

PARTNERSHIPS TO SCALE UP INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY APPROACHES

What do all of these experiences have in common?

- **Conservation of native plants through the production of herbal teas** – A women-led initiative that now exports to France and other countries and is also the first NGO to use renewable energy as electricity source for sustainable livelihoods - Winner of the Emerging Exporters Gold Award In Mauritius
- **Bamboo Bicycles from Ghana**- Youth and women developed and piloted these innovative bicycles produced from sustainable material. The initiative has introduced the bamboo bikes as a clean form of transport that was recently featured by the UNFCCC under the Momentum for Change
- **First Wildlife corridor in Turkey** –Turkey’s first human-made wildlife corridor established in order to connect forest patches.
- **Sustainable Management of Coral Reef Ecosystem in Indonesia** – winner of the Coastal Award 2012

They are all projects led by local communities and civil society organizations with financial and technical support of the GEF Small Grants Programme that have benefitted the global environment while also promoting sustainable development at the local level.

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and there are direct community benefits and ownership. By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people’s well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

Over the past 21 years, the GEF Small Grants Programme has invested \$650 million and leveraged a similar amount in co financing in over 16,500 projects by communities in 125 countries. The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000, directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups.

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) Side Event at the Assembly will focus on highlighting the global impact the programme has achieved by scaling up the innovative practices it has piloted and provided technical support through partnering with different stakeholders.

The event will feature community innovations from different regions that have been scaled up through a panel presentation and videos that will help bring the perspectives of the different communities about these experiences and what they have learned and achieved.

Speakers:

- Opening remarks
- Presentation on Mauritius Biodiversity Conservation through the production of Herbal teas by Mrs. Anooradah Pooran of Association Pour L'Education Des Enfants Defavoris, Mauritius
Remarks from OFP – TBD

- Video from Barefoot college partnership
Presentation by solar grandmother engineer Mrs. Fransica Moki, Rural Women Development Center (RUWDEC), Cameroon
Remarks from OFP of India – TBD
- Presentation on First Wildlife corridor in Turkey
- Presentation on Bamboo bikes by Ms. Winifred Selby Bright Generation Community Foundation, Ghana
Remarks from OFP from Ghana -TBD
- Video on Coastal Management in Indonesia
- Closing Remarks from Delfin Ganapin, Global Manager from SGP

The side event will close with a tasting of organic honey from SGP projects in the Yucatan in Mexico, as well as other sustainable products from the SGP portfolio.