



CALL FOR PROJECT CONCEPTS

Deadline: 12th September 2022

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OVERVIEW

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports small-scale projects for activities that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people’s wellbeing and livelihoods, taking into consideration gender, vulnerability, and equality concerns. The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is now in its 7th Operational Phase.

The objective of the 7th Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme is “to promote and support community-based innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes. GEF SGP is inviting applications from qualified organisations for the 7th Operational Phase (OP7) in Malawi.”.

In this operational phase (OP7), non-profit organisations will provide support with innovative solutions to environmental challenges faced by communities within the following GEF focal areas: Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Climate Change and Chemicals and Waste. Along with the focal areas mentioned above, the following multifocal “strategic initiatives” should be kept in mind while formulating concept notes.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



1. COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION OF THREATENED ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES

- i. Improve management effectiveness of protected areas and community conserved areas governance efforts between civil society organisations and regulatory government agencies.
- ii. Improve community-led biodiversity-friendly practices and approaches, including promoting a blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, green infrastructure, etc.).



2. LOW-CARBON ENERGY ACCESS CO-BENEFITS

- i. Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods to most rural and remote communities.
- ii. Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.



3. CATALYSING SUSTAINABLE URBAN SOLUTIONS

- i. Demonstration of innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions/approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)

GRANT AMOUNT

Small grants, ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$50,000.00, will be awarded to eligible organisations per Operational Phase of the GEF SGP . A comprehensive organisational assessment will be conducted for each eligible organisation

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applying organisation must:

- Be a registered non-governmental organization (NGO) community-based organisation (CBO), or civil society organisation (CSO) registered in Malawi.
- Only projects targeting Mzimba/Rumphi/Nkhatabay will be considered
- For the strategic initiative on catalyzing sustainable urban solutions, organisations in all the major cities (Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzuzu) are eligible
- Have at least three years of relevant experience and proven records of working with communities in environmental and agricultural-related activities.
- Demonstrate strong community involvement in the planned or proposed project.
- Project concepts must address one or more of the following thematic areas of focus: capacity development, innovation, project sustainability, the potential for replication, upscaling, mainstreaming, and gender equality and equity considerations are highly desirable and will be considered during the project concept review process

**THE MAXIMUM
DURATION FOR A
PROJECT IS 24
MONTHS.**

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible organisations should prepare a project concept using the standard GEF SGP project paper format and guidelines. Successful organisations will then be requested to submit a full project proposal.

They can apply for a planning grant of up to US\$5,000.00 to develop their project proposals using the inclusive community planning approach. Proponent organisations must ensure their proposed project ideas are inclusive and aligned to the GEF focal areas, Strategic Initiatives and OP7 Indicators as presented in the GEF SGP Operational Phase 7 Country Programme Strategy.

The project concept paper format and the OP7 Country Programme Strategy can be downloaded below:

- [GEF SGP project concept paper template](#)
- [OP7 Guidance Notes](#)
- [Country Programme Strategy OP7 2022](#)

Concepts not completed in the GEF SGP format and submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Complete concepts papers should be submitted electronically to mphandak@unops.org and addressed to:

The National Coordinator
GEF Small Grants Programme

