

COMDEKS

Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative

United Nations Development Programme



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Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

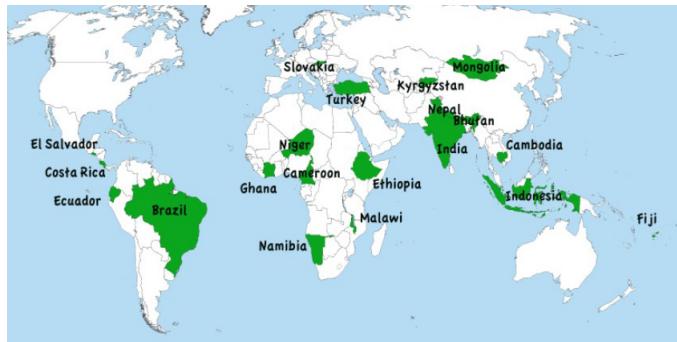
This newsletter is produced by the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project, implemented by UNDP and funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund. It provides updates on a range of topics including the status of ongoing country programmes, landscape performance indicators,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

Welcome to the twenty-sixth issue of our Newsletter!

In this edition we highlight:

1. IPSI publication launch at CBD COP14 in Egypt
2. Sustainable energy promotion in Pakistan
3. Upscaling cocoa cultivation in Ghana
4. Gender mainstreaming in Bolivia
5. Portfolio updates: Brazil and Turkey

COMDEKS Country Programmes: December 2018



COMDEKS at the CBD COP14 in Egypt and launch of Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review Vol.4

From 17 to 29 November 2018, the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, as part of the UN Biodiversity Conference. The events of this year's bi-annual conference followed the theme "Investing in biodiversity for people and planet," bringing together decision-makers and civil society from over 190 countries to exchange experiences and step up efforts to halt biodiversity loss and conserve the critical ecosystems that billions of people depend on for food and water.

During this conference, UNDP, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), Conservation International Japan (CI), and the Institute for

Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) jointly hosted two side events. The first one was a collaboration with CBD on "Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes for Biodiversity and Livelihood: Roles in Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" on November 17th, during which Ms. Sarah Wyatt from the GEF Secretariat, speaking on behalf of Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO and Chairperson, highlighted the importance of integrated landscape approaches protecting biodiversity and improving livelihoods that allow communities to take ownership. Ms. Wyatt further noted that the approach of the Satoyama Initiative is taken into account in the GEF-7 Replenishment. Ms. Yoko Watanabe, SGP Global Manager, further highlighted COMDEKS contributions of over 200 projects towards capacity development for community-led conservation. See [IISD-coverage](#) for further information.



Ms. Yoko Watanabe

Photo: William Dunbar, UNU-IAS

On November 19th the second joint side event - "Consolidation and Replication of Effective Landscape Approaches for Biodiversity Conservation and Human Livelihoods" - highlighted and discussed best practices and lessons learned from almost a decade of landscape approaches under the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), as well as the potential to replicate, upscale, and extend them up to and into the post-2020 CBD agenda. The three unique funding mechanisms for landscape and seascapes approaches – COMDEKS, the Satoyama Development Mechanism (SDM),



SGP
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Small Grants
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Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

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Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan

Japan
Biodiversity
Fund

Convention on
Biological Diversity

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2018

and the "GEF-Satoyama Project – were showcased during this event. Additionally, the event served as an opportunity to launch the "Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review vol. 4." The fourth in a joint UNU-IAS and IGES publication series, this volume's case studies discuss how the sustainable use of biodiversity as practiced in well-managed SEPLS, can contribute to effective area-based

conservation of biodiversity, and it includes the COMDEKS case study "*Conserving local marine and terrestrial biodiversity and protecting community resources through participatory landscape governance in Semau Island, Indonesia*".

For further information and to download the publication, please visit the [IPSI Website](#).

Contributed by Dr. Emad Adly, Egypt Country Program Manager, GEF SGP, UNDP, and Ghada Ahmadein, Egypt Programme Assistant, GEF SGP, UNDP

Active engagement of women in promoting sustainable energy technologies in Pakistan

During the GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase, SGP Pakistan is replicating the landscape approach in the Indus Delta, comprising the coastal districts Thatta, Sujawal and Badin. The Indus Delta was selected due to its richness in natural and cultural assets, its unique biodiversity and the motivation of local communities and other stakeholders to implement sustainable landscape management activities to tackle socio-ecological challenges and explore opportunities to build resilience. During the first year of implementation after the development of its Landscape Strategy in September 2017, the project has been able to make good progress towards its objective to enable community organizations in Pakistan to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience.

