



COMDEKS COUNTRY PROGRAMME LANDSCAPE STRATEGY TEMPLATE AND GUIDELINES

This Guidance Note is aimed at SGP National Coordinators who will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of COMDEKS programme activities in each country. Each country, led by the NC and National Steering Committee (NSC), must prepare a COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy as a simple and user-friendly tool to complement and link with the CPS. In collaboration with the NC, the NSC contributes towards and approves the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy (CPLS).

The COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy template and guidelines are designed for this purpose (see appendix 1) to help National Coordinators simplify as well as receive maximum benefit from the COMDEKS planning process. The template is intended to provide a common structure for the COMDEKS CPLSs, and to ensure portfolio-wide coherence.

The COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy and work plan must be submitted to the COMDEKS Project Coordinator for technical review. After receiving feedback from the COMDEKS Project Coordinator on a draft of the COMDEKS CPLS, the strategy should be submitted to the NSC for final approval in order to ensure consistency with national environmental and development priorities.

The strategy will guide the selection of COMDEKS activities in each country. Grant making and knowledge-related activities would be carried out following the adoption of the strategy by the NSC. The SGP Operational Guidelines and standard operational procedures must be applied in managing the portfolio of COMDEKS projects.

Background

COMDEKS will support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes (human-influenced natural environments) and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences on the results of such local community activities, toward the realization of “societies in harmony with nature” as defined in the vision of the *Satoyama* Initiative.

The main objective of COMDEKS is to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities in socio-ecological production landscapes to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize landscapes, in accordance with the following five perspectives of the *Satoyama* Initiative.

- Resource use within the carrying capacity and resilience of the environment
- Cyclic use of natural resources
- Recognition of the value and importance of local traditions and cultures
- Natural resource management by various participating and cooperating entities
- Contributions to local socio-economies

COMDEKS will focus primarily on supporting and coordinating concrete actions at the grassroots by providing small-scale finance for local community-led projects within given priority landscapes, to



achieve landscape-scale impacts in developing countries. The Project will review, analyze, and codify results of these on-the-ground actions to distill and disseminate lessons which can be used as a basis for replication in other parts of the world.

Baseline Assessment

Baseline assessments will be instrumental for the development and finalization of the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy.¹ A baseline assessment provides NCs and stakeholders in the target landscape with information about the current state of the landscape which can be used as a basis for setting goals and identifying desired outcomes.

In order to conduct the landscape-wide baseline assessment, a stakeholder workshop may be organized by an experienced NGO or academic institution as an on-the-ground capacity building project which may be financed by a grant. The experience gained from doing so should be consistent with the overall aim of producing case study material in particular in relation to community consultations, stakeholder participation, and piloting indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes. The maximum amount per grant award for such a baseline assessment project will be limited to USD 25,000, as part of each country's Year 1 COMDEKS grant allocation. A specific call for proposals will need to be issued for such baseline assessment projects, with applicants required to provide a detailed budgetary estimate (see Request for Proposal template for conducting a Landscape-wide Baseline Assessment for the COMDEKS project).

Lessons learnt in carrying out baseline assessments and community consultations are expected to be captured to help develop case studies to be shared with other SGP country programmes as well as external partners.

COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy

As a first step, a COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy (see template below) will be developed for each COMDEKS country, and will describe the approach to maintaining, rebuilding and revitalizing sustainable socio-ecological production landscapes with activities at the community and landscape levels, including priority sites, and measures for project implementation. The Country Programme Landscape Strategy is a short, focused document which guides the development of a portfolio of projects, and represents the consensus of the Country Programme and relevant stakeholders on key issues such as priority landscapes and sites for potential COMDEKS activities.

The selection and implementation of specific micro-projects in each country at the landscape level will be guided by its COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy, each of which will have its own set of outcome targets that will be consistent with and contribute to the overall results of the COMDEKS programme at the global level. Each individual community-based project will have a project-specific objective, which will contribute to the results to be achieved at the landscape level under the CPLS in each country.

¹ See guidelines for Assessing Socio-ecological Production Landscape (SEPL) Performance: establishing a baseline and monitoring change



Appendix 1: COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy template and guidelines:

COUNTRY PROGRAMME LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR SATOYAMA INITIATIVE (COMDEKS)

[12 font in text. 10 font in tables, except otherwise indicated]

Country: COUNTRY X [caps, 14 font, bold]

Summary: include a short summary of the COMDEKS CPLS here. (1 page max)

1. Priority Area (3 pages max)

- *Please identify and describe the proposed landscape (define the landscape, and characterize the landscape issues and assets) and its boundaries and insert or annex a sketch/map of the region indicating geographic focus (landscape focus) and proposed location of subprojects.*
- *Please explain where the landscape is, why it was chosen, what the relation is to other SGP and UNDP projects) in the area, and the presence of particular biodiversity values in the landscape. This section should also explain how the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy is complementary to the GEF SGP OP5 Country Programme Strategy (CPS).*

2. Situation Analysis (threats and opportunities) (3 pages max)

- *Please provide brief information on the problem the proposed programme is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the programme would operate.*
- *Please provide a brief description of key stakeholders (i.e. number of people and socio-economic characteristics of people living in the landscape, land tenure systems, size of land holding, poverty and food security issues etc.)*

