



# COMDEKS

**Community Development and Knowledge Management for the  
Satoyama Initiative Project**

**Third Annual Report**

**May 2013 - May 2014**



## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Background .....	5
Implementation progress .....	9
Knowledge Management.....	27
Project delivery .....	30
The way forward .....	33
<b><i>Annex 1: COMDEKS Preliminary Financial Report as of December 31, 2013.</i></b> .....	<b>35</b>



## ***Executive Summary***

Launched in 2011, the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS) is the flagship project of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative<sup>1</sup>, a global effort to promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes - a term describing the Satoyama concept of people in harmony with nature.

The five-year global project is implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). The project, which works through UNDP's Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP), provides small grants directly to local community organizations, with a contribution of US\$10 million from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, established within the CBD Secretariat.

COMDEKS has been designed to support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on the ground actions for replication and up-scaling in other parts of the world. The project aims to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities, contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the implementation of the Aichi targets adopted by the tenth meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 10, October 2010).

The COMDEKS project is currently implemented in a wide variety of landscapes in 20 countries around the world, supporting innovations identified by the communities for biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem management and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level. Currently, the project is implemented in Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Slovakia and Turkey. During this reporting period, the COMDEKS project has supported local community activities in the twenty mentioned countries to promote sustainable community-based landscape-level management approaches. Currently, there are one hundred and four individual COMDEKS project proposals under implementation, eight completed projects and additional projects are in the pipeline.

This is the third annual project report for the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS). This annual report documents achievements, constraints and impacts with regard to the utilization of the UNEP/SCBD contribution of May 2013 through early May 2014. This report is accompanied by the preliminary financial report for the period through December 2013 (see annex 1).

---

<sup>1</sup> The Satoyama Initiative aims to conserve sustainable human-influenced natural environments (Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes; SEPLS) through broader global recognition of their value. The partnership, IPSI, comprises organizations committed to support SEPLS for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being through the implementation of their respective activities. <http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/>



This annual report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides a brief overview of COMDEKS, including its vision, objectives and components. Section 2 presents achievements and impacts to date of the COMDEKS project in the twenty participating countries. Finally, the last section of the report provides a preview of future activities as well as a number of recommendations.

UNDP would like to thank the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, the United Nations University for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity for their continuous support of COMDEKS, and the Global Environment Facility for the parallel co-financing provided to support COMDEKS through the SGP.



## ***Background<sup>2</sup>***

The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) project is a unique global project implemented by the UNDP as a flagship of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, a global initiative to promote sustainable use and management of natural resources in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) with the aim of maintaining, rebuilding and revitalizing them.

Funded through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, established within the CBD Secretariat, COMDEKS is a five-year project implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the United Nations University (UNU).

COMDEKS has been designed to be community driven and support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscape and seascapes. Working through the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP), COMDEKS provides small grants to local community organizations to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities in order to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize SEPLS. The project collects and distributes knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication, policy dialogue and up-scaling in other parts of the world. COMDEKS grant making is expected to generate key lessons on community-based best practices to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes toward the realization of “societies in harmony with nature”, as defined as the vision of the Satoyama Initiative.

Originally launched in 2011 in ten pilot countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey), in June 2013, the Government of Japan and UNDP launched the second phase of the project in ten additional countries (Bhutan, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Namibia and Niger), bringing to twenty the number of countries involved in the COMDEKS Project.

As shown in the table below, the COMDEKS Project has two components. The community development component (Outcome 1) of the COMDEKS project is delivered through the UNDP-implemented GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP)<sup>3</sup>, and is focused on providing small-scale finance to local community organizations in participating countries. Grant-making through the Small Grants Programme (SGP), allows for a fast, flexible, and proven mechanism to reach communities and civil society at the local level

---

<sup>2</sup> See Project Document for Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS).

<sup>3</sup> Launched in 1992, SGP has provided over 14,000 grants to communities in 126 developing countries, and functions as a well-established delivery mechanism directly to remote and vulnerable communities. SGP supports activities of nongovernmental and community-based organizations to restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. Largely funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme, SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). <http://sgp.undp.org/>

in a country-driven manner through SGP country programmes, National Coordinators and Programme Assistants, and well established SGP National Steering Committees (NSCs)<sup>4</sup>.

A project knowledge management component (Outcome 2) is focused on the development and distribution of project case studies and other knowledge products, capturing lessons learned and best practices which can be replicated in other parts of the world and communicated to policy makers for coherent policy development.

**Table 1: COMDEKS components, expected outputs and outcomes**

Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes
1. Community Development through Small Grant-Making by using the existing Small Grants Programme (SGP) delivery mechanism	<p>1.1. Baseline assessments conducted at the landscape level in order to define goals, desired outcomes and typology of potential community-based projects to achieve socio-ecological production landscape resilience.</p> <p>1.2 Country Programme Strategies developed for each participating country to guide the implementation of community based landscape projects.</p> <p>1.3 Portfolio of 5-10 community-led projects addressing resilience of socio-ecological production landscapes implemented in each of the participating countries.</p>	Local organizations and institutions have the understanding, strategies, tools, skills and technical capacities required to implement socio-ecological production landscape initiatives in participating countries.
2. Knowledge Management for capacity building, replication, and up-scaling	<p>Output 2.1: Project blog/web site and other learning networks combining workshops, webinars and social media are launched in order to enhance understanding and raise awareness of the importance of SEPLs for the benefit of biodiversity and human wellbeing.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Best practices and lessons learned exchanged among countries and IPSI partners through case studies development for replication and upscaling.</p> <p>Output 2.3 Policy makers engaged in the Landscape process at all levels: Lessons from community-based landscape management related activities compiled and disseminated to governmental officials and policy makers at the local, national and global level for coherent policy development.</p>	Practitioners at the global, national and local levels and local stakeholders' access and exchange knowledge, experience, best practices and lessons from socio-ecological production landscapes, to incorporate lessons learned into planning tools and enable replication and upscaling of best practices around the world.

<sup>4</sup> The NSC is an independent entity comprised majority civil society membership together with representation of government and UNDP, and includes a range of recognized experts on global environment and sustainable development issues.

