



Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme

Since its inception in 1992, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP) has been promoting grassroots action to address global environmental concerns. SGP aims to deliver global environmental benefits in the GEF focal areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation (primarily desertification and deforestation), and elimination of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches.

Partnerships in shaping national policy

SGP projects are primarily designed to support activities that contribute to reduction of GHGs while contributing to local development. Primary policy goals at local and national levels are poverty alleviation, economic development, energy security, and local environmental protection. The GEF Small Grants Programme has forged partnerships with local communities, national governments, civil society organizations, other development partners and the private sector to implement projects that have helped inform and shape national policies in different sectors. These projects have reduced barriers to the implementation of renewable energy, energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable transport practices.

SGP partners have developed innovative ways of enhancing the role played by energy in improving local livelihoods and benefiting the global environment. The project examples below include contributions to informing policy at different levels in the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Morocco and Ghana.

Helping shape policy for solar energy financing in the Dominican Republic

The use of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology for rural electrification has a long history in the Dominican Republic. Its history has been driven in large part by community-based initiatives spearheaded by NGOs. SGP has contributed in this process by giving support to ADESOL one of the local NGO that has played a great role in promoting Solar PV development in Dominican Republic. ADESOL implemented the *Rural Electrification Project Based on Solar Energy in the Dominican Republic* with an SGP grant of US\$20,500 in 1994. The project sought to remove financial and technical barriers to the spread of solar home systems in the rural areas of the Dominican Republic. The grant resulted in 104 systems financed through a revolving loan fund and 192 direct sales. This relatively humble beginning catalyzed activities to supply electricity in the remote rural areas where the national grid could not reach. By working with commercial banks and establishing a micro-financing mechanism for promotion of solar home systems, the project has shaped the financing of solar energy sector in the Dominican Republic and has informed the overall rural electrification policy in the Dominican Republic.



Contributing to the development of decentralized energy policy in Kenya

Hydropower is central to electricity provision in Kenya. Over 60 per cent of Kenya's electricity is provided through large hydropower schemes. In 1997, Kenya's Electric Power Act allowed IPPs to supply electricity to the grid, but small-decentralized schemes (such as micro-hydropower) that could be used by off-grid communities were not adequately addressed in the Act. As a result, the country lacked policies promoting investment in decentralized power and official standards or incentives to encourage and enable individuals, companies or local communities to take advantage of renewable and environmentally benign sources of power. The *Tungu-Kabiri Community Micro-hydropower Project* was implemented by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) with two SGP grants of US\$38,500 for phase one (1998) and US\$25,000 for phase two (2000). By implementing the project jointly with the Ministry of Energy, important lessons were derived that contributed to informing policy makers during the process of drafting the national energy policy in 2004 to support decentralized energy in Kenya.

Partnership in shaping energy efficiency policy in the brick-making sector in Vietnam

Working in partnership with Governments and local authorities generates the mutual confidence for effective policy dialogue. SGP contributed to the review of energy efficiency policy in the brick-kiln sector in Vietnam by supporting the NGO Vietnam Thermal Technology and Science Association (VTSA) with US\$ 32,145 and co-financing of US\$ 29,308. Between 2001 and 2004, VTSA developed a model of a vertical shaft brick kiln (VSBK) with high efficiency to demonstrate this energy efficient technology in Viet Nam. VSBK is more efficient and effective in brick-making and is used by small-scale producers. The technology has revolutionized the brick-making sector in Viet Nam. SGP worked in partnership with regional authorities, private sector and the communities involved in the sector to promote and develop the capacity of production of VSBK. As a result of this effort, local authorities in the Hai Duong Province have financed 15 additional VSBKs. In recognition of its contribution to improving the brick making industry in Vietnam, the project won a prestigious national award, the Viet Nam Fund for Supporting Technological Creation (VIFOTECH) prize in March 2005. The project was instrumental in catalyzing government focus on energy efficiency policy in the brick-making sector in Vietnam.

Catalyzing the development of effective energy efficiency policy in the ceramics sector, Morocco

Demonstration and a firm grounding in experience helped to inform development of energy efficiency policy in the ceramics sector in Morocco where intensive use of firewood for use in kilns by the majority of potters was denuding the already stressed environment, producing large volumes of smoke as well as GHGs. SGP supported Koutoubia association of potters (NGO) with US\$ 23,704 to implement the project *Combating Atmospheric Pollution through Support for the Diffusion of Gas Furnaces among Potters*. The project raised other resources through co-financing and installed 22 gas furnaces in a village centre of Marrakech allowing annualized reductions in the emission of 12,503 tons of CO₂, combustion of 8,448 tons of firewood and degradation of 55 acres of forest. This project earned the interest of many institutional partners in Morocco including the Centre of Renewable Energy Development (CDER) and the Ministry of Handicrafts. In 2004, two Government institutions launched a study of the ceramics sector in Morocco as background and input to development of the national strategy. The community grantee (CDRT) who executed the project has contributed greatly to the implementation of this study.

Demonstration of electric vehicles in Sri Lanka to inform city policy

An SGP supported project is contributing to the evolution of an electric vehicle policy in the city of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The project *Introduction of Electric Vehicles to Sri Lanka* by the NGO Lanka Electric Vehicle Association (LEVA) received US\$ 28,946 in 2003 to demonstrate zero emission electric three wheeler scooters, train unemployed youth to operate and maintain the demonstration model and produce vehicle parts in order to assemble electric three wheelers locally and conduct an awareness campaign on the benefits of electric vehicles. After a number of trials, the grantee produced an electric three-wheeler and demonstrated it to the Government of Sri Lanka and the City of Colombo. As a result, the City of Colombo is considering the renewal of a fleet of public buses to use electricity within a radius of about 25 Km of the central part of Colombo. The example illustrates how the contribution of a small pilot project can stimulate policy ideas at the metropolitan level.

Participating in formulation of the bio-fuel policy in Ghana

When a grant acts essentially as venture capital, the experimentation or trial period of community projects is short enough to sustain motivation on the side of regional and national governments and is long enough to allow for acceptable and convincing results to stakeholders. For example, the project *Promoting the Production and Utilization of Jatropha Oil in the West Mamprusi District of Northern Region* (US\$ 12,000) and a second project *Cultivation of Physic Nut to Produce Bio-diesel to Mitigate the Threat to Climate Change in Ghana* (US\$ 50,000) successfully piloted the processing of jatropha for bio-diesel to run diesel engines and for glycerin for soap production. These two projects led directly to a number of activities by Government and other stakeholders in Ghana, including the appointment of a nine member national committee to draft a national bio-diesel policy by the Government of Ghana. The committee includes the SGP National Coordinator who has shared the experiences from the projects to help shape the biofuel-use policy in Ghana.

November 2005