Promoting increased use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies at community level, SGP has introduced four new innovations: a fully automatic hydraulic Compressed Earth Block (CEB) production machine; an improved model of SGP Pakistan's energy-efficient (EE) portable metallic stove for warm climates; an EE portable metallic stove for cold climates; and a coal-ash brick manufacturing machine. In addition to promoting solar lanterns, home systems, water pumps and street lights, these technologies considerably reduce resource use and CO₂ emissions through efficient production and consumption technologies.

SGP Pakistan is currently supporting 38 community-based projects to enable community groups and NGOs to develop and implement adaptive landscape management strategies.

Six of these are directly implemented by women-led organizations, promoting women's leadership. SGP is providing technical and financial support to these organizations for capacity building of women on energy-efficient (EE) stoves, solar products, training and awareness raising campaigns, as well as on gender-based violence. Moreover, SGP aims to link women-led project partners implementing cooking, lighting and housing projects in a dialogue and cooperation platform called "Healthy Indoors Network", which encourages female entrepreneurs and collaboration of different stakeholders.



GEF SGP-promoted fuel-saving cook stove

Photo: Pakistan

Contributed by Masood Lohar, Pakistan Country Program Manager, GEF SGP, UNDP

Replication and upscaling of sustainable cocoa cultivation in Ghana

COMDEKS-supported initiatives in the Weto Range in Ghana have placed a strong emphasis on enabling local communities to diversify agricultural landscapes by introducing agroforestry and integrated crop-tree farm management, and diversification of production systems, including cultivation of cash crops for income generation and more diverse food crops for improved food security throughout the year.

According to Mr. Godfried Donkoh, President of the Weto Platform, a multi-stakeholder landscape governance body, over 1,500 farmers within the landscape are currently engaged in climate smart agriculture on 3,500 ha of land. Farm holdings have increased from 1.2 ha to 2 ha, with the dominant cash crops cultivated being cocoa, avocados, pears, oranges, pineapples, bananas, and coffee. Through their initiatives, vegetation on Weto mountain – previously known as "fire mountain" distressed by illegal logging and frequent wildfires – has increased by 60% through agroforestry practices and rehabilitating habitats for biodiversity.

Ms. Arku Mabel, a 55-year old woman farmer in the Weto Range, says "Not only is the cocoa plantation back, but there are some wild animal species today on the mountain like forest bush pigs, bush bucks, giant rats, and even patas monkeys that were locally extinct but are now back. Today we have our own community cocoa nursery to supply seedlings to interested farmers. Thanks to COMDEKS, and the gods".

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Cocoa nursery in Logba Alakpeti

Photo: Ghana

This seedling nursery was established in collaboration with the COMDEKS grantee Hope for Rural Humanity in 2014. Besides supplying cocoa and timber seedlings to farmers free of charge, farmers were also trained to integrate trees into cocoa farms for higher yields. Building on these successes in rehabilitating local cocoa production for sustainable livelihood development and to meet the demand for cocoa seedlings created through this initiative, the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) has been upscaling the production of hybrid cocoa seedlings, promoting agrobiodiversity and cocoa smart farming since 2015. It upscaled the cocoa nursery to a capacity of 500,000 seedlings and established another of the same size, and hired eight farmers to operate them. So far, about 3,400 farmers have received cocoa seedlings and COCOBOD's target is to place 10,000 ha under cocoa smart farming overall.

Contributed by George Ortsin, Ghana National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP

Gender mainstreaming in activities promoting landscape resilience in Bolivia

During the GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase (GEF-6), SGP Bolivia is replicating and upscaling the landscape approach in five diverse protected areas, located in three ecoregions and each representing a different type of landscape. The overall objective is to improve livelihoods by conserving natural habitats, restoring degraded ecosystems and reinforcing sustainable production for socio-ecological resilience. This involves activities strengthening landscape governance, restoring ecosystem functions, and increasing access to markets, particularly for innovative products integrating traditional knowledge.

Gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical element of SGP efforts in Bolivia. A gender analysis was conducted during the design phase of GEF-6, and a more thorough analysis targeting the five landscape strategies developed during the first year is currently being finalized to guide project implementation in the five target landscapes through a Gender Action Plan. Gender issues have been considered during the landscape strategy development

process, and specific indicators have been designed to track progress towards women's empowerment in community-led projects. A gender focal point is designated within the SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in the selection of each project.

