**Briefing Note**

**SGP Steering Committee Meeting**

**15 December 2021, 11:00-12:30PM EST**

**Expected Participants**

* GEF- Gustavo , Francoise, Paula, and Gabriella (in addition, Sonja/Advisor to the CEO, and Quynh/Finance may join)
* CSO Network – Sano and Maria
* UNDP – Pradeep, Diana, and Nick
* SGP CPMT – Yoko, Terence, and Sulan

**Objectives**

* Review and discuss the proposed increased ambition and key elements of the strategic directions of the SGP in GEF-8 and next steps
* Recap of GEF’s/UNDP’s mgt responses to the SGP Joint Evaluation and discussion on proposed related recalibrations of SGP modalities in GEF-8
* Review and discuss the scope and timeline of the longer-term vision exercise.

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and opening, Chair of the SGP Steering Committee (Francoise)
2. Overview of GEF’s increased ambition for SGP and proposal for GEF-8 (Francoise/Gabriella)
* Reflections by UNDP, CSO Network and SGP CPMT and discussion (all)
1. Recap of GEF’s/UNDP’s mgt responses to the Third Joint Evaluation of SGP (Diana/Gabriella)
* Overview of proposed recalibrations of SGP modalities in GEF-8 (Gabriella)
* Deep-dive presentations
	+ SGP Upgrading policy (Diana)
	+ Universal access/opportunity (Yoko)
* Reflection and discussions (all)
1. Overview of proposed longer term vision exercise (Gabriella)
* Review, discussion and agreement on the scope and timeline (all)
1. Any other Business
2. Wrap up (Francoise)

**Expected outcomes for each Agenda Item**

1. **GEF-8 Program Directions and Ambition**

Francoise and Gabriella will introduce the latest thinking on the SGP 2.0 Strategy under the GEF-8 Program Direction Paper. This will include strategy on the new pillars/modalities in addition to the existing SGP.

*Expected outcome:*

* *While it is expected that the updated GEF-8 SGP strategy would not include change in the existing SGP and updates are mostly expected on the new pillars/modalities, it would be important to be informed and have an opportunity to review and provide inputs to the latest strategy before posting considering the possible implication/synergy. GEF to share ASAP the latest updated draft of the SGP section of the GEF-8 Program Direction paper for review and inputs by UNDP and CPMT before expected posting on Friday this week.*
* *Synergy among the different pillars/modalities to be further clarified.*
1. **Recap of the SGP Joint Evaluation**

Gabriella and Diana will make a brief presentation to remind all participants on the recommendations, management responses, and actions to be taken in response to the recent SGP Joint Evaluation, particularly in relation to the UCPs and Long term visioning exercise.

*Expected outcome:*

* *Reconfirm the joint needs and commitments to address the mgmt responses/actions within the agreed timeframe.*
1. **Deep dive on the recalibrations of SGP modalities**
2. **Upgrading Countries**

Diana will make a brief presentation on the background and way forward. Share the recommendations from the informal technical group on the issue (GEF, UNDP, and CPMT) to have no distinction in operational modality between UCPs and SGP Global Countries. All countries to be supported by increased GEF core funding and continued STAR access on a voluntary basis.

Expected outcome:

* Agree on the general direction with UCPs.
* Agree on the next steps (e.g. further consultations with UCP countries and key stakeholders?) and incorporate the recommendation in the GEF-8 SGP Implementation Arrangement paper for the GEF Council in June 2022.
1. **Universal Access/Coverage of new countries**

Yoko will make a brief presentation on the background and current status.

Expected outcome:

* Generally agree to move forward with the 6 countries under GEF-7, and additional countries to be considered under GEF-8 in relation to availability of new resources.
1. **SGP Longer term vision exercise**

Gabriella will make a brief presentation on the draft Concept Note for the Long Term Vision exercise that has been drafted earlier by CPMT/UNDP and updated by GEF. The concept note clarifies initial thoughts on the scope, process, and timeline.

Expected outcome:

* Generally agree on the draft Concept Note, and move forward with the recruitment of the consultant and actions outlined in the paper.
* Agree on the phased approach: GEF-8 Implementation Arrangement Paper by June 2022; and Long Term Vision by Dec 2022. This will enable the existing SGP modality under UNDP to move forward in a timely manner at the start of GEF-8, while the new modalities to be clarified at a later stage.
* Agree on a highly consultative process between GEF, UNDP, and SGP, while agreeing that the exercise will be led by the GEF Secretariat and roles/responsibilities of partners will be further clarified.