



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Ref No: RFP/SGPOP7/IND-2025-2

# **Upscaling Grants for Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries under the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India**



# Solicitation of Proposal

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Small Grants Programme  
Central Project Management Unit  
The Energy and Resources Institute  
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi -110003, India

**Subject: Request for Proposal (RFP) from NGOs/CSOs/CBOs for Upscaling Grants for Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries under the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in India**

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. You are hereby requested to submit a Proposal for Upscaling Grants in the selected focus landscapes comprising North-East/Central Semi-Arid/Indian Coast under the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India.
2. It may be noted that the proposal submitted by you would be treated as a basis for the contract between TERI and your organization. In case of selection of your organization, you will be required to execute an agreement with TERI. Such an agreement will include entire General Terms and Conditions applicable in the office of TERI for the purpose of hiring and procuring services in terms of Annexure-IV.
3. To facilitate submission of the referred proposal, please find appended below the complete details.
4. This RFP is not to be construed in any way as an offer to contract with your Organization/Institution.
5. One organization will be eligible to apply for only one upscaling grant.
6. The proposal must be prepared in English.
7. Proposals should be submitted on or before the deadline (i.e., within the stipulated duration from the date of publication of this RFP). Terms and Conditions of your Proposal shall remain binding upon you for a minimum period of one hundred twenty (120) days. You are requested to ensure that your proposal is submitted well before the deadline. It should also be ensured that proposal must be substantiated and documented with necessary documents and certificates duly self-attested in the pdf format.
8. The Proposal that complies with all the requirements, which achieves qualifying marks in technical evaluation criteria and offers the best value for money shall be considered for selection and award of contractual work. Any offer that does not meet the requirements shall be rejected.

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9. Please be advised that TERI is not bound to accept any Proposal, award a contract, or be responsible for any costs associated with a Service Providers preparation and submission of the Proposal, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.
  10. The decision of the National Steering Committee of SGP-OP7 on selection of the upscaling grantees will be final.

Thank you and we are anticipating obtaining your proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Manish Kumar Pandey

National Coordinator

SGP-OP7, India

**Website- <https://sgp-india.org/>**

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## GEF Small Grants Programme in India

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) along with UNDP is implementing the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) Small Grants Programme in India. The project aims to build capacities of the local communities to take collective action for conservation and sustainable development thereby generating global environmental benefits. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has been appointed as the National Host Institute. SGP India has three focal areas i.e. Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation and is being implemented in three regions of the country.

### Landscapes

The SGP-OP7 project is being implemented in three landscapes, as outlined in the following table:

**Table 1 Target Regions, State and Districts for SGP-OP7 Project**

| Region                   | State          | Intervention Landscape Districts |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Central Semi-Arid Region | Madhya Pradesh | Barwani                          |
|                          |                | Chhatarpur                       |
|                          |                | Damoh                            |
| Indian Coastal Region    | Maharashtra    | Ratnagiri                        |
|                          |                | Sindhudurg                       |
|                          | Tamil Nadu     | Ramanathapuram                   |
|                          |                | Virudhunagar                     |
| North-East Region        | Assam          | Baksa                            |
|                          |                | Barpeta                          |
|                          |                | Bongaigaon                       |
|                          |                | Darrang                          |
|                          |                | Dhubri                           |
|                          |                | Kokrajhar                        |
|                          |                | Nalbari                          |
|                          |                | Udalguri                         |
|                          | Meghalaya      | East Khasi Hills                 |
|                          |                | West Khasi Hills                 |
| Ri Bhoi                  |                |                                  |

## Thematic Areas

### 1. Biodiversity

This thematic area promotes the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture and nature-based livelihoods. Key interventions include:

- Agrobiodiversity Conservation: Preserving and promoting indigenous seeds, plant species, and livestock.
- Protection of Endemic and Endangered Species: Establishing community-managed ecological corridors to enhance habitat integrity.
- Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity: Initiatives such as Indigenous Community Conserved Areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas.
- Strengthening Local Community Institutions: Supporting Biodiversity Management Committees and Peoples' Biodiversity Registers.
- Forest Area Conservation: Livelihood-based eco-restoration activities.
- Marine Habitat Conservation: Practices like seasonal protection of critical fishing grounds.
- Collaborative Protected Area Management: Joint initiatives with protected area administrations (e.g., community patrols).
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Management: Mitigating conflicts in settlements near protected area boundaries.

