

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on SGP OP5 Strategic Projects

What is a Strategic Project?

Strategic Projects (SPs) need to be strategically positioned at the country level and consider the strategic positioning by further building the capacity of civil society to participate and lead in the implementation of innovative policies and programmes.

How can Strategic Projects be co-financed?

Co-financing for SPs can come from sources in or outside the countries. SPs cannot however be co-financed through country allocations with other GEF funds. In parallel with the SP, countries may nonetheless support regular SGP projects that “align themselves” or create synergies with the SP. These regular projects must raise their appropriate third party co-financing, and are implemented and executed according to the standard SGP procedures.

How is a Strategic Project developed and approved?

The National Steering Committee (NSC) will decide whether or not to fund the SP.

Prior to NSC review and approval, a SP Concept Note should be shared with the relevant CPMT focal area Programme Advisor (with a copy to the DGM). The SP Concept Note should clearly articulate the intended strategic outcomes and objectives of the SP as it fits within the Country Programme Strategy and global priorities.

The SGP NC may review SP proposal concepts deemed eligible and of priority with the proponent(s) to assist the relevant parties to develop the full SP proposal. If need be, a planning grant can be given to help the proponent develop the full SP proposal.

When is a Strategic Project MOA signed?

The MOA is prepared and signed in the same way as for a regular SGP project (i.e. after the NSC has reviewed and approved the proposal).

What is the disbursement schedule of Strategic Projects?

The number of disbursements cannot be less than three. The first disbursement ratio shall, on average, be 35%. For individual projects a higher or lower ratio may be assigned, never to exceed 50%, depending on project needs, the total grant amount and risks involved. Each following disbursement can only be made in line with the MOA reporting requirements.

Can SPs contribute to transboundary objectives shared with another SGP country programme?

Yes, in some cases, SPs may complement the objectives of another SP, or regular SGP project (under \$50K) in another country. Where relevant, the NCs and NSCs of different SGP countries may share information about their CPS and SP portfolio. However, the lead CSO which signs the MOA assumes all responsibility associated with project partners.

Can a lead CSO receive a regular SGP grant (up to \$50K) and a SP grant (up to \$150K) simultaneously?

In some cases, a CSO partner may receive a regular SGP project (up to \$50K) while “partnering” in a SGP Strategic Project (i.e. as one of a member of organizations, but not as the lead proponent).

Can a lead CSO receive multiple Strategic Project grants simultaneously?

No. One CSO partner can only lead one SP at a time.

Can a partner CSO be involved in more than one Strategic Project at a time?

Yes. A CSO partner can be involved in more than one SP (i.e. as one of a member of different organizations, or as a partner).

How is the grant disbursed to the lead CSO and to the partners to complete their activities?

Once the first disbursement is received by the lead CSO, they are responsible for the distribution and use of funds by all other partners and obtaining documentation and proof of payments. Subsequent disbursements will be made upon receipt and clearance of reports by the NSC.

How will the projects be monitored?

The NC will complete standard M&E practices as covered by the SGP Operational Guidelines and UNOPS Standard Operating Procedures. The main tool in monitoring will continue to be the reports submitted and the field visits conducted by the NSC.

The selection process

