



Activities



Community-based Conservation of Threatened Ecosystems and Species

- Strengthening community-led biodiversity conservation and promoting traditional ecological knowledge
- Developing biodiversity-friendly and ecosystem-based livelihoods, including climate-resilient agriculture, NTFP-based value chains, nature-positive tourism, marine habitat restoration and blue economy initiatives
- Protecting and restoring threatened, rare, endemic, and endangered species through participatory species monitoring, habitat restoration and addressing threats like poaching, invasive species and habitat degradation

Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, and Food Security

- Improving productivity and efficiency across food value chains in ecologically sensitive regions
- Promoting soil and water conservation, traditional seed and breed conservation, organic and natural farming and climate-smart agriculture practices
- Encouraging livelihood diversification and food security through integrated farming systems, agroforestry, indigenous crop and livestock varieties and sustainable marine fisheries

Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-Benefits

- Promoting decentralized clean energy solutions to address energy poverty.
- Supporting community-managed renewable energy systems (e.g., micro-hydro, biogas, solar-powered systems)
- Facilitating deployment of solar lighting, solar irrigation pumps, energy efficient cookstoves, clean cooking solutions etc.
- Expanding off-grid energy systems for productive uses, including agri-processing units, eco-tourism enterprises, community centres etc.

Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management

- Promoting community-led, gender-responsive approaches for chemicals and waste management
- Supporting decentralized solid waste management systems in rural areas, protected areas, and ecotourism sites
- Implementing circular economy practices, including waste segregation, composting, recycling enterprises etc.

Catalyzing Sustainable Urban Solutions

- Demonstrating scalable, bottom-up models for integrated urban development
- Implementing nature-based and low-carbon urban solutions including decentralized composting and plastic recycling units, urban biodiversity corridors, rooftop gardening for food production and cooling urban wetland restoration
- Supporting sustainable transport and mobility innovations
- Supporting sustainable urban livelihoods through green skilling initiatives, upcycling-based enterprises, circular economy solutions

Contact Information

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SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India (SGP-OP8)

From Ideas to Impact: Driving Innovation, Inclusion, Empowerment, and Sustainability

The Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP-OP8) is being implemented in India by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) serving as the National Host Institute.

The SGP-OP8 empowers local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to undertake initiatives that enhance community well-being and generate global environmental benefits. The programme focuses on integrated landscape-seascape approaches to address intensifying pressures from ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Core Objectives

- Provide grant assistance for interventions that improve socioeconomic conditions while protecting the environment.
- Strengthen the capacities of local institutions and communities through learning-by-doing, skill development and technical assistance.
- Facilitate innovation and scaling up by catalysing multi-stakeholder alliances and dialogue platforms.
- Promote social inclusion, specifically focusing on youth, women, tribal groups and persons with disabilities.

