

# COMDEKS

## Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative

United Nations Development Programme



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Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

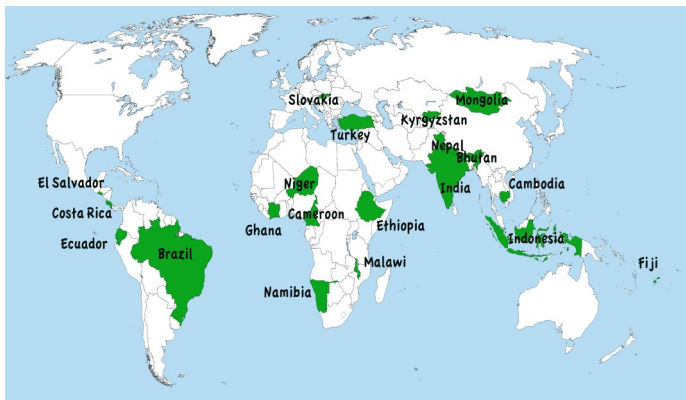
*This newsletter is produced by the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project, implemented by UNDP and funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund. It provides updates on a range of topics including the status of ongoing country programmes, landscape performance indicators, project impacts and results, and noteworthy announcements.*

Welcome to the twentieth issue of our Newsletter!

In this edition, we highlight:

- 1) COMDEKS and SGP grantee from Turkey at the UN Ocean Conference
- 2) Knowledge fair “Mainstreaming grassroots innovations”, India
- 3) Agroecology guidance note published
- 4) Case study booklet on activities in Semau Island
- 5) Portfolio updates: Malawi and Nepal
- 6) Video from Kyrgyzstan

### COMDEKS Country Programmes: June 2017



### COMDEKS and SGP grantee from Turkey participating in the UN Ocean Conference

Coinciding with the World Oceans Day, the first global UN Ocean Conference was held June 5-9 in New York to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The Mediterranean Conservation Society (MCS), COMDEKS and SGP grantee in Turkey and winner of the Equator Prize 2014, participated as a speaker on the panel discussion of the high-level side event “Local Action for the Marine Environment Combined with Achieving SDG14 - Challenges and opportunities for scaling-up and replicating local best

practices for marine and coastal management”. This dynamic panel discussion focused on drivers and catalysts for replication, acceleration and scaling-up of local and marine practices as well as their contribution to SDG14 and the 2030 Development Agenda.

By creating a network of ‘no-take zones’, MCS has enabled fishing communities from the southern Mediterranean coast of Turkey to be leaders of local marine biodiversity conservation. To ensure the long-term viability of the local fishing industry, MCS is communicating the value of sustainable fishing techniques and has been cooperating with regional and national authorities and scientific studies to monitor ecosystem health. As part of the UNDP exhibition “Waves of Action” celebrating community-driven solutions, a photo from MCS activities (see below) is showcased at the lobby of the UN Secretariat throughout June.



Gökova Bay

Photo: Zafer Kizilkaya, MCS, Turkey

Read more about MCS in the recent UNDP-GEF publication “[Sea, My Life.](#)”

### Knowledge fair “Mainstreaming grassroots innovations” held in India

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the UNDP implemented GEF Small Grants Programme, in partnership with



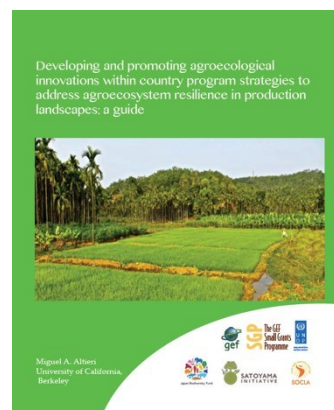
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the Government of India and the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in India, organized a knowledge fair with the theme "Mainstreaming grassroots innovations" in an effort to highlight the innovative solutions developed by communities and civil society organizations supported by the SGP and COMDEKS in India. More than 300 participants attended the fair held 15-17 March 2017 in Ahmedabad, including government officials, development practitioners, members of the academia, the private sector, communities and NGOs. To provide a space for knowledge exchange and peer to peer training the fair included four plenary sessions, over 20 thematic discussions, two training workshops, a market fair called "Green Haat" and a technology fair. Speakers included Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director of CEE, the national host institution of SGP in India, Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi, Programme Officer representing UNDP, Mr. Rakesh Kumar,

innovations to reach wider audiences. The technology fair was an invitation to other partners to also showcase their technologies and exchange knowledge. To promote south-south knowledge transfer, SGP National coordinators from Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka also attended the event and shared good practices from their countries. For more information, please visit the SGP Global [website](#).