### 2. Land Degradation

The focus of this thematic area is on addressing issues such as soil erosion, deforestation, damaged agricultural land, and desertification. Key interventions include:

- Agroecosystem, Forest, and Marine Ecosystem Restoration: Reforestation, improved grazing practices, planting resilient trees and mangroves, and establishing nurseries.
- Community-Managed Natural Regeneration: Supporting the restoration of degraded lands and coastal ecosystems.
- Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: Promoting the sustainable utilization of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) within buffer zones and productive landscapes.

## Project Results

The strategy of the SGP India OP7 project is centered on building socio-ecological resilience by developing the skills, capacities, and resources necessary to conserve and restore critical ecosystems. This includes sustainable utilization of ecosystem services, improving the sustainability and productivity of agro-ecosystems, and deploying clean energy solutions within the intervention landscapes and the broader target regions.

**The expected outcomes of SGP India-OP7 India are as follows:**

- Core Indicator 3: 10,000 ha of land restored
- Core Indicator 4: 60,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices (Excluding

protected areas)

- Core Indicator 5: 1,200 ha of marine habitat under improved practices (Excluding protected areas)
- Core Indicator 6: 695,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime direct); 100,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (Lifetime indirect)
- Core Indicator 11: 16,800 direct beneficiaries, including 9,240 women (55%) and 7,560 men (45%)

## **Background information on the Upscaling Grants**

Under SGP, various activities are implemented on sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security in close alignment with related GEF-7 focal area strategies and impact programs. This sector is tainted to be one of those that contribute immensely to greenhouse gases. Agricultural practices contribute to emissions of the greenhouse gases CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. Conversion from conventional to organic farming leads to reduced emissions per hectare. Efforts to limit GHG will significantly help in achieving the global environment benefits that GEF strives to achieve. Focus has been more on working with local farmers and fishers to promote and shift practices to sustainable agricultural and fisheries production.

Three key strategic approaches will be used to drive this initiative through Upscaling Grants. These are the use of: i) focused programmes on sustainable agricultural production. An upscaling grant will guide NGOs to continue SGP work on agroecology to reduce land degradation trends and provide ways to reduce dependence on harmful agricultural practices. Applying agroecological principles helps communities respond adaptively to environmental changes. This includes supporting sustainable land management practices, biodiversity, waste recycling, organic farming, and pest control through natural mechanisms. That said, it is important that the new initiative explore linkages with other focal areas to analyze how communities use agroecological principles to increase resiliency. For example, this initiative is closely linked with the chemicals focal of GEF which requires that efforts are made to remove the use of inorganic chemicals in the agricultural sector. Therefore, through upscaling grants the emphasis on climate-smart agroecology practices will be further strengthened.

Secondly, the focus on ii) enhancing sustainable fisheries will be prioritized. Up to 80 percent of the world's commonly fished species are overharvested and are in danger of declining significantly without possibility of self-repopulation. Three billion people in the world also depend on and source their proteins from fishing resources. This unsustainable path must be reversed. The current approach to fisheries management, indiscriminate fishing practices and use of inappropriate gears that lead to overharvesting fish and destruction of spawning areas will be addressed by creating awareness to communities so that depleted fish populations are given time to recover, ensuring sustainability of utilization. In addition, efforts to link coastal zone management and land use activities in the uplands following a ridge to reef pattern will be prioritized, particularly in small island developing states where the two landscapes are closely linked. Furthermore, with smarter management systems, known as fishing rights, there is the possibility of reversing the incentives that lead to overfishing. Under fishing rights, fishermen's interests are tied to the long-term health of a fishery. Their income improves along with the fish population. This will be also a key driver in this initiative. The upscaling grant

will also work with community grantees to enhance coastal zone management, using natural solutions for addressing coastal zone degradation, sea level rise and saltwater intrusion and surges.