## ***Progress to Date***

This third annual report reviews the implementation and results of the COMDEKS Project during the period May 2013 through May 2014. During this reporting phase, COMDEKS activities covered the following twenty countries: Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Slovakia and Turkey.

Originally launched in 2011 in ten pilot countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey), in June 2013, the Government of Japan and UNDP launched the second phase of the project in ten additional countries (Bhutan, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Namibia and Niger), bringing to twenty the number of countries involved in the COMDEKS Project.

Following the already established COMDEKS methodologies, after the launch of the second phase of the programme, the first steps for the second phase participating countries were to consult with communities, conduct the landscape-wide baseline assessments, ensure stakeholder participation, identify and pilot indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes in order to assess the status of these landscapes and seascapes, and develop the COMDEKS Landscape Strategy, the document guiding the landscape planning process and grant-making activities in each participating country.

To date, the community consultation process and the practical application of SEPLS indicators in the phase 1 and phase 2 participating countries have led to the formulation and approval of COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategies in Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Slovakia and Turkey. The development of the COMDEKS landscape strategy is in process in Namibia and El Salvador.

**Table 1: Status of COMDEKS Landscape Strategies and Baseline Assessments**

<b>Status of COMDEKS Landscape Strategies and Baseline Assessment Consultations</b>			
<b>Phase 1</b>		<b>Phase 2</b>	
Brazil	Completed Jan. 2014	Bhutan	Completed Dec. 2013
Cambodia	Completed Nov. 2012	Cameroon	Completed Dec. 2013
Ethiopia	Completed Aug. 2012	Costa Rica	Completed March 2014
Ghana	Completed Aug. 2012	Ecuador	Completed Oct. 2013
Fiji	Completed May 2013	El Salvador	In process
India	Completed Feb. 2013	Indonesia	Completed Feb. 2014
Malawi	Completed March 2013	Kyrgyzstan	Completed April 2014
Nepal	Completed Nov. 2012	Mongolia	Completed Jan. 2014
Slovakia	Completed Oct. 2012	Namibia	In process
Turkey	Completed Sept. 2012	Niger	Completed Jan. 2014

COMDEKS grant making activities carried out during this reporting period were instrumental in funding a total of one hundred community-based projects aimed at increasing the resilience of targeted landscapes and seascapes. The table below shows the total number of COMDEKS projects funded with COMDEKS resources. The figure reflects the number of grants awarded and resources committed up to 14 May 2014 (the date the data was drawn from the SGP database). There are currently one hundred and four individual COMDEKS projects under implementation and eight completed projects. Additionally, it is expected that COMDEKS grant funding will be matched by parallel co-financing by GEF SGP.

**Table 2: Number of COMDEKS Projects under implementation and/or completed during this reporting period (as of 14 May 2014)**

<b>Number of COMDEKS Projects</b>	112
<b>Currently under execution</b>	104
<b>Satisfactorily Completed</b>	8
<b>Total Amount in Grants</b>	USD 3,500,846.44
<b>Total Amount of Cash Co-financing</b>	USD 1,229,975.96
<b>Total Amount of Kind Co-financing</b>	USD 1,580,356.71
<b>Total Amount of Co-financing</b>	USD 2,810,332.67

Following SGP good practice, (although not a requirement for COMDEKS) co-financing levels for all new grants committed during the reporting period continued to reflect a 1:1 target ratio of programme funds to co-financing, as shown in the table above and below. SGP project level co-financing continued to bring together resources from a range of partners, including in kind and in cash contributions from communities, as well as NGOs, CBOs, Donors, Governments, and other partners.

Additionally, during this reporting period, 97 projects have been awarded co-financing from regular SGP resources at the landscape level, for an overall amount of USD 2,840,200.83.

The table below presents the number of COMDEKS projects delivered by SGP per country. Whereas COMDEKS on-the-ground activities are now starting up in second phase countries, several projects are near completion in some of the first phase countries (including Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Slovakia and Turkey). These countries are in the process of launching ex-post baseline assessments in order to evaluate achievements, produce COMDEKS videos and case studies with stories from the target landscapes, and develop recommendations for the future.

**Table 3: COMDEKS projects approved up to 14 May 2014 by Country**

Country	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in cash	Co-financing in kind
<b>PHASE 1</b>				
<b>Brazil</b>	1	25,000.00	-	-
<b>Cambodia</b>	6	255,000.00	4,140.75	119,609.75
<b>Ethiopia</b>	11	255,000.00	3,999.00	85,513.00



<b>Fiji</b>	7	245,000.00	3,000.00	32,427.47
<b>Ghana</b>	11	255,000.00	135,650.00	298,460.00
<b>India</b>	7	226,519.00	366,303.00	147,966.00
<b>Malawi</b>	7	240,000.00	54,221.12	83,572.49
<b>Nepal</b>	7	254,482.00	96,252.00	29,456.00
<b>Slovakia</b>	9	279,998.44	169,175.00	77,301.00
<b>Turkey</b>	11	280,000.00	195,753.00	109,823.00
<b>PHASE 2</b>				
<b>Bhutan</b>	4	127,000.00	-	91,000.00
<b>Cameroon</b>	8	255,000.00	59,911.00	146,711.00
<b>Costa Rica</b>	1	25,000.00		
<b>Ecuador</b>	6	273,250.00	121,066.46	229,550.00
<b>El Salvador</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Indonesia</b>	5	205,000.00		
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	1	24,950.00		
<b>Mongolia</b>	8	224,787.00	20,504.63	128,967.00
<b>Namibia</b>	1	25,000.00		
<b>Niger</b>	1	24,860.00		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>3,500,846.44</b>	<b>1,229,975.96</b>	<b>1,580,356.71</b>

## Implementation progress

The section below provides an overview of COMDEKS activities in each participating country as of May 2014. As shown in the table below, the COMDEKS project is being implemented in a wide variety of landscapes and seascapes in the twenty participating countries.