*Contributed by Ana Maria Currea, Knowledge Manager, CPMT, GEF SGP, UNDP*

## Agroecology guidance note published in collaboration with GEF SGP



In collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP), COMDEKS has supported the development of guidance material to enable stakeholders to further make meaningful contributions to agroecosystem resilience in selected production landscapes and seascape: Resilience of agricultural landscapes and agroecosystems is critical to restore, harness and conserve natural resources, biodiversity and associated ecosystem services."

This guidance note provides conceptual and methodological elements for developing and promoting agroecological innovations within country strategies to address agroecosystem resilience in specific production landscapes. It is intended to serve as the basis for the implementation of the Innovative Agroecology component of the GEF Small Grants Programme in its 6th Operational phase, and to provide guidance for the agroecosystem outcome of the COMDEKS landscape approach.

The guide explains basic agroecological concepts, principles and its application in the design and management of bio-diverse and resilient farming systems. Building on the COMDEKS landscape approach, the guide strengthens its agroecosystem component to more effectively build the social, economic, and ecological resilience of production landscapes. In particular, it aims to enable communities to make meaningful contributions to agroecosystem resilience in selected production landscapes. It includes tools and methods that can be used to engage smallholder organizations in the participatory analysis of agroecosystem vulnerability to impacts of climate change and other social and economic factors. It also helps communities to identify resilience enhanc-



Knowledge fair participants

Photo: India

Director, International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ms. Diana Salvemini, COMDEKS Programme Manager and UNDP Global Coordinator for the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, and Ms. Ana Maria Currea, Knowledge Manager of the Small Grants Programme. In his remarks, Mr. Kumar mentioned the importance of SGP's alignment with national priorities and the role of the government in scaling up these innovations.

The market place called "Green Haat" showcased the products of over 15 organizations including, organic teas, coffee, creams and herbal oils and sustainably produced organic dye fabrics, among others. The Green Haat was open not only to the fair participants but to the general public in the evenings and generated sales of SGP supported products for over US\$2,250 in the three days it was open. This concept of the Green Haat, pioneered by SGP India, has been used to showcase local innovation at events organized by the government, UNDP and other partners, allowing SGP



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ing innovations, and explains how to test and implement these innovations, monitor progress, and analyze and evaluate results.

[Click here](#) to download the full publication.

### Case study booklet on COMDEKS-supported initiatives produced by SGP Indonesia



In collaboration with the PROCESS Institute, the SGP Indonesia country team has developed a booklet on COMDEKS-supported initiatives in Indonesia with the title "COMDEKS Case Study: Semau Island, Indonesia". Located in the Kupang District of the East Nusa Tenggara Province, Semau Island was selected as the

target seascape for supported activities in Indonesia.

The island represents an area with high biodiversity as well as an environment and local population with high vulnerability to climate change impacts and extreme weather events. It is a rich ecological habitat hosting monsoon forests with a number of species that are particularly significant to the lives of the Semau people, as they are used to build houses and boats, and are sources of food and medicines. The surrounding Sawu Sea is home to one of the world's richest coral reefs and is a critical habitat and migration corridor for 18 sea mammal species, including the endangered blue whale and sperm whale. In addition to threats from climate change and deforestation, biodiversity on the island and the surrounding sea is threatened by the extensive use of chemicals in agriculture, thereby also impacting the livelihoods of local communities that depend on the well-being and sustainability of these ecosystems.

The booklet describes the landscape background and context in which the Semau Landscape/Seascape Strategy in Indonesia was developed, and outlines the process of community consultations and baseline assessment as well as evaluating progress towards project objectives, key activities, results, and innovations. It further elaborates on challenges faced by local communities and project teams, outlines measures undertaken to ensure sustainability of project activities, and explores lessons learned, recommendations and the potential for replication and upscaling. Numerous info-graphics, images from on-the-ground activities, and maps complement the wealth of information featured in this case study booklet.

You can download the publication [here](#).