Since its operational start in March 2017, 27 projects have been approved and are currently under implementation, eight of them implemented by women-led CBOs, and benefiting 703 families (461 women and 765 men) of 54 peasant, indigenous and intercultural communities. Through project support promoting women's empowerment and capacity building, women are increasingly assuming leading roles, especially in ecotourism and production activities.



Women of Motacucito Community

Photo: Bolivia

While apiculture, for example, used to be practiced exclusively by men, women have started to be actively involved in handling hives. Similarly, in fruit processing of the janchicoco native palm, women were able to demonstrate that they are often better suited for the tasks involved. Through the opportunity to build and demonstrate their skills, more and more doors are opened to women for their empowerment. As Mrs. Ninfa Millares from the Entierillos community has emphasized, "now women can be members of the organization, work just like men and receive the same benefits".

Contributed by Ruben Salas, Bolivia National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP

Portfolio Updates

Brazil

Overall, nine COMDEKS-supported projects in the target landscape in Brazil – the Jequitinhonha Valley – have promoted sustainable integrated water management, sustainable farming techniques and the conservation of natural resources to increase community resilience, combat land degradation and ensure sustainable production. Six of these projects have particularly contributed to creating a sustainable water management infrastructure, able to store 37.5 million liters of water. Organic horticulture and agroecological practices such as zero tillage, crop rotation, organic pesticides and fertilizers

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are contributing to reduce negative impacts of agriculture on the environment. Over 180 ha are now under sustainable management, and 200 plant and 15 animal species have been protected through COMDEKS-supported activities.

Aside from these notable direct results of community-led initiatives, introducing the landscape approach has had considerable overall impacts on community action in the area: strengthened coordination among stakeholders and participatory governance of community resources. Expanding on these achievements and the common vision fostered through the landscape approach, a network of partnership organizations was established in 2015. It is managed by a group of organizations such as the SGP and COMDEKS grantee Alternative Agriculture Center Vicente Nica (CAV), the Union of Rural Workers, the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Enterprise of Minas Gerais (EMATER), and the Turmalina City Hall, among others. Through regular meetings, the network aims to exchange perspectives and lessons on environmental issues in the region, as well as to develop appropriate solutions.



Performance at knowledge exchange event

Photo: Brazil

One of its largest knowledge exchange events was held in July 2017, a multi-stakeholder workshop for approximately 300 participants from 20 municipalities on "Environmental Impacts in Upper Jequitinhonha: Reflection and Networking". The network and other participating local governments, communities, and private sector and civil society organizations are determined to further drive sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation in the Upper Jequitinhonha Valley through a collaborative approach.

Moreover, SGP Brazil will be replicating and upscaling the Landscape Approach piloted by COMDEKS as one of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes during GEF SGP OP7.

Contributed by Isabel Figueiredo, Brazil Country Program Manager, GEF SGP, UNDP

Turkey

Implementation of the COMDEKS Programme in the Datça-Bozburun Peninsula has contributed to lasting change for participating communities and partnering civil society organizations, demonstrating the benefits of collective action

in promoting resilience of socio-ecological production landscapes.

Facilitating stakeholder collaboration and networking has enabled civil society to increase its participation in policy and decision-making processes, motivating stakeholders to continue on beyond the project implementation period. The CBOs that carried out COMDEKS projects formed a group called the Balikaşiran network, which has continued to evolve and expand into a multi-stakeholder partnership, including many new organizations interested in landscape activities. The network and its members have already gained significant credibility in the region, and it is now well recognized and regularly consulted by local governments and central government organizations. These have also tasked the network to coordinate the development process of a long-term sustainable development strategy for the Datça-Bozburun peninsula.



Balikaşiran network, SGP and program evaluator meeting

Photo: Turkey

Moreover, SGP Turkey continues to promote the landscape approach combining traditional and modern practices for enhanced landscape resilience, replicating and scaling up activities in two new landscapes. According to Nature Society (Doga Dernegi), recent studies in Turkey have concluded that Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) managed by local communities applying traditional landscape management practices seem to be more effectively conserving biodiversity than KBAs following central policies. Recognizing this opportunity with 203 out of 305 KBAs being government-managed, other civil society organizations have also developed strategies to promote socio-ecological production landscapes among their work with KBAs.

To further build capacities in sustainable landscape management, Nature Society annually hosts a practical course on Indigenous Production Landscapes, in April 2020 also in English. For further information, click [here](#).

Contributed by Gökmen Argun, Turkey National Coordinator, GEF SGP, UNDP

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