**Table 4: Target landscapes and seascapes supported by COMDEKS**

Country	Landscape/Seascape Name	Area (hectares)	Geographic
<b>Phase 1</b>			
<b>Brazil</b>	Jequitinhonha Valley	40,800	Agriculture land/semi-arid
<b>Cambodia</b>	Steung Siem Reap Watershed	361,900	Watershed
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Gilbel Gibe 1 Catchment	127,800	Pastoral
<b>Fiji</b>	Natewa and Tunuloa Peninsula	25,243	Coastal/seascape
<b>Ghana</b>	Weto Range	15,000	Mountain
<b>India</b>	Kumaon Region, Uttarakhand	50,000	Mountain
<b>Malawi</b>	Tukombo-Kande, Lake Malawi	27,000	Lake basin
<b>Nepal</b>	Makawanpur	78,900	River basin
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Východoslovenská nížina Lowland	40,242	Wetlands
<b>Turkey</b>	Datça-Bozburun Peninsula	247,700	Coastal/seascape

Phase 2			
<b>Bhutan</b>	Gamri Watershed	74,500	Mountain/watershed
<b>Cameroon</b>	Bogo Region	93,000	Pastoral/Agriculture land
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Rio Jesus Maria watershed	35,200	Watershed
<b>Ecuador</b>	Alto Napo River watershed, Amazon	484,152	River basin
<b>El Salvador</b>	Jaltepeque-Naja Lempe	32,065	Forest/Coastal
<b>Indonesia</b>	Semau Island	14,341	Coastal/Seascape
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Lake Issyk-Kul	148,000	Lake basin
<b>Mongolia</b>	Central Selenge Region	628,856	Temperate Grassland
<b>Namibia</b>	Ipumbu-ya-Shilongo Conservancy	154,800	Grassland
<b>Niger</b>	Tabalak Lake	3,557	Lake basin

### **Phase 1 COMDEKS Countries:**

#### **COMDEKS Brazil:**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* In consultation with local partners and communities, the target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Brazil has been identified as a 40,800 hectares area in the Jequitinhonha Valley, one of the poorest regions of Brazil. Decades of unsustainable environmental practices have led to overexploitation of the soil and degradation of the landscape. The area, in the transition between the Cerrado and the Caatinga biomes, encompasses several traditional communities of small farmers. A two-day landscape wide baseline assessment workshop with local communities took place in Turmalina, Minas Gerais, in November 2013, with 34 participants from 11 communities, local NGOs and schools. The workshop was facilitated by the Salvia Institute with great effort made to tailor the indicators' language to the local reality and terminology. The main issues identified at the landscape level include lack of water (in terms of both quantity and quality), inappropriate soil management practices and exodus of young people from rural areas. COMDEKS projects will contribute to landscape sustainability by focusing, inter alia, on food security, influencing public policies on environmental landscape management, and promoting gender mainstreaming in the implementation of community-based projects at the landscape level.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Brazil Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in January 2014, and can be downloaded [here](#). A call for proposals has been launched (deadline May 2014), and project proposals are currently under development. The types of community projects that will be supported by COMDEKS in the Jequitinhonha Valley include activities focused on integrated water resource management systems, including the implementation of wastewater treatment systems and construction of small scale reservoirs, containment basins and cisterns, and protection of springs. Additionally, COMDEKS funds will be focused on supporting silvo-pastoral and agroforestry farming systems, activities related to the use and processing of Cerrado non-timber forest products, cultural activities geared towards youth, and training courses and capacity building workshops in administrative and financial management related to land-use planning in the target landscape.



*SGP Co-financing:* It is expected that COMDEKS grant funding will be matched as co-financing by GEF funding from SGP at the landscape level. In complementarity to COMDEKS grants, three additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through the GEF SGP Upgrading Country Programme for the 5th Operational Phase for an overall amount of USD 85,674. Additional projects are in the pipeline.

### **COMDEKS Cambodia**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Cambodia is the Steung Siem Reap watershed area, an area of 361,900 hectares located in the Northwestern province of Siem Reap. Given the extensive size of the area, as well as the variety of functions of the watershed system, the landscape was further subdivided during the landscape-wide baseline assessment into six socio-ecological zones in order to identify potential community-based activities to enhance resilience of the landscape. The community consultations and baseline assessment undertaken for the development of the Cambodia COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy (CPLS) in 2102 identified and prioritized the problems and potential opportunities of the target landscape, as well as the interventions to be undertaken at the community level in order to increase the resilience of the landscape.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Cambodia Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in November 2012, and can be downloaded [here](#). Six community-based projects comprise Cambodia's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Steung Siem Reap watershed (including the baseline assessment project, completed in 2012), for a total commitment of USD 255,000. These projects contribute to the long-term objective of the COMDEKS Landscape Strategy in Cambodia, to "maintain and restore functional socio-ecological production landscapes to preserve biodiversity, improve local livelihoods, and enhance ecological and institutional landscape connectivity". The majority of these projects are expected to be completed by mid-2014. Additionally, in line with the the adaptive management process used for COMDEKS activities, an ex-post baseline assessment is expected to take place in Cambodia in 2014 in order to reflect on project outcomes and consult with partners and, if necessary, adjust goals and approaches. The objective of the baseline assessment project will be to evaluate achievements at the landscape level through the use of the indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, produce a participatory COMDEKS video with stories from supported projects, and develop a case study, focused on key activities, results and impacts achieved at the landscape level and recommendations for the future.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, three additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 122,720 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Ethiopia**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Ethiopia is the Gilgel Gibe 1 catchment, an area of 127,800 hectares located in Oromia regional state, Jimma zone. The baseline assessment of the selected landscape, the Gilgel Gibe-1 (GG1) catchment area, was carried



