

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY/SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
OPERATIONAL PHASE 6**

Minutes of the GEF/SGP National Steering Committee Meeting

29 – 30 March 2019

Jie Jie Beach by Jetwing

Present

Dr. Keerthi Mohotti



Mr. M. P. D. U. K. Mapa Pathirana
Attended only 30 March 2019



Ms. Padma Abeykoon
Attended only 29 March 2019



Ms. Tharuka Dissanaïke



Dr. Lalith Welamedage



Mr. Suranjan Kodithuwakku

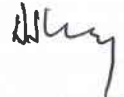


Mr Vidura Relapanawa

Dr. Soma De Silva



Dr. Sujatha Wijethilake



Ms. Achala Samaradivakara



Mr. S. A. M Azmy



UNDP/GEF/SGP

Ms Dinali Jayasinghe (NC)



Mr Nuwan Perera (PA)



Ms. Isurun Gamage (Intern)

Ms. Kasuni Premachandra (Intern)

Excused

Mr. Ajith Silva

Dr Raji Gnaneswaran

Mr. Sarinda Unambuwa

Ms. Deepa Liyanage

Ms. Sureka Perera

Agenda Item 2 – Proposal Evaluation

The proposal evaluation criteria, evaluation method and customized scoring sheet for the strategic project was explained. The background of the strategic project, expected outcomes of the strategic project and executability was also discussed. It was decided to enlighten the NSC by providing a brief background on the observations made by the members that carried out the field visit during the time of proposal appraisal, whereby questions can be focused towards a specific outcome based on the proposals submitted by project proponent.

A total of 14 projects comprising 6 projects for Knuckles landscape, 5 projects for Mannar landscape and 3 projects for Colombo Wetland landscape presented their project proposals to the NSC and were evaluated separately by each NSC member and a summary of scores allocation are *annexed – A*.

The list of presented projects and observations made by the NSC are as follows;

Knuckles Landscape

Ref. No.	Name of Proponent	NSC Remarks
14.	Ambalangoda Development Foundation	The SP ToR was not well read and understood. The project is confined only to 3 acres of land on biodiversity conservation. No proper scientific evaluation on the project biodiversity outcomes were presented.
13.	Women Development Foundation	No proper understanding on the current projects and activities that are going on in the landscape and proposed activities are not focus and strategic.
12.	Integrated Development Association (IDEA)	The project focuses only on a bottom-up planning process for an eco-village concept without paying attention towards a strategic approach. Implementation methodology is not clear and landscape approach cannot be observed through the project.
02.	Nature Resource Conservation	The selected location of the project has potential to work as a strategic project. However, the proponent doesn't have the capacity to under the proposed activities. Furthermore, one SGP small grant under this phase is in operation in this location.
03.	Ekabadda Praja Sanwardana Kantha Maha Sangamaya	Good ground level community mobilization has been done being a women-based organization and the selected location (Wilgamuwa) is a strategic location that is isolated in the Knuckles landscape. No human-elephant conflict due to the elephant fence that has been established. Severe issues are faced in terms of land degradation and improper water utilization including CKDU. A site that was initially proposed (Himbiliyakada) was taken out as advised by the NSC members during field visit due to its location where it falls outside the landscape and was replaced with a new site (Sulugune). Potential to undertake as a strategic project is high.
10.	Soba Sanrakshana Padanama	Proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

Mannar Landscape

Ref. No.	Name of Proponent	NSC Remarks
08.	Soba Sanrakshana Padanama	<p>The selected landscape is very important, and the proposed project is very vital for the eco system as well the community that's involved in agriculture farming as well as enhancing the forest cover of Wilpattu forest buffer zone. The project is very clearly drafted and has high potential.</p> <p>Suggestions were made to change from the concept of Climate Change Mitigation towards adaptation and to revisit sustainable water management practices in the project through identification of water sources and community awareness, rainwater harvesting mechanisms towards agricultural and personal use, water retention methods, identification of suitable crops and crop varieties for dry weather, mitigation of agro-chemical usage and tree planting</p>
07.	Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum	Project is trying to promote agriculture through rainwater harvesting methods which is difficult to appraise the proposed outcomes. Cannot be considered as a strategic project.
11.	South Asia Partnership Sri Lanka (SAPSRI)	<p>The project proposed to plant trees along A9 road in Nanattan. However, this activity can be done upon approval from Forest Department as per forest officer in the area.</p> <p>Project also proposes to plant mangroves in an area which is not feasible as the area is used by local fishing community to dock their boats. Project is not strategically designed but have included small components all around the Mannar landscape with various activities that are not interrelated. However, the tank rehabilitation activity is relevant.</p>
15.	Environment Protection Foundation	The proponent is working together with a current SGP grant recipient whereby technically disqualified for the Strategic Project.
06.	HELP-O	<p>Proponent has not understood the concept of SP until the field visit.</p> <p>Main objective was to promote fish waste management through creation of biogas. Past experience of biogas production was extensively expressed, and similar initiative is proposed as a response to a question raised by the Mayor in Mannar with regard to waste management in the Mannar landscape.</p> <p>It was also mentioned the collaboration with IUCN was not highlighted in the presentation and to indicate under partnerships.</p> <p>Proponent expressed his preference to work in the Mannar landscape if given the opportunity compared to Colombo as</p>

	more ground level work and focus has been given due to the potential that is available to carry out a project.
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Colombo Landscape