3. Landscape Strategy (Outcomes and Impact indicators) (3 pages max)

- *Introduce the landscape approach. A baseline assessment provides Country Programmes and landscape stakeholders with information about the current state of the landscapes which can be used as a basis for setting goals and desired outcomes. The baseline assessment will assist stakeholders in the target area to design landscape strategies defined and agreed upon in a participatory manner, taking into account the following objectives: to improve ecosystem resilience and to improve the resilience of production systems.*
- *The overall long term objective of the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy is to enhance socio-ecological production landscape resilience through community-based activities.*

- *Please list the main outcomes, and impact indicators to be adopted by the country-level COMDEKS programme addressing:
 - o *ecosystem functions (water, habitat, soil etc.) and conservation of biodiversity;*
 - o *local livelihoods;*
 - o *agricultural production;*
 - o *institutional structures.**
 - *Two to three outcomes should be adopted, and impact indicators chosen should correspond to each of those outcomes. These indicators will be adopted for the national COMDEKS programme, and will be achieved through support to community projects. Community projects will have a separate indicator system, aligned with GEF SGP OP 5 indicators.*
 - *Examples of possible outcomes at the Country Programme Landscape Strategy level include: buffer capacity of ecosystems against extreme weather events enhanced; hydrological cycle and genetic resources that are critical for rural families protected; landscape connectivity enhanced; Increased resilience of agroforestry systems; enhanced food security by halting deforestation, restoring watersheds, diversifying production systems and encouraging sustainable landscape management; improve soil conditions, prevent erosion, and improve water use efficiency and availability; cross-sectorial institutions at landscape level strengthened to support planning, negotiation, implementation and capacity-building needed to sustain integrated landscapes.*
4. Typology of potential community-based projects and criteria for project selection (2 pages max)
- *Please define the criteria for project selection taking into account, inter alia, strategic importance of the project for the target landscape (i.e. biodiversity value and hotspots); projects that can affect the entire site through replication; projects that address policies; projects that link income generation to conservation; projects that address innovative areas; projects that address multiple threats or needs.*
 - *Please describe briefly the types of community projects that will be funded to achieve socio-ecological production landscape resilience. This should not be overly prescriptive, but should give a sense of the sorts of projects that will be compatible with the CPLS, and will contribute to the desired outcomes. Examples of types of eligible projects should be provided, and should outline the desired impact the activities would have on long-term socio-ecological resilience of the selected landscape, and should include a description of how they might address ecosystem functions (water, habitat, carbon, soil, etc.) and conservation of biodiversity, local livelihoods, agricultural production, and institutional structures.*
 - *Activities can include both the revival of traditional conservation and production practices and the adoption and development of new techniques.*



- *Examples of possible eligible projects include: forest restoration activities (berms, bunds, terraces, gully plugs, etc., in order to enhance landscape connectivity and increase landscape resilience; reforestation of tropical hillsides, riparian forests and mangroves, rangeland rehabilitation and improved pasture management, restoration of wetlands, peatlands, watersheds and coral reefs, re-vegetation in drylands; protecting and enhancing ecosystem services such as water flows and water quality through restoration of forest patches and soil and water retention infrastructure; diversification of agricultural landscapes (agroforestry), diversification of production systems (cultivation of a higher diversity of crops and varieties and crop-livestock-trees integration; low-input agriculture, soil conservation and improved water management and water efficiency (mulching, cover crops, rainwater harvesting, re-vegetation, fallow, intercropping, crop rotation; adjustments in crop and herd management (changes in crop and herd management); use of stress-tolerant and fast maturing crop species and varieties, and stress tolerance improvement through farmers' selection and participatory plant breeding; and other activities supporting diversification of livelihoods.*
- *Please define criteria for NGO/CBOs selection: NGOs/CBOs should be selected to participate in the COMDEKS activities based on their ability to deliver community projects that fit within the country programme landscape strategy. Please describe strategies to be used to engage with NGOs/CBOs.*
- *Please indicate expected frequency of SGP National Steering Committee meetings. The role of the NSC is clearly described in the Operational Guidelines of the SGP and it will follow established practices. In particular, the NSC contributes to additional resource mobilization, approves project grants, participates in the monitoring and evaluation of projects, and helps in the communication of lessons learned and their integration into national policy development and development planning. Also, please note that the NSC membership should be reviewed in order to ensure expertise on landscape issues, and if necessary, expanded to include relevant skills.*

5. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2 pages max)

- *Participatory methods for the landscape-wide baseline assessment: describe the consultative process undertaken during the formulation of the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy and project preparation (i.e. involvement of SGP Steering Committee, communities involved, other actors, etc.)*
- *Please describe how local stakeholders will participate in setting landscape outcomes; how they will participate in monitoring; and how progress will be documented and reported.*
- *Please describe the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual SGP projects.*



6. Knowledge Management Plan (1 page max)

- *Please describe your plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices identified through the project (i.e. development of case studies, etc.).*
- *Please describe how the SGP Country Programme will use this knowledge to inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels (i.e. identify key policy processes and relevant networks).*
- *Please describe how the SGP Country Programme will use this knowledge to replicate and up-scale COMDEKS good practices and lessons learned for landscape management to support sustainable socio-ecological production activities at the country, landscape, community and farmers levels.*