out in June 2012 in the four districts (woreda) bordering the GG1 dam with community members of the selected neighborhoods (kebeles), leading to the development of the landscape strategy.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Ethiopia Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in November 2012, and can be downloaded [here](#). Eleven community-based projects comprise Ethiopia's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Gilgel Gibe 1 catchment, for a total commitment of USD 255,000. The majority of these projects are expected to be completed by late-2014. Similarly to Cambodia, the SGP Country Programme in Ethiopia is gearing up for the ex-post baseline assessment in order to evaluate achievements at the landscape level, consult with partners and, if necessary, adjust goals and approaches. COMDEKS projects have promoted, inter alia, the construction of different physical soil and water conservation measures to reduce the siltation/sedimentation of the area; promotion of practices aimed at closing degraded land; soil fertility improvement practices; rehabilitation of remnant forest, grass lands, and farmlands; the adoption of agro-forestry practices; crop diversification (cereals, fruits, vegetables); multipurpose tree plantations; natural resources management (physical and biological soil and water conservation practices); livelihood improvement activities such as production of multipurpose trees/shrubs and grasses; animal fattening; beekeeping/apiculture; aquaculture/fishery; and production and sale of improved stoves.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to COMDEKS grants, 12 additional community-based grants have been supported through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 327,441 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Fiji**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape/seascape for COMDEKS activities in Fiji is the Natewa Peninsula, an area commonly referred to as the country's Northern Division, part of the island of Vanua Levu, the country's second largest island. The landscape lies in the south-eastern section of the island and borders the southern coastline of Natewa Bay, the longest bay in the South Pacific. The priority landscape encompasses the two districts of Natewa and Tunulua (a total area of 25,243 hectares). The area has a relatively low population density (13.6 persons per km<sup>2</sup>), and the population of the Natewa and Tunulua districts is 3,428 people. In terms of landscape demographics the population is primarily agrarian, predominately indigenous, and contained within 16 traditional rural village settlements. Indigenous Fijians (iTaukei) make up 97.8%, whilst Fijians of Indian descent (0.4%) and Fijians of other ethnicities (1.8%) make up the remainder. The baseline assessment and community consultation workshop aimed at piloting the Resilience Indicators took place at the end of January 2013.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Fiji Country Programme Landscape/Seascape Strategy was approved in May 2013, and can be downloaded [here](#). Seven community-based projects comprise Fiji's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Natewa Peninsula, for a total commitment of USD 245,000. COMDEKS projects are supporting the development of an institutional platform (including civil society groups, provincial offices and other government officials) to provide the necessary assistance and technical support to the implementation of activities at the landscape level, and to strengthen the existing governance and management of the landscape's natural resources and environment. Additional activities will be focused on gender mainstreaming and gender inclusion, increasing awareness of the role and contribution of women toward community development and natural resource management, extensive forest mapping exercises, design and



application of suitable land use management systems and restoration initiatives to revive ecosystem function and productivity of the abandoned and degraded areas within the landscape, including the re-establishment of a community nursery, honey farming and other sustainable management practices.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, one community-based grant is currently in the pipeline to be supported through SGP with GEF resources in the target area.

### **COMDEKS Ghana**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Ghana is the Weto Range, an area of 15,000 hectares area in the Volta region, spanning eleven traditional and three political administrative areas. The baseline assessment of the selected landscape was carried out in June 2012, through a series of community meetings spearheaded by the newly created Weto Platform, and involving overall more than 160 people from the 36 selected communities of the Weto Range landscape.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Ghana Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in August 2012, and can be downloaded [here](#). Eleven community-based projects comprise Ghana's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Weto Range, for a total commitment of USD 255,000. The majority of these projects are expected to be completed by mid-2014. Similarly to Cambodia and Ethiopia, the SGP Country Programme in Ghana is gearing up for the ex-post baseline assessment in order to to evaluate achievements at the landscape level, consult with partners and, if necessary, adjust goals and approaches. Achievements to date include, inter alia, the rehabilitation of degraded lands using indigenous species including mahogany, ofram, and cedar; the establishment of community protected areas; the establishment of cash crops under agroforestry cultivation, and training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices. In particular, agroforestry technologies to support sustainable agriculture have been introduced to 500 lead farmers, 100 Community Trainers (CTs), and 120 Farmer Trust Groups. COMDEKS projects have also supported the introduction of alternative income opportunities, including the processing of nontimber forest products (NTFPs) processing and packaging cassava and fruit; integrated livestock rearing, and supporting the process of obtaining organic certification for locally produced cocoa. Projects have supported local organizations, influenced local planning and land management policies and promoted environmental governance. The forthcoming COMDEKS Case Study publication will describe these achievements in more detail.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, three additional community-based grants have been supported through SGP, for an overall amount of US\$ 86,300 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS India**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in India is an area of approximately 50,000 hectares located in the Kumaon Region, one of the two regions and administrative divisions of Uttarakhand, a mountainous state of northern India. This is an area in which the interdependence between humans and nature is particularly pronounced, and six areas, grouped by their similar features, were identified for the implementation of COMDEKS activities. Rasulpur and Shankarpur are located in the foothills of the Himalayas, while Ranman, Pipalkoti, Tadikhet, and



Ranikhet lie within the Himalayan mountain region. The baseline assessment of the selected landscape was carried out in November 2012 through a stakeholder consultation workshop and additional field visits to allow for community participation. Village Mapping exercises, combined with the use of the Resilience Indicators, successfully engaged stakeholders to determine the resilience of the landscape and inform the design of the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy in India. A landscape level workshop was held in February 2013 with the proposed partners. Additionally, a guidance workshop was organized in April 2014 to assist COMDEKS grantees linking up with government programs, provide technical assistance from research institutions working in the area and provide an opportunity for knowledge exchange and learning among COMDEKS and other existing GEF-SGP projects.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS India Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in February 2013, and can be downloaded [here](#). Seven community-based projects comprise India's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the target landscape within the Kumaon Region, for a total commitment of USD 226,519. The types of community activities supported by COMDEKS in India include, inter alia, water and soil conservation practices that minimize the threat of land degradation (construction of water mills); restoration of forested and grassland areas to preserve the biodiversity of the region in the long-term; intercropping, the cultivation of mixed crops which maintains soil fertility and optimizes productivity through natural fertilization and pest reduction (local millets and lentils); the establishment of seed banks, pursuit of alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism (through the support to a Community Facilitation Center), niche crops, handicrafts (bamboo crafts), health foods, organic produce, dairying, and floriculture, among others. Enterprise development, increased market access, and enhanced support for women will also contribute to improved food security and landscape resilience. Lastly, the COMDEKS project seeks to facilitate the formation of strong institutions for stakeholder involvement in landscape dynamics and management. COMDEKS projects are contributing to the development of self-help groups (with a large participation of women) that support the implementation of project activities while at the same time contribute to the empowerment of marginalized communities. Trainings and capacity building workshop have been carried out to set up solar energy stations, promote organic farm manure production, processing of market-based products, and other livelihood activities.