### Portfolio Updates: Malawi

The Tukombo-Kande area, a fishing town located in the Nkhata Bay district in northern Malawi, was selected as the target landscape for COMDEKS activities. Overall eight projects have been supported since 2013, and the ex-post baseline assessment was conducted in 2016 to assess progress towards project objectives and improved landscape resilience. Supported initiatives have helped develop infrastructure and skills to support local eco-tourism, which represents a new and potentially transformative economic opportunity in the target landscape. An Environmental Education Centre has improved access to environmental information within the community, and improved access to seed varieties has benefited 1,620 community members, increasing average local yields by 34%. More than 400 communities with over 1,500 members overall have adopted sustainable farming practices, planting 1,300 fruit tree seedlings and 8,000 agroforestry seedlings on local fields. Implementation of sustainable agroforestry practices has improved soil fertility, and together with production of indigenous fruits and vegetables has further enhanced local food security and genetic diversity.



Cassava processing

Photo: Malawi

The establishment of 56 village savings and loan groups (VSL), of which 75 percent are comprised of women, considerably contributed to improving environmental awareness and management, adoption of improved cook stoves, and reforestation in degraded areas. Access to finance through the VSL groups has further supported local women to expand their activities in fish mongering and agribusiness to raise and sell rice, cassava, tomatoes, potatoes, and tree seedlings, increasing monthly average incomes by about 73%. Twelve new Village Forest Areas have been created and fostered as landscape level policy, which strengthened local governance of forest resources and their protection.

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About 80 ha of indigenous forests have been protected through community level by-laws, which also positively affect the sustainability of livelihood activities such as irrigation farming, cultivation of wild fruits, livestock grazing, and beekeeping. This resulted in increased livestock ownership in the target landscape by 24%, and additional revenue of MWK 2,898,000 (USD 3,943) from beekeeping activities to date.

Expanding activities beyond the target landscape, SGP recently held two peer-to-peer training workshops on VSL programmes in bordering districts, benefiting more than 600 women. One of these workshops aimed to particularly improve community access to solar energy technologies at full cost recovery.

*Contributed by Alex Damaliphetsa, Malawi National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP*

## Nepal

The Manahari River watershed in the Makawanpur region was selected as the target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Nepal. Based on the Landscape Strategy that was approved in November 2012, seven community-based projects were supported as part of Nepal's portfolio of landscape interventions.



Sustainable farming activities

Photo: Nepal

Overall, about 822 ha of land have been brought under sustainable management practices and more than 3,680 community members have benefited from COMDEKS-supported initiatives. Almost 589,000 seedlings have been planted in steep mountainous ecosystems, including broom grass and banana trees, which considerably reduced erosion and generated income. The same project also conserved the Chiuri tree and varieties of local yams by establishing a seed bank. To promote alternative incomes and improve food security, 25 ponds for Carp-SIS (small indigenous fish species) polyculture have been established. Addi-

tionally, renewable energy technology was promoted by installing 250 sets of solar home systems, 60 biogas plants and 50 sets of improved cook stoves. Projects further supported the construction of irrigation systems, the establishment of a farmer cooperative with 160 members as well as an agriculture collection center for local market development, organic vegetable farming and tropical food production (banana, lemon, and pineapple) on marginal land, and composting for the production of bio-pesticides. During the project implementation period, seven farmer groups were able to harvest 210,000 kg of organic vegetables for a market value of NRS 5.25 million (USD 52,500).

To honor their successes in innovative climate change adaptation, two COMDEKS and SGP grantees from Nepal received the Adaptation to Scale Prize from "Ideas to Impact", an organization funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which supports research and development in Climate Change Adaptation, Energy Access and WASH technologies for developing countries. The Manahari Development Institute (MDI) Nepal and the National Disaster Reduction Center (NDRC) were awarded the Protsahan Prize for having promoted ecosystem-based agriculture as an adaptation practice and introducing sustainable water management practices such as solar water pumps to increase access to water for most vulnerable groups such as single women, disabled and elderly people.

*Contributed by Gopal Raj Sherchan, Nepal National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP, and Vivek Dhar Sharma, Nepal Programme Assistant, GEF SGP, UNDP*

## A video from Kyrgyzstan



Click on the image above to access a video from Kyrgyzstan

*Contributed by Evgeniia Postnova, Kyrgyzstan National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP,*

**Please click [here](#) for previous Issues of the COMDEKS Newsletter.**