Thirdly, iii) delivery of large sized agroecology and agricultural programs. This modality will help to fully utilize the strengths and advantages of the SGP for a more effective implementation of social inclusion, equity and participatory development in the small holder farmers and fisher folks. The upscaling grant will contribute to increased ecological connectivity, reduced carbon emission, reduced forest fragmentation, and improved management of biodiversity at the landscape level, particularly in forest corridors. Community based climate resilient agriculture, fisheries and food practices that improve productivity and deliver other benefits will be tested and promoted. The focus on sustainable land and forest management is meant to enhance climate smart innovative agroecology practices and upholding of agroecology principles. These principles will be realized through guiding SGP community grantees to adopt appropriate climate-sensitive agriculture practices to achieve short-and-long-term agricultural development priorities at local level. These approaches will help to enhance community and ecosystem resilience and to integrate other land-based development activities in the production landscapes.

# Terms of Reference (TOR) - SGP Upscaling Grant for Sustainable Agriculture Practices

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The upscaling grant has been planned to facilitate durable impacts. The grant is envisaged to be awarded to experienced organization to upscale sustainable agriculture practices and fisheries across all the three targeted landscapes. This call for proposals is announced to on board an NGO/ CBO/ CSO to guide and support SGP community grantees for upscaling of projects related to sustainable agriculture as well as develop comprehensive strategy for upscaling of the interventions covering all three landscapes.

1. To work with Community Grantees to promote sustainable agricultural and fisheries production.
2. To work with Community Grantees to increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain addition processes both on-farm and off-farm.
3. To works with Community Grantees to promote diversification and improved livelihoods, such as through water harvesting, post-harvest management, business skills development to empower communities to better manage their natural resources and lead to global environment benefits
4. To develop and implement at least 1 community-based land use plans per landscape that integrate climate resilient sustainable practices and other standards (e.g. land tenure, community participation)
5. To provide technical support on value addition of agri/community-based products, establishment of market linkages including certification, labelling/branding and access to market channels as appropriate
6. Conduct thematic multi-stakeholder consultations and training programmes to engage various partners and gather insights on key areas of focus, challenges, and opportunities for the Small Grants Programme (SGP). Also capture and document key points of discussion and agreement from these stakeholder consultations at national and landscape/seascape level.
7. Develop a regional strategy for Biodiversity, Land Degradation and Climate Change solutions that provide an overview of the region and explore how these solutions can be scaled up. The strategy should include a baseline study identifying the challenges, risks, and barriers related to the above-mentioned sectors, and it should be supported by opportunities and region-specific solutions. It is essential to engage multiple stakeholders, including women and youth, to incorporate their perspectives and foster future collaboration for the expansion of such projects.
8. Estimate and quantify the pressure on natural resources in pre project scenario and quantify reduced pressure on natural resources (including CO2 mitigation) in post project scenario based on the expected outcomes of the SGP
9. Assist in consolidating achievements/results from different projects and reports highlighting pre and post project implementation impacts.



10. Identify best practices for upscaling and document the same for knowledge dissemination.
11. Develop sustainability plans for the projects to ensure long-term impact, scalability, and continued benefits for the communities and ecosystems involved.
12. Any other tasks assigned by the National Coordinator.