### **COMDEKS Malawi**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Malawi is the Tukombo-Kande area, a fishing town located in the Nkhata Bay district of northern Malawi. The landscape covers an area of 27,000 hectares covering three Traditional Authorities (TA) of Zilakoma, Malengamzoma and Fukamapiri. The landscape-wide baseline assessment and the application of the Resilience Indicators took place in October 2012, covering eight villages in the target landscape.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Malawi Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in March 2013, and can be downloaded [here](#). Seven community-based projects comprise Malawi's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Tukombo-Kande area, for a total commitment of USD 240,000. Supported projects include, inter alia, the restoration of wetland areas, support to the development of community-managed village savings and loan funds, sustainable agriculture practices, promotion of initiatives for crop diversification (improved rice and maize seed





were provided) livestock production (i.e. local goats), aquaculture (through the construction, for example, of demonstration semi-permanent (with concrete pillars) fish drying racks at Tukombo fish landing site with the potential to protect lakeside forests), and the support to community based organizations (CBOs), including village natural resources management committees (VNRMCs), and other community associations.

### **COMDEKS Nepal**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Nepal is located in the Manahari River watershed, in the Makawanpur region. The landscape is composed of hills and flat plains, with nearly half of the area under forest. The landscape is known as one of the most hazard-prone areas in central Nepal. The landscape is divided into designated administrative units known as Village Development Committees (VDCs). Ten VDCs were selected for the COMDEKS activities, covering an area of 78,900 hectares. The landscape-wide baseline assessment was conducted in June 2012 in all 10 selected Village Development Committees (VDCs). Over 200 households were surveyed across the landscape to develop the COMDEKS landscape strategy for Nepal.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Nepal Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in November 2012, and can be downloaded [here](#). Seven community-based projects comprise Nepal's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Manahari River watershed, for a total commitment of USD 254,482. Supported projects are focusing on the issue of water scarcity by rehabilitating the Pairangkhola drinking water system A 4.5 km canal and a 3 km trail have both been rehabilitated, providing renewed water access to 80 households and supporting the irrigation of 14.5 ha of land. Other activities are focusing on discouraging the prevalent slash and burn agricultural practices, and instead, encouraging villagers to plant grass and fruit trees rather than maize, contributing to agro-ecology and food security. As a result of the project, sloping land/maize land in the slash and burn area has been converted to agroforestry, largely growing broom grass (for soil retention and prevention of soil erosion and landslides), banana trees, pineapple plants, and leguminous plants. Additionally, with increased irrigation (through the support of micro-irrigation systems, micro-canals and drip irrigation), farmers were able to plant ginger, taro, and turmeric in 5.5 ha land, with plans of further development to a ginger and turmeric seed production site. Aquaculture (i.e. through the construction of fish ponds, Carp-SIS polyculture) as well as river bank farming is also being supported, contributing to the food security of the indigenous Chepang and Tamangs communities. New community based organizations and/or strengthening of existing organizations have been supported at the landscape level.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, six additional community-based grants have been supported through SGP, for an overall amount of US\$ 189,569 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Slovakia**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Slovakia, an area of 40,242 hectares, is located in the north-eastern part of the Východoslovenská nížina Lowland (Eastern Slovakia Lowland), in the Latorica river basin. The area is rural, with low population density, and the target landscape includes a National Nature Reserve, a 213.31 ha area where over 145 species of



birds have been documented. Building on the results of a previous assessment carried out in 2007-2009 during the elaboration of the Integrated Local Development Strategy developed under the UNDP/GEF Laborec-Uh Project, in Slovakia, the baseline assessment of the selected landscape took place in August 2012.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Slovakia Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in October 2012, and can be downloaded [here](#). Nine community-based projects comprise Slovakia's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Eastern Slovakia Lowland, for a total commitment of USD 279,998.

COMDEKS projects in Slovakia focus on improving ecosystem services of surface water bodies and wetlands through integrated water management and landscape restoration activities (i.e. revitalization of forests, protection and revitalization of wetlands and river bank vegetation), promotion of sustainable agricultural practices (i.e. establishment of bee colonies, small demonstrative eco-farms for the breeding of goats, sheep and ducks, production of traditional native varieties of vegetables and fruits without the use of pesticides, etc.), establishment of local markets to support small scale production (agricultural products include mainly meat, milk and honey). In November 2013, SGP Slovakia organized a knowledge fair, in cooperation with the Kosice and Presov regional authorities and the supported COMDEKS projects, to support the establishment and development of local partnerships in Eastern Slovakia to replicate best practices of COMDEKS and SGP projects. Similarly to other Phase 1 countries, the SGP Country Programme in Slovakia is gearing up for the ex-post baseline assessment in order to evaluate achievements at the landscape level, consult with partners and, if necessary, adjust goals and approaches.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, five additional community-based grants have been supported through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 182,107 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Turkey**

*Target Landscape and Baseline Assessment.* The target landscape for COMDEKS activities in Turkey is the Datça-Bozburun peninsula located in Muğla province in the southwest of Turkey. Recognized as a key biodiversity area, it represents one of the most pristine remaining Mediterranean lowland forest and coastal landscapes. The landscape spans 247,700 hectares and includes Datça and Bozburun peninsulas and their surroundings, with a northward extension covering the rich marine habitats of Gökova Bay. The baseline assessment of the selected landscape, the Datca-Bozburun Peninsula, was completed in August 2012 through three different workshops involving more than 70 stakeholders representative of the 17 target communities in the area.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Turkey Country Programme Landscape Strategy was approved in September 2012, and can be downloaded [here](#). Eleven community-based projects comprise Turkey's portfolio of COMDEKS landscape interventions in the Datça-Bozburun peninsula, for a total commitment of USD 280,000. Projects are designed to simultaneously improve the livelihoods of local populations while strengthening the resilience of surrounding ecosystems of the target landscape. Supported projects aim to protect biodiversity and improve ecosystem services combatting overfishing, the lack of regulatory enforcement and illegal harvesting within "no-fishing"





