	Through grants

6.1 Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

A total fund of \$750,000 has been secured for the GEF SGP. Out of this, \$500,000 is from the global GEF SGP and \$250,000 is from the GEF Star Allocation.

6.2 Co-financing Opportunities

Co-financing could be received from existing projects such as:

1. ESA Environment Fund
2. NDMA disaster resilience building funds
3. ESWADE projects
4. NGOs funds such as ACAT, PELUM, World Vision, WaterAid
5. UNDP's resources
6. Government contributions
7. Private sector contributions

6.3 Grantmaker Plus/Partnership Opportunities

The SGP team including the NSC and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) can be leveraged to assist communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. While the funds may not go directly to SGP, this activity can be considered part of resource mobilization as there is increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders through its support. The country also has a committee to unlock climate finance set up by the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs who assist with proposal development and this committee could be leveraged to raise funds for GEF SGP.

There would be need for support in the following ways:

- a. Seek out suitable funding opportunities by mapping potential funders and calls for proposals
- b. Organize proposal writing sessions with committee members, GEF SGP team and relevant stakeholders for specific calls
- c. Form a portfolio of draft proposals, previously won projects (including proposal information) and potential funding calls that are forthcoming
- d. Invite private sector to a six-monthly meeting to appraise them of the progress with GEF SGP and request for funding support for work ahead

7 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following is the Risk Management Plan for the SGP Eswatini Country Strategy.

Table 8 - Description of risks identified in OP7

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Climate Risks(droughts, floods)	Medium	medium	Climate smart technologies promoted
Environmental Risks	low	low	promote environment friendly methods
Chieftaincy disputes	medium	low	Careful selection of CBOs and intervention areas
Communities not cooperating	low	low	Improve communication and transparency about intervention areas
NGOs not having capacity to deliver projects	medium	medium	Provide project management capacity building CBOs encouraged to be mentored by experienced NGOs
Other possible risks- Civil unrest	medium	medium	Advocate for dialogue in peaceful resolution of issues

The risks can be tracked during the implementation of the OP7 CPS and review during the annual CPS review and AMR preparation. At that time, the degree of risk, or probability of risk, may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added, if necessary, with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

8.1 Monitoring Approaches at Project and Country Levels

The following table provides the monitoring and evaluation plan for the GEF SGP. Project progress will be tracked using an M&E results framework that the SGP coordinator will develop.

- The SGP Coordinator team will develop a data quality assurance guide that will feed into a bespoke database also developed by the SGP Coordinator. In line with the new M&E guidelines, each project is visited at least once during the life cycle of project by the NSC and the NC.
- The National Coordinator has issued a call for partnerships³² which seeks to foster partnerships with other grant-makers, government, foundations, academic institutions, and private sector players which amongst other things will facilitate joint implementation and monitoring of projects. These partnerships will also be strategic in building capacity of grant recipients to report on results.
- A monitoring visit report will be jointly prepared with partners under the project and communicated with the project implementer and the NSC to ensure transparency on progress, concerns noted or observed and suggestions on how to ensure progress to meet the strategic objective.
- The NSC will allocate a budget for grant making for a third-party for a monitoring agent for monitoring projects and reporting to grantees.

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https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0hsds_qTP9g26ek8jEqMih7SWQejV8EDxFgibuWycRq5scg/viewform?usp=pp_url

- The SGP Coordinator will ensure that the UNEG Ethical Guidelines³³ are complied with in M&E activities. It includes administering all actions with a ‘do no harm’ approach. It includes due regard to the welfare, beliefs, and customs of those involved or affected, avoiding or disclosing any conflict of interest, and acknowledging the influence of culture within and across groups. This will be attained through ensuring that existing community leadership, engagement and conflict management structures is recognised and incorporated in the design of projects.
- Projects must demonstrate how local stakeholders, community members including vulnerable peoples will participate in defining project results and evidence of these need to form part of the monitoring and reporting processes.

Monitoring reports frequency and core content is presented in Table 9 as guidance. The SGP Coordinator will work closely with the proponent and stakeholders to develop and programme of monitoring that suits the project activities and funding disbursement arrangements. The SGP Coordinator will develop a reporting template to capture data and progress from each project.

8.2 M&E Budget

Each project is expected to allocate between 4-6% of the total grant amount on project level M&E. The funds may also be utilized towards submission of project progress reports, including monitoring of GEF-7 indicators.

8.3 M&E Capacity Strengthening

M&E capacities of SGP grantees will be strengthened (this is a critical step to ensure participatory, representative and credible data) through bespoke training sessions (in Mbabane or other applicable venue). The SGP country team will organise an M&E Training Workshop to convene the cohort of grantees with the objective to build capacities on new M&E strategy.

Table 9 - M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP7 CPS.	At start of OP7
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review.	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analysed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least annual review ³⁴ to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed ³⁵ .
Annual Monitoring	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT	Staff time	Once per year in June- July

³³ <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/102>

³⁴ It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July).

³⁵ Please note OP7 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact. This CPS update process should be part of the Annual CPS Review.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Report Survey ³⁶	as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors.	provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action.		
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS.	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation. Global technical M&E support can be expected.	Once per operational phase
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database.	NCS, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year).
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/ management standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

9 CPS RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The following table provides the results framework of SGP Eswatini Country Programme Strategy.

Table 10 - Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy

<p>Alignment with SDGs.</p> <p>The SGP Eswatini Country Programme Strategy is aligned with all the SDG in that interventions proposed by stakeholders were informed by upholding the country's commitment to implementing and mainstreaming the SDG goals. The following SDGs were identified across all the proposed interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms - Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

³⁶ Timely and quality country level submissions to *Annual Monitoring Process* are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.

- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainability of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
- Goal 17- Partnerships

Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):
National Priority/Goal: Effectively reverse current adverse trends in the loss and degradation of environmental resources

UNDP CPD Outcome: Improved environment, natural resources, climate change governance, energy access and disaster risk management

Strategic Outcome: Countries can reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower risk of natural disasters, including from Climate Change

- Output 2: Strengthen capacity in climate change governance and sustainable energy access for selected districts and local communities

UNDP Country Programme:

The OP7 aligned SGP Eswatini Country Programme Strategy supports the following UNDP Country Programme document for Eswatini (2021-2025):

Output 1.1: Strengthened policy and regulatory regimes at national level for the management of natural resources, environment, biodiversity and chemical use.

Output 1.2: Capacities of small-scale food producers (in agriculture) strengthened to adopt inclusive value-chain approaches in agriculture and allied sectors to address marketing bottlenecks and losses in post-harvest

Output 1.4: Data and risk-informed development policies, plans, systems and financing incorporate integrated and gender-responsive solutions to reduce disaster risks, enable climate change adaptation and mitigation

Output 1.5: Solutions adopted to achieve universal access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy.

- Signature solution 1: Keeping people out of poverty
- Signature solution 4: Promote nature – based solutions for a sustainable planet
- Signature solution 5: Close the energy gap
- Signature solution 6: Strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

OP7 SGP Programme Goal: Promote and support innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes.

OP7 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets	Means of verification
Strategic Initiative 1: Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species	20 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares) (GEF core indicator 1.2, 4.1)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)
Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)	10 ha of community managed areas of high biological importance under improved management effectiveness (hectares) (GEF core indicator 1.2)	Field visit reports and photographs Baseline assessment comparison variables

	<p>10 ha of aquatic habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares; excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 5)</p> <p>At least one community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened (GEF core indicator 1.1)</p> <p>At least 5 wetlands restored through fencing, community wetland management plans for the sustainable utilization of resources (GEF core indicator 3.4)</p>	<p>(use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Wetlands restoration report and photographs</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 2: Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</p> <p>3) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems.</p> <p>4) Reduce deforestation and expanded restoration of degraded lands</p>	<p>At least 50 farmers trained in climate smart agriculture and agroforestry practices across 50 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (hectares) (GEF core indicator 4.3)</p> <p>5 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) (GEF core indicator 3.1)</p> <p>At least 5 projects supporting linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management including in sustainable fisheries management</p> <p>At least 20 small-holder farmers supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets (GEF core indicator 3.3)</p> <p>At least 3000 trees (fruit, nuts, high utilization value, medicinal, nitrogen fixing) planted and surviving including in households, farms and communal land. (GEF core indicator 3.3)</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (<i>as part of midterm and final Progress reports</i>) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Field visit report, Photographs, Inventories.</p> <p>Tree inventory.</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 3: Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</p> <p>1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</p>	<p>25 kw of installed renewable energy capacity from local technologies (e.g. on types of renewable energy technology biomass, small hydro, solar). GEF Indicator 6.4)</p> <p>At least three community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication (GEF indicator 6.4)</p> <p>25 households achieving sustainable clean energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued (GEF indicator 6.2)</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (<i>as part of midterm and final Progress reports</i>) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p> <p>Survey report</p>

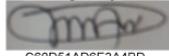
	<p>At least 100 households provided with fuel efficient stoves (GEF indicator 6.2)</p> <p>20 hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration (including tree planting) and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated. (GEF Indicator 3.2)</p>	<p>Inventory of fuel efficient stoves provided</p> <p>Inventory of number trees planted by species</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 4: Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</p> <p>1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy</p> <p>2) Enhance local to global coalition on HCFC chemicals, waste and mercury management</p>	<p>50 kg of solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing materials (domestic waste including plastic) and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6)</p> <p>15 communities working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management.</p> <p>At least 5 schools develop waste management plans to manage school waste streams. (GEF Core area 9)</p> <p>At least 1 local to global coalitions and networks established and/or strengthened (e.g. IPEN and Zero Mercury Working Group)</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (<i>as part of midterm and final Progress reports</i>)</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 5:</p> <p>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</p>	<p>At least 10 representatives from social inclusion group (indigenous people, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms.</p> <p>At least 1 national high-level policy changes attributed to increased community representation through the CSO-government-private sector dialogues.</p> <p>5 Public-Private Partnership on key global environmental issues promoted</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> <p>Dialogue reports with attendance register</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 6: Enhancing social inclusion</p> <p>1) Promote targeted initiatives</p> <p>2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects</p>	<p>1000 of indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people) (GEF core indicator 11)</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p>

	<p>10 projects contributing to closing gender gaps related to access to and control over natural resources</p> <p>10 projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance</p> <p>5 projects that target socio-economic benefits and services for women</p> <p>5 projects that have targeted support for Indigenous Peoples in terms of country level programming and management.</p> <p>At least 20% SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth</p>	<p>Country Programme Review</p> <p>Project reports, Attendance registers</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 7: Knowledge Management</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</p>	<p>100% of projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</p> <p>At least 1 country/cross-country impact reviews undertaken that generate evidence of SGP impact and lessons learnt</p> <p>At least two projects reporting adoption of improved practices or approaches as a result of South- South exchanges between communities, CSOs and other partners across countries.</p> <p>At least 2 projects using citizen-based knowledge platform (digital library of community innovations) to document and curate community-based solutions to environment issues</p> <p>1 knowledge fairs</p> <p>Frequency of updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning.</p> <p>(Quarterly)</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> <p>Webinars</p> <p>Quarterly reports</p>

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NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC members involved in OP7 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
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