## **Deliverables**

The selected NGO is expected to deliver the following:

1. Inception Report: A detailed work plan, methodology, and timeline for project implementation.
  - a. Baseline Assessment: A report on the current state of projects covering sustainable agriculture and fisheries. Identification of at least 10 projects which have scaling up opportunities.
  - b. Implementation Plan: To undertake activities for stakeholder engagements, training and capacity building on best practices for replication. Identification of at least 10 agri/community products for branding, labeling and market linkages.
2. Capacity Building Materials: Resources for training local communities and stakeholders
3. Upscaling Strategy: A comprehensive strategy on potential upscaling solutions in entire landscape
4. Progress Reports: Regular updates on project implementation and stakeholder's engagement.
5. Final Report: A comprehensive report on project results, including lessons learned and recommendations for future sustainability.

## **Duration and Location**

Project Duration: The total project duration is 12 months.

Location: The project will be implemented across the specified landscapes and districts where improved land practices are being targeted.

## **Funding**

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) can fund projects with grants up to USD \$50,000.

## **Grant Awards**

The GEF SGP awards grants to NGOs on a competitive basis.

## Co-Financing

Applicants must demonstrate co-financing for the project. The proposal must clearly outline the amount of co-financing (both in investment mobilized and in-kind) and the sources of this funding.

## Eligibility Criteria

### Registration

1. The NGO/CSO/CBO should be registered as a trust / society in India for more than 5 years. The organization must have a minimum of 5 years of experience. Registration documents of the Trust/Society to be submitted.
2. NGO/CSO/CBO must be registered at the DARPAN portal of NITI Aayog and should have a valid unique ID with updated details.
3. IT returns for FY 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (mandatory) and FCRA (if applicable) to be submitted.
4. Audited accounts (including Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure, Schedules, Notes of Accounts, and Auditor's Report) for the FY 2021-22 2022-23 and 2023-24 to be submitted.
5. The latest Annual Report should be submitted (FY 2023-24)

### Organisational Experience

1. The organization must have at least 5 years of experience working on community-based programmes in the field of sustainable land management, conservation, agriculture and climate resilience.
2. The applicant organization should have offices/local presence in the three intervention landscapes, (Proof of the projects completed in the focus landscape to be submitted).
3. The organization should have undertaken minimum 3 projects in the field of land degradation and biodiversity conservation of value more than or equivalent to INR 15 lakh each in the last 5 financial years, viz. FY, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 & 2023-24 preferably in the focused landscapes.
4. Ability to co-finance the project by fund raising through parallel sources is expected.
5. Preference will be given to organizations who have participated in GEF Small Grants Programme and similar UNDP projects.
6. Experience in the relevant thematic areas will be preferred.
7. Capacity to deliver high-quality project management and reporting.
8. The organization should not have been debarred by any Government or UN agency, at any point of time. A self-declaration to this effect to be submitted.

## Financial Capacity

The Applicant Organization should have received an average turnover of INR 30,00,000 (thirty lakhs) from project grants during the last 3 (three) financial years viz. 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24 preceding the Proposal due date. Organizations need to provide audited accounts and Auditor's Report.

## Availability of Key Professionals

The Organization must have professionals having adequate experience and expertise in thematic areas and project management for this assignment. Organization should make available Curriculum Vitae of all Key Professionals meeting the requirements of the project. Detailed and duly verified CVs of such professionals should be provided as per the format given.

## Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals should include the following:

### Technical Proposal

- Understanding of the scope of work.
- Proposed methodology and work plan.
- Team composition and CVs of key personnel.
- Previous similar projects and references.

### Financial Proposal

- Detailed breakdown of costs, including personnel, travel, materials, and other expenses.
- Total project budget (in INR).

## Submission and Contact Information

Proposals must be submitted no later than 10 April 2025 by email on [sgpindia@teri.res.in](mailto:sgpindia@teri.res.in). Late submissions will not be considered.

For further information or clarifications, please contact:

The National Coordinator  
UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, India  
Email: [sgpindia@teri.res.in](mailto:sgpindia@teri.res.in)