zones. Other supported projects are working towards developing resilient agricultural systems, as agriculture is still vital for the socio-economic health of the landscape environment. These projects also aim to improve livelihoods as they target sustainable economic growth, by conserving, producing and marketing, medicinal and aromatic plants and local organic almonds, among other products. Similarly, the “Fisherwomen of the Datça-Bozburun Peninsula” project aims to improve fisherwomen’s livelihood in the target landscape, where traditional family fishing is still prevalent. Supported projects also focus on development of effective conservation plans (i.e. forest management plan or species conservation action plans) and on promoting institutionalization and sustainable governance. Knowledge generation is a component of each project with the aim of improving information exchange at the landscape level. A documentary about COMDEKS projects, produced by the SGP Country Programme with COMDEKS funding and available [here](#), analyses the results from the activities of local organizations on the ground, helps to disseminate lessons learned for more effective project replication in similar socio-ecological productive landscapes. Similarly to other Phase 1 countries, the SGP Country Programme in Turkey is currently undertaking the ex-post baseline assessment in order to to evaluate achievements at the landscape level, consult with partners and, if necessary, adjust goals and approaches.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, 4 additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 177,224 in GEF grant funding.

## **Phase 2 COMDEKS Countries:**

### **COMDEKS Bhutan:**

*Target Landscape.* The target landscape selected as the focus of COMDEKS activities in Bhutan is the Gamri Watershed in Tashigang. Located in the eastern region of Bhutan, the watershed spreads across eight administrative blocks, known as “gewogs”, across the Tashigang Dzongkhag province: Sakteng, Merak, Phongmey, Shongphu, Bidung, Bartsham, and Samkhar. Increasing pressure on the watershed from overgrazing, deforestation and natural resource extraction has led to adverse environmental consequences, compounding regional social pressures due to conflict between humans and wildlife, inadequate infrastructure, limited livelihood opportunities, and increasing rural to urban migration. The Gamri Watershed was selected as the pilot landscape for COMDEKS mainly considering its rich biological resources, and the growing pressures on the landscape from grazing, extraction of natural resources for fodder and fuel wood, landslides and dessication of water sources. The landscape has been divided into three zones, namely, Zone I – Upstream, Zone II - Midstream, and Zone III - Downstream, based on the physical, ecological and social characteristics of the region. The selection process involved several key steps. First, the area was mapped and analyzed using a GIS system (ArcGIS 9.2) and then analyzed using socio-economic data including population, settlement patterns, and economic activities.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* The baseline assessment of the target landscape was carried out by the Center for Climate Change and Spatial Information (CCCSI), Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, between September-November 2013 to understand the current state of the landscape and to identify potential interventions towards developing sustainable livelihood activities in the context of sound biodiversity management. The assessment was carried out through a series of consultation meetings with local community leaders, as well as field visits in the six Gewog centers throughout the region, involving 20 community leaders, 180 members of the local community, mostly farmers and herders, and 50 members from Dzongkhag Administration. During the meetings, carried out



in the local language, scoring exercises, focus group discussions, and participatory resource appraisals and problem mapping exercises were employed to clearly recognize the state of landscape and issues faced by the population. Multiple meetings were held in order to help address several key social conflicts within the region, including conflicts between yak herding communities and the Brokpas, as well as conflicts between local communities and the government forest administration. Holding multiple meetings ensured that the conflicts could be addressed and that all parties could voice their concerns. Of the 250 participating stakeholders in the scoring exercise using the SEPLS indicators, 52 were female participants. There was also substantial participation by indigenous people with 36 Sakteng participants and 53 Merak participants. A final workshop, attended by 65 participants representing all key communities in the watershed, was held in Rangjung. The results from the baseline assessment of the Gamri watershed varied between the three zones, however, the main concerns were consequences of overgrazing by livestock and deforestation, including increasing landslides and flash floods. Additional problems identified were water scarcity and conflicts between humans and animals over limited natural resources. Despite some challenges, including a short turn-around time compounded by difficulties arising from incorporating remote project areas, cooperation with the Dzongkhag administration helped to ensure community wide participation and ultimately the development of a strategy based on the successful assessment.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Landscape Strategy for Bhutan, “Restoring and Managing Landscape in Gamri Watershed, Trashigang”, was approved by the SGP National Steering Committee in December 2013. The document can be downloaded [here](#). Four COMDEKS projects have been supported in Bhutan as of May 2014 for a total commitment of USD 127,000. A second call for proposals has been launched and a project management workshop has been conducted in March 2013 to support grantees in project implementation (including financial management and bookkeeping). In addition to the baseline assessment project, Bhutan is currently supporting three additional projects funded by COMDEKS, with the aim to address the issues identified in the Bhutan Landscape Strategy. The first project being implemented is the “Yenangla Water Catchment Rehabilitation and Forest Fire Management project in Bartsham, Trashigang”. The project aims to focus on land degradation and sustainable forest management to address issues of water scarcity in the region. Specifically, issues of water source protection will be addressed, as well as rehabilitation of water sources and building relevant institutional capacity of farmers. Another project, located in Radhi, Trashigang, is focused on agricultural landscape protection and management. The project aims to protect paddy fields from landslides and erosion, protect agricultural areas using SLM techniques, and reduce the pressure on the environment by promoting the use of alternative renewable energy sources for household cooking.

In addition to these projects, COMDEKS is supporting an “Integrated Landscape Management” project in Yenangbrangsa, Samkhar, Trashigang, focusing on integrated watershed management in the area. The project will provide a consolidated approach of resource management. One aspect of the project would involve addressing problems related to the use of electrical fencing. Eco-friendly electric fencing will be made from live poles, which will contribute to agro-forestry, create fodder for livestock, and decrease pressure on surrounding forests. This will minimize conflict between wildlife and humans in the area, increasing capacity for production of local crops including potato, mustard, barley and wheat. This has benefits both economically, as well as socially through the improvement of nutrition in the region. Another aspect of the project will involve the creation of bio-gas and compost from cow dung, which



will simultaneously protect local forests by minimizing firewood collection and increase agricultural fertility by promoting beneficial microbial activities within the soil.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, five additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 188,844 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Cameroon:**