Ref. No.	Name of Proponent	NSC Remarks
09.	Podujana Himikam Kamituwa (Committee for Peoples' Rights)	The project focus on growing rush and reed in the wetland where it will be used towards development of rush and reed products which cannot be considered as a strategic project. However, the selected wetland is very important conservation site which is prone towards flooding.
04.	Sri Lanka Manawa Ha Parisara Sanwardena Padanama	The project was well presented and clearly defined the activities by taking the observations and suggestions made during the field assessment into consideration. The proponent has mobilized the community well and have developed good rapport which was not seen in any other projects during field assessment in the Colombo wetland landscape. Good co-financing approach as well as sustainability can be observed including providing a market for farmers. This project can be considered as a strategic project.
05.	HELP-O	Similar proposal that was proposed to the Mannar landscape was proposed. No clear idea on how to move forward but to integrate people in the surrounding area and promote waste management through biogas production. Past experience was mainly highlighted and hoping to replicate the same without even a pilot initiative to assess the possibility to carry out the project. No proper communication and consultation have been initiated with other stakeholders that are working under SGP. However, the proponent strongly believes he can coordinate with others and make the project work if given the opportunity. It was highlighted, no proper market and price was observed for agro products developed through the projects operating in the area under SGP and planning to establish mechanisms to mitigate the situation which is contradicting to the actual situation that is on the ground where there is a very high demand but finding difficulty in supplying.

Based on the scores and ranks provided by the NSC members, **Sri Lanka Manawa ha Parisara Sanwardena Padanama** secures the Strategic Project for the Colombo Wetland Landscape subject to revisions. It was also suggested to seek possibility to include Barawa, the location proposed by Podujana Himikam Kamituwa and integrate to the chosen project and to ultimately focus towards creation of a research and knowledge centre for school children, academics and university graduates and public in the future.

Ekabadda Praja Sanwardana Kantha Maha Sangamaya was selected for the Knuckles landscape and **Soba Sanrakshana Padanama** was selected for Mannar landscape subject to revisions on project activities which will be shared through a meeting with the NGO and relevant NSC members.

It was decided to call for a meeting and request the relevant changes to be made on the proposals for each landscape based on the findings and assessment during field visits and identified gaps to be filled in the landscape. After which the selected proponents will meet with the consultants hired to support in formulating the Strategic Projects towards upscaling to discuss on resource mobilization and upscaling activities. During which, a theory of change document to all 3 landscapes will be prepared and shared with the proponent for preparation of a comprehensive proposal that will address expected outcomes out of the project which will be then shared with the NSC members for final endorsement. Suggestions were made to offer the selected proponents with a planning grant if required during proposal revision.

Agenda Item 4 – Progress Review of Knowledge Management Teams

Furthermore, the Knowledge Management grantees from both Knuckles and Colombo landscapes presented their progress to the NSC.

Name of Proponent	Remarks
Surakshi	<p>KM should focus on activities that will contribute to the projects on the ground through learning and knowledge sharing mechanism with other landscape grantees instead of proposing exposure visits to other grantee projects. Concerns were also raised regarding the baseline survey which still hasn't been completed despite projects being already implemented. Surakshi was requested not to summon NGOs for meetings but to visit them and to do a common brief baseline study instead of a lengthy questionnaire. NSC also reviewed the activities proposed in the ToR. It was also stated Ms. Shireen Samarasooriya has been appointed as the overall advisor from 2019. NSC also proposed to have experts including wetland experts in the team to support the NGOs to fill the gaps as the overall advisor doesn't hold wetland expertise.</p> <p>Also, it was agreed to share on how funds allocated for workshops will be utilized and what components will be captured along with the work planned by them for this year by next week.</p> <p>Furthermore, all costs related to newspaper publications with regard to SGP projects in the 3 landscapes will be borne the Colombo KM group and assistance with regard to publication services will be obtained by the Dumbara Mithuro Organization through their media networks.</p>
SLEES	<p>It was suggested to include a drop-down table containing relevant activity/ies proposed to be carried out with the quantities and current status of the selected project when clicking on the GIS map that has been developed where the users will be able to easily understand and assess the work that is carried out in the landscape.</p> <p>It was decided to come up with a tool where periodical updates on knowledge sharing mechanisms, work carried out, status of work performed on the ground by NGOs, etc. can be assessed without restricting to a NSC meeting to update on the progress.</p>

It was also decided to give specimen for Knowledge Management groups on preparation of display boards on projects in order to maintain a uniform standard and the design for each board it should be vetted and endorsed by the NSC prior to development.

