

# 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 twenty-fourth issue of our Newsletter!

In this edition we highlight:

1. Launch of new COMDEKS publication and UNDP side event at SBI-2
2. COMDEKS participation in IPSI Case Study Workshop 2018 in Japan
3. GEF SGP Upgraded Country Programmes Workshop held in Ecuador
4. Landscape Strategies developed in Sri Lanka
5. Portfolio updates: Cameroon and Mongolia

### COMDEKS Country Programmes: June 2018



### Launch of new COMDEKS publication and UNDP side event at SBI-2 in July

From 9-13 July 2018, the 2nd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-2) will take place in Montreal, Canada. The SBI was established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with the first meeting held in May 2016, to review implementation progress and strategic actions to enhance implementation; as well as strengthen means of implementation and operations of the convention and the Protocols. During this meeting, UNDP, in collaboration with Conservation



International (CI) and the Secretariat of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) established within the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), will host a side event on Tuesday, July 10th. This event with the title “Financing Landscape Management Approaches: Replication and Upscaling for Biodiversity and Sustainable

Development” aims to share knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication and upscaling of community-based landscape planning and management approaches and practices through sustainable finance. Speakers from the GEF, UNDP, GEF SGP, CI, and IPSI will share lessons and best practices from the COMDEKS Programme, the GEF SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, the GEF-Satoyama Initiative Project, and partnership activities. This side event will also be an opportunity to officially launch COMDEKS’ new publication “Assessing Landscape Resilience: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the COMDEKS Programme.” The aim of this publication is to summarize the key lessons learned and illustrate the best practices drawn from the practical applications of the Resilience Indicators and other allied tools for community consultation during more than five years of field experience in the COMDEKS Programme. This report is the conclusion of a desk review and a stock taking exercise of all documents—qualitative and quantitative—produced by country programmes about their indicator-related experiences. It intends to contribute to the growing body of evidence-based literature describing the practice of participatory monitoring using indicators and related tools, and documenting its importance in community consultation, education, and mobilization.



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Please click [here](#) to download the full publication. For more information on the side event, please check our [blog](#).

### COMDEKS participates in the IPSI Case Study Workshop 2018 in Tokyo, Japan

From 22-24 May 2018, the IPSI Secretariat hosted the IPSI Case Study Workshop 2018 at United Nations University Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. The aim of this workshop was to bring together the authors of selected case studies for the “Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review – Vol. 4”, which is the fourth in a publication series developed by the IPSI Secretariat in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). It consists of a compilation of case studies by IPSI member organizations providing knowledge and lessons related to “socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS)”, taking advantage of their potential to provide concrete and practical knowledge and information and to contribute to policy recommendations.



Workshop Participants

Photo: IPSI

The theme for this fourth volume of the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review is “Sustainable use of biodiversity in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) and its contribution to effective area-based conservation”. The primary focus of this volume is to highlight how the sustainable use of biodiversity as practiced in well-managed SEPLS can contribute to effective area-based conservation of biodiversity. The IPSI Case Study Workshop 2018 was held as part of the process of developing this publication, with authors from various countries presenting their case studies for a participatory review and discussion with the editorial team to finalize the case studies and elaborate key messages and lessons learned for a synthesis paper. On behalf of COMDEKS, Ms. Tamara Tschentscher presented the case study ‘Conserving local marine and terrestrial biodiversity and protecting community resources through participatory landscape governance in Semau Island, Indonesia’, which will be featured in the publication. This is the second UNDP contribution to this publication series, after contributing

to the [first volume](#) with a case study on COMDEKS activities in Turkey.

One conclusion that emerged during discussion sessions was that a variety of sustainable SEPLS management practices and approaches can contribute to both area-based conservation and human livelihoods, and that such approaches will be critical to protecting biodiversity in the long run, particularly outside of Protected Areas.

The publication is expected to be launched by the end of 2018. Additional information can be found on the [IPSI website](#) as well as on the [COMDEKS website](#).

### Global Workshop for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes held in Quito, Ecuador

From April 16 to 19, 2018, the Global Workshop for the GEF SGP Upgraded Country Programmes (UCPs) was hosted by SGP Ecuador in Quito. Participants included representatives from the Global Environment Facility, the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, the SGP Central Programme Management Team, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), SGP National Coordinators, as well as UNDP Country Offices, and other partners and stakeholders.



Workshop participants and local partners

Photo: Ecuador

Throughout the four days, the workshop offered a valuable platform to 1) review lessons, challenges and successes in implementing SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, provide strategic guidance to project implementation and analyze prospects and preparations for the next operational phase; 2) share and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication and upscaling of community-based landscape planning and management approaches and practices; and 3) build staff technical capacity through specialized training on the community-based landscape management approach and M&E practices, as well as financial and technical reporting procedures. The 15 SGP UCPs are currently consolidating

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and adapting the community-based landscape planning and management approach piloted under COMDEKS. Successful on-the-ground community projects will be scaled up across landscapes and thematic areas, replicating best practices and lessons from COMDEKS-supported initiatives.

The 4-day workshop opened with welcoming remarks from the SGP National Coordinator from Ecuador, Ms. Anamaría Varea, the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Arnaud Peral, the Director of the Program Support to the National Protected Areas (PASNAP/MAE/KFW) of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment, Mr. Pablo Drouet, the UNDP-GEF Head of Climate Change and GEF Principal Technical Advisor, Mr. Stephen Gold, the Partnerships Coordinator from the GEF Secretariat, Ms. Pilar Barrera, and the Global Coordinator of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, Ms. Diana Salvemini.