*Target Landscape.* The target landscape identified for COMDEKS activities in Cameroon is Bogu, an area located in the extreme north of Cameroon. Geographically, Bogu is found in the dry tropical zone which experiences low precipitation mostly concentrated in 4-5 rainy months. The rugged terrain is found in the plain basin of Lake Tchad. The area hosts a relatively large population of approximately 95,000 people which contributes to the high population density of Bogu. Seventy-eight percent of the population lives in rural areas. The principal livelihood activities of this region are agriculture, livestock, fishing, hunting, and trade. These activities operate near one another on relatively small parcels, averaging 0.5 hectares, demonstrating the mixed use of the land. Challenges to the landscape are food insecurity related to low precipitation, poor water quality leading to instances of water borne and parasitic illnesses in the population, and deforestation linked to population expansion and fuel wood harvest. Administrative governance related to land management and providing basic social services is weak. Reforestation to recover degraded land is one way the area is fighting the threat of desertification.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* The baseline assessment of the target landscape was conducted in Bogu between September and December 2013. The consultation process with local communities initially saw the participation of 300 people from eight of the twelve counties (“cantons”) that make up the target landscape. A baseline assessment workshop was then conducted with representatives from all twelve counties (women, men and youth), also including traditional local authorities (*Lamido* or chief) and local government authorities (mayor, and sub-divisional officer for Bogu) to pilot the resilience indicators and assess the status of the target socio-ecological production landscape. The findings (including a draft landscape strategy and a participatory map of the Bogu landscape produced during the process) were then validated in a stakeholder workshop with local communities’ representatives and traditional authorities.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Cameroon Landscape Strategy was evaluated by a Task Force within the National Steering Committee (NSC), and approved by the whole NSC in December 2013. The document can be downloaded [here](#). In addition to the baseline assessment project (conducting the baseline assessment, piloting the resilience indicators and developing the landscape strategy), a call for proposals was launched in January 2014. During an NSC meeting held in March 2014 to review COMDEKS activities, seven projects were selected (in addition to the baseline assessment project approved in 2013) and grants approved for an amount of US\$230,006. Overall, eight COMDEKS projects have been supported in Cameroon as of May 2014 for a total commitment of USD 255,000.



### **COMDEKS Costa Rica:**

*Target Landscape.* The target landscape selected as the focus of COMDEKS activities in Costa Rica is the Rio Jesus Maria watershed in the Pacific Region of Costa Rica. COMDEKS pilot activities at the landscape level are intended to be analyzed for lessons in order to develop landscape strategies for other similar watersheds throughout the country. The Rio Jesus Maria watershed spans 35,200 hectares, and is comprised of several smaller sub-basins that are composed of a combination of secondary forests, coffee and fruit trees, mangroves, pastures, plantations, bodies of water, as well as urban areas. The landscape area is characterized by high levels of degradation and deforestation, which is exacerbated by high levels of erosion stemming from poor road design and lack of vegetative cover, in particular during the rainy season. Additionally, among the lower basins, much of the forest cover along river banks has been removed, leading to the acceleration of river currents and flooding. Ultimately, although a rich and productive landscape, the Rio Jesus Maria watershed has lost the majority of its natural forest cover, and faces increasing pressure from decreasing biodiversity and agricultural biodiversity, as well as freshwater scarcity during the dry season and unsustainable agricultural practices.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* The baseline assessment of the target landscape was carried out in December 2013. Three workshops were carried out with local communities from the lower, mid and higher part of the watershed. A total of 105 local community leaders were invited to participate in the landscape-wide baseline assessment using the SEPLS Resilience Indicators to assess the current status of the target landscape and to better understand local communities' perceptions. The results from the consultation process and the draft landscape strategy were then presented in a final workshop with 40 people from the watershed area. It is also interesting to note that there were at least three different reports from national environmental technical authorities assessing the state of biodiversity resources of the landscape area within the last five years. These reports presented the Jesus Maria Watershed as the most degraded watershed at national level. However, the baseline assessment for COMDEKS Costa Rica demonstrated that the communities in the area lack awareness of the erosion and land degradation problems they face. The baseline assessment identified the need to improve the dissemination of scientific knowledge at the decision-making level and at the community level, in order to improve the resilience and recuperation of the degraded resources, to take special measures that could ensure the sustainability of the productive activities at the local and regional levels, and to promote the use of new technologies.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Costa Rica Landscape Strategy was approved by the NSC in March 2014. The document can be downloaded [here](#). Two workshops have been scheduled for mid-2014 in order to support potential COMDEKS grantees in the elaboration of project proposals, and ensure there is no overlap with other SGP activities supported in the area.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, 20 additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through the GEF SGP Upgrading Country Programme for the 5th Operational Phase, for an overall amount of USD 609,206.

### **COMDEKS Ecuador:**

*Target Landscape.* In Ecuador, the landscape area selected for COMDEKS activities, the Alto Napo River



watershed, is located between the Andes Mountains and the Amazonian Lowlands in the Amazon Region, an area playing a critical role in regulating one of the most important fresh water systems on the planet, the Amazon River Basin, and retaining large amounts of organic carbon. The landscape approach supported by the COMDEKS programme in Ecuador builds upon the concept of “Biocorridors for Good Living” (Buen Vivir or Sumak Kawsay), a concept adapted from the 2008 Constitution of Ecuador and the National Plan for Good Living, and implemented by the Ecuador GEF Small Grants Programme in four priority ecosystems; páramos (Neotropical high mountain biomes), dry forests, mangroves, and tropical rainforests). Biocorridors for good living are described as expanses of land where ecological connectivity is re-established connecting fragmented habitats, incorporating sustainable productive activities into the landscape and fostering community partnerships. The target area, separated into the Yaku Samay biocorridor and the Akllak Sacha biocorridor, covers an area of approximately 484,152 hectares, and is home to a population of approximately 44,250 people.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* To engage the community and understand the current state of the landscape, a baseline assessment was conducted in 2013 involving meetings with community leaders within the biocorridors, and workshops for the participatory formulation of projects. A community consultation was conducted based on the indicators of resilience of socio-ecological productive landscapes (SEPLS), gathering information from men and women in the community about landscape planning and management. A Kichwa translator facilitated the consultation to ensure the community members could be fully engaged.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Ecuador Landscape Strategy was approved by the NSC in October 2013. The document can be downloaded [here](#). There are currently six COMDEKS projects under implementation, for an overall amount of USD 273,250, aligned with the goal of the COMDEKS Ecuador Landscape Strategy, aimed at improving resilience of the target landscape. COMDEKS projects in Ecuador support agro ecological and agro-forestry practices to diversify household production, conserve important forest ecosystems through reforestation activities and protection of micro watersheds, and promote income generation activities. COMDEKS projects are supporting the so-called “chacra system”, implemented by different communities in the Amazon Region to manage ancestral agriculture and diversify crops with local species by adding value to this production. For its M&E system, following SGP Ecuador’s best practices, the COMDEKS/SGP Country Programme in Ecuador is relying on the “SIMONA” system, a territorial network of NGO and CSO partners, in strategic alliance with UNDP and the Ministry of Environment, to provide technical assistance and accompaniment to participating communities and conduct participatory M&E and capacity building.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, eight additional grants have been supported in the same landscape, through the GEF SGP Upgrading Country Programme for the 5th Operational Phase for an overall amount of USD 400,000.