Day 2 – Agenda Item 3 – Any Other Matters

Mid-Term Review Recommendations

Recommendations provided by the consultant was shared with the NSC and proposed revisions on the ProDoc targets were also presented. Certain further revisions were discussed but NC pointed out that LD targets cannot be changed by BD targets as it is not possible to change agro – ecology (LD) targets to Biodiversity (BD) targets. Therefore, the mid-term review targets seem more realistic for the programme

Indicator	Pro Doc Target (Ha.)	Achievement Thus Far (Ha.)	Proposed Revised Target (Ha.)
Biodiversity (BD)	10,000	26,000	17,500
Reforestation (BD)	10,000	2,000	2,500
Wetland Rehab (LD)	3,000	6,000	9,000
Soil Conservation (LD)	2,000	2,000	3,000
Agro-ecological/home gardens (LD)	8,000	2,000	3,000
Grazing (LD)	2,000	0	0
Totals	35,000	40,000	35,000

Rajarata Eco Culture Project under OP 6

It was decided to terminate the project approved for Rajarata Eco Culture for the Mannar Landscape based on audit findings where the NGO registration presented to SGP secretariat is a forged document and to send a letter in writing via registered post on the decision that was made to the proponent. The funds allocated shall be used in the future for further development of existing project activities or any need identified in the Mannar landscape through proponents that are currently engaged in the area under OP6.

Mannar Eco Friends

The concerns were briefly shared, and it was informed the project offered to Mannar Eco Friends has been suspended. The matter will be discussed extensively at the next NSC meeting. However, considering the gravity of the issue, it was decided to immediately send a letter via registered post to Mannar Eco Friends organization requesting for a meeting to discuss on the concerns and upon which inform the findings and the steps that will be taken.

It was also decided to utilize balance funds of US\$ 30,000.00 remaining to a new organization to carry out Knowledge Management activities in the Mannar landscape and a suitable candidate to be hired through an advertisement process upon following the above-mentioned process. It was also decided not to offer this task as a consultancy but to use the same process that was used to select KM groups.

Annex - A

NSC Meeting - 29 - 30 March 2019
Strategic Project - GEF/SGP OP6
Project Score Tabulation
Knuckles Landscape

Serial No.	Name	K14 Ambalangoda Development Foundation	K13 Women Development Foundation	K12 Integrated Development Association (IDEA)	K02 Natural Resource Conservation	K03 Ekabadda Praja Sanwardana Kantha Maha Sangamaya	K10 Soba Sanrakshana Padanama
1	Dr. Keerthi Mohotti	11	15	0	12	30	NGO didn't Present
2	Mr. Mapa Pathirana	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	
3	Mr. Vidhura Relapanawe	14	20	17	11	33	
4	Dr. Soma De Silva	14	22	17	14	29	
5	Ms. Achala Samaradiwakara	16	14	14	15	28	
6	Mr. S. A. M Azmy	16	21	24	11	30	
7	Mr. Suranjen Kodithuwakku	11	15	11	10	35	
8	Dr. Lalith Welamadage	15	21	19	21	26	
9	Ms. Tharuka Dissanayaike	16	20	19	12	33	
10	Ms. Pathma Abeykoon	10	16	15	15	31	
11	Dr. Sujatha Wijethilake	18	23	20	22	30	
Total		141	187	156	143	305	-
Avg.		14.10	18.70	15.60	14.30	30.50	-
Status							
Rank							

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Mannar Landscape

Serial No.	Name	M08	M07	M11	M15	M06
		Soba Sanrakshana Padanama	Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum	SAPSRI	Environmental Protection Foundation	HELP-O
1	Dr. Keerthi Mohotti	25	10	13	0	10
2	Mr. Mapa Pathirana	Absent	Absent	Absent	22	10
3	Mr. Vidhura Relapanawe	27	21	24	Absent	Absent
4	Dr. Soma De Silva	32	15	24	29	9
5	Ms. Achala Samaradiwakara	25	14	17	12	9
6	Mr. S. A. M Azmy	31	23	16	0	Absent
7	Mr. Suranjen Kodithuwakku	30	20	16	0	Absent
8	Dr. Lalith Welamadage	22	18	Abstained	17	20
9	Ms. Tharuka Dissanayaike	31	24	25	15	14
10	Ms. Pathma Abeekoon	26	16	15	Absent	Absent
11	Dr. Sujatha Wijethilake	23	Abstained	26	30	14
Total		272	161	176	125	86
Avg.		27.20	17.89	19.56	13.89	12.29
Status						
Rank						

Colombo Landscape

Serial No.	Name	C09	C04	C05
		Podujana Himikam Kamituwa	Sri Lanka Manawa ha Parisara Sanwardana Padanama	HELP-O
1	Dr. Keerthi Mohotti	15	25	11
2	Mr. Mapa Pathirana	Absent	28	10
3	Mr. Vidhura Relapanawe	19	Absent	Absent
4	Dr. Soma De Silva	18	28	12
5	Ms. Achala Samaradiwakara	22	34	12
6	Mr. S. A. M Azmy	25	27	9
7	Mr. Suranjen Kodithuwakku	27	29.5	0
8	Dr. Lalith Welamadage	24	26	21
9	Ms. Tharuka Dissanayaike	21	31	12
10	Ms. Pathma Abeykoon	22	Absent	Absent
11	Dr. Sujatha Wijethilake	22	36	14
Total		215	264.5	101
Avg.		21.50	29.39	11.22
Status				
Rank				