Lunch prepared from local produce

Photo: Ecuador

On Day 3, a site visit was organized to Tabacundo in the municipality Pedro Moncayo, the Biocorridor Pisque Mojanda San Pablo, the internationally known Otavalo Market, and agroecological farms in Paquiestancia, located in the Biocorridor Cayambe, to learn about project activities and results from the local communities first hand.

### Landscape Strategies developed in Sri Lanka using the SEPLS Resilience Indicators

Sri Lanka is adopting a landscape management approach for SGP's Sixth Operational Phase. Three diverse target landscapes have been selected: Colombo (urban wetlands), Knuckles (forest and buffer zone), and Mannar (coastal area). In the Colombo Wetlands landscape, 103 local stakeholders (75 men and 28 women), including community members and leaders, private sector/farmers, civil society, and government representatives, participated in the baseline assessment using the Resilience Indicators, piloted through COMDEKS, in November 2017. Within the same month, the baseline assessment and community consultations were conducted within four workshops held for the Knuckles Conservation Forest and Buffer Zone, with a total of 283 participants (169

men and 114 women). Finally, 173 local stakeholders participated in overall six workshops conducted for the baseline assessment in the Colombo target landscape.

Based on the socio-economic and environmental challenges identified during these participatory assessments, all three Landscape Strategies were finalized in January and February 2018. These challenges are as diverse as the types of target landscapes, and range from soil and water degradation due to human activity and habitat loss impacting local biodiversity, to governance issues over local resources and reduced crop productivity due to soil degradation and climate change effects. In line with the COMDEKS approach, each Landscape Strategy defines four key landscape outcomes that the community-based initiatives will aim to achieve through collective action.



Baseline Assessment in Mannar

Photo: Sri Lanka

Earlier this year, SGP Sri Lanka conducted a capacity building workshop for 110 community organizations that had previously expressed interest in implementing projects in the three target landscapes, to provide guidance for the development of project concepts. Upon review of received project concepts by the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC), presentation of results to multi-stakeholder groups in each target landscape, and site visits, 18 projects have been selected, with project activities currently starting up.

*Contributed by Dinali Jayasinghe, Sri Lanka National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP, and Nuwan Perera, Sri Lanka Programme Assistant, GEF SGP, UNDP*

### Portfolio Updates

#### Cameroon

In light of local vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Bogo landscape in northern Cameroon, various initiatives have been supported through COMDEKS to improve the resilience of local communities. Key objectives included fostering sustainable natural resource management and social inclusion of women and children. Agroforestry activities, promotion of biogas technologies and improved cook stoves, as well as the use of bio-slurry from biogas generation as organic

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fertilizer aimed to diversify income opportunities, reduce pressure on local vegetation and alleviate hardship from collecting biomass fuel, and improve agricultural productivity.

To promote agroforestry and the use of alternative energy sources, 850 community members (285 men, 310 women, and 275 youths) received training in agroforestry techniques and environmental conservation. As agriculture and breeding of small and large ruminants are the main local economic activities, agro-silviculture and sylvopastoralism were promoted as agroforestry techniques. Plant seedlings for agroforestry practices were raised through two existing community nurseries and four additional ones created through project support. So far, community members have planted 5,903 seedlings of multipurpose trees and shrubs species.



Community nursery

Photo: Cameroon

To reduce community reliance on fuelwood, which is depleting forests and endangering the environment, bio-digesters were installed in two households and 22 people were trained to produce improved cook stoves from locally available materials. 232 community members, including 221 women, received training on the use of these cook stoves, of which about 230 were distributed to 230 community women. In an effort to reduce chemical fertilizer use and improve agricultural yields, two demonstration plots of 200sqm each have been set up in collaboration with a women's group, where 120 community members (including 65 women) have learned about the benefits of bio-slurry as organic fertilizer. As a byproduct from biogas generation, this bio-slurry helps to reduce input costs and to prevent soil and water degradation from chemical fertilizers, which improving agricultural productivity. Overall, 14,125 ha of degraded land have been restored through the supported landscape approach and community-led initiatives.

*Contributed by Marie-Laure Mpeck Nyemeck, Cameroon National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP, and Aimé Kamga Fogué, Cameroon Programme Assistant, GEF SGP, UNDP*

## Mongolia

Community partnerships in Mongolia's forest region have become the driving force to stem illegal logging and are

developing beekeeping into a sustainable livelihood strategy. The landscape approach supported by COMDEKS has helped to create a common vision to restore the environment for improved and sustainable livelihoods, and has demonstrated the power of collective action to local partner communities. Following the economic recession after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, many former forestry workers in Mandal Soum – Mongolia's forest region in the Selenge region – turned to herding as a source of income. Combined with an influx of herders from Mongolia's Western region in search of pastures and market access, this added to illegal logging and pressure on pasture lands. Land degradation and forest depletion, and resulting loss of water sources, was undermining the base of livelihoods and exacerbating the impacts of climate change, which is already causing more frequent droughts and higher local average temperatures.



Beekeeping in Mandal Soum

Photo: Mongolia

A number of activities such as support to community forestry groups facilitating participatory sustainable forest management, promotion of new income-generating activities including beekeeping, fruit cultivation, and community gardening, and encouraging collective management of community protected areas with further perspectives of ecotourism development, have helped to create alternative livelihoods and hence mobilized local communities to protect their forests from illegal logging and to regularly exchange knowledge and best practices.

Ms. Oyungerel leading the CBO Khurgalag, SGP partner in the COMDEKS target landscape, was a pioneer in local beekeeping activities and their activities a model for effective community partnerships for forest protection and livelihood development. Today, about 1,200 forest community partnerships are active in Mongolia, and government support to such groups and mechanisms has been fostered in national environmental legislation.

*Contributed by Ganbaatar Bandi, Mongolia National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP*

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