Strategic Priorities

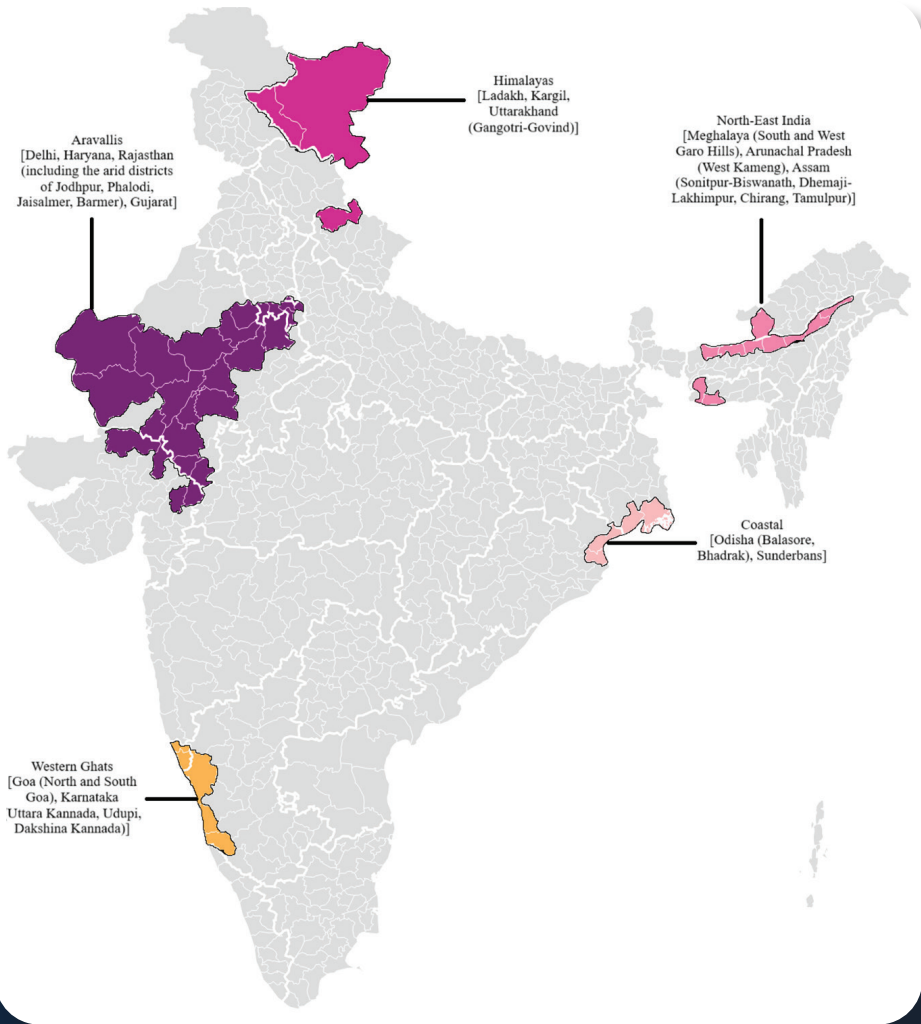
- **Community-based Conservation of Threatened Ecosystems and Species:** Strengthening local governance to conserve and protect biodiversity-rich areas and endangered species.
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, and Food Security:** Promoting agroecological practices and resilient food systems to sustain livelihoods in vulnerable regions.
- **Low-carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:** Scaling up decentralized renewable energy (solar, micro-hydro, biogas) to reduce emissions and improve rural livelihoods.
- **Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management:** Supporting circular economy models, reducing synthetic agrochemical use and decentralized solid waste management through community-led innovations.
- **Catalysing Sustainable Urban Solutions:** Implementing scalable models for waste management, urban biodiversity, and low-carbon transport for integrated urban sustainability.



Priority Landscapes

Region	State	Proposed District
Aravallis*	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Dausa, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Karauli, Nagaur, Pali, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Udaipur
	Gujarat	Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Aravalli
	Haryana	Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, Charkhi Dadri
	Delhi	South Delhi
Western Ghats	Goa	North Goa, South Goa
	Karnataka	Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada
Coastal	Odisha	Balasore, Bhadrak
	West Bengal	Sundarbans- South 24 Parganas
North-East	Meghalaya	South Garo Hills, West Garo Hills
	Assam	Sonitpur, Biswanath, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Chirang, Tamulpur
Himalayas	Arunachal Pradesh	West Kameng
	Ladakh	Kargil
	Uttarakhand	Gangotri, Govind

* - Priority Districts will be identified through consultation with stakeholders



Intervention Landscapes in OP-8

Programme’s Snapshot

National Executing Agency: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GoI

Implementing GEF Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

National Host Institution: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Duration: 2026-2028

Budget: USD 5,030,135

Expected Outcomes

- Area of land restored: 4,000 hectares
- Area of landscapes under improved practices: 30,000 hectares
- Area of marine habitat under improved practices: 5,000 hectares
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions mitigated/avoided: 49,275 metric tonnes CO₂e
- Renewable Energy Installations: 1 MW
- Direct project beneficiaries: 15,000 of whom 7500 are females