### **COMDEKS El Salvador**

The target landscape selected as the focus of COMDEKS activities in El Salvador is the Jaltepeque-Naja Lempe Protected Area, a forest and coastal area in El Salvador, covering approximately 32,065 hectares. The baseline assessment of the target landscape (including the resilience indicators piloting exercise) took place in March 2014, and the COMDEKS El Salvador Landscape Strategy is currently under development.





## **COMDEKS Indonesia**

*Target Landscape.* Semau Island, a small island located in the Sawu Sea, has been chosen as the target area for COMDEKS activities in Indonesia. The island, with its rich ecological habitat, hosts monsoon forest, and the surrounding sea is home to one of the worlds' richest coral reef covers, as well as dolphins, sea turtles, manta rays, and the endangered blue and sperm whales. In addition, there are fourteen villages on Semau Island. The communities living there depend mostly on agriculture and fishing for survival. Unfortunately, the island faces a disproportionate risk to the agriculture practices on which local communities depend, and to its rich biodiversity due to climate change and extreme weather variability. The island faces growing threats given a diminishing fresh water supply, as well as threats from excessive use of chemicals in farming which decreases soil fertility and pollutes the surrounding oceans.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* In November and December 2013, baseline survey assessments were conducted on Semau island, with the support of the Bingkai Indonesia Foundation, mobilizing community members and village leaders to discuss and highlight key issues of concern on the island. The baseline survey was conducted through literature review, field observations, community interviews, and participatory assessment of the community resilience through the use of the resilience indicators. The discussion on the indicators was also integrated with some highlighted issues related to climate change in coastal areas in Indonesia. Nine small group discussions and six individual interviews with village leaders were initially held. A workshop assessment was then held to assess the SEPL indicators with 25 participants representing the local communities of the target area. A second consultation was held to present the score results and to discuss and agree on key problems and potential activities. Through the baseline assessment, a strategy was developed to focus on the most pressing needs of this habitat: a lack of freshwater access, the overuse of chemicals, the need for greater ecosystem protection, and a desire from the community for greater agricultural and aquaculture innovation.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Indonesia Landscape Strategy was approved by the NSC in February 2014. The document can be downloaded [here](#). The COMDEKS project in Indonesia will focus on these issues through a wide range of activities, including community training on planting coral reef habitats in coastal waters and maintenance of protected state forest, coastal and marine ecosystems, community education on medicinal plant species, training for seeding preparation, facilitation of water resource management and construction of new water canals and wells. Following the approval of the COMDEKS Seascape Strategy for Indonesia, a call for proposals was launched, and proposals were approved in May by the NSC. Overall, five COMDEKS projects have been supported in Indonesia as of May 2014 for a total commitment of USD 205,000.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, eleven additional community-based grants have been supported through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 280,000 in GEF grant funding.

## **COMDEKS Kyrgyzstan**

*Target Landscape.* The target landscape selected as the focus of COMDEKS activities in Kyrgyzstan is a coastal strip around Lake Issyk-Kul, located in the Issyk-Kul Province. Lake Issyk-Kul is the biggest lake in Kyrgyzstan: it is one of the 25 largest lakes in the world, and the seventh deepest. The landscape area



selected is a coastal strip, limited on one side by the surf line and on the other side by the highway. The area surrounding Lake Issyk-Kul, renowned for its unique beauty and historic relevance, is currently facing pressure from a large influx of tourists. To mitigate this, protection of this pristine, but strained coastal ecosystem, is increasingly important. The Issyk-Kul Province is an area inhabited by over 400,000 people, mostly employed in the tourism and agriculture sectors. Livestock production, mostly of sheep and goats, is a critical aspect of the local economy, and a portion of the population also engages in fishing activities. Although there has been increasing focus on agricultural production, mainly of vegetables and fruit, there is heavy dependence on food imports from surrounding Kazakhstan, Russia, and China. As a result, the development of local markets and promotion of local products for export are critical in enhancing food security. Furthermore, the growing agricultural sector relies heavily on the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which then can seep into the lake. While on average lower than the national level, poverty rates in certain districts of the Issyk-Kul province are still quite high. For example, in the area of Jety-Oguz, approximately 75% of the population lives in poverty. As a result, there is a high dependence on the local ecosystems as a source of basic resources, leading to excessive use and subsequent land degradation, soil erosion, water and soil pollution, and deforestation.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* A baseline assessment was carried out to understand the current state of the landscape and to identify potential interventions towards developing sustainable livelihood activities in the context of sound biodiversity management. A group of experts of biodiversity, ecosystem productivity, sustainable agriculture, sociology, irrigation, and renewable energy visited over 50 communities surrounding Lake Issyk-Kul to involve the local communities in the assessment. Over 20 presentations and small workshops were conducted, and each community delegated a representative to participate. Over 280 community members participated in the baseline assessment workshop, which took place in Karakol in October 2013. Next, 18 community delegates, representing men and women equally, participated in the scoring of the resilience indicators. Based on the results of the Workshop and the expert studies and recommendations proposed, a Strategy was developed with the long term objective to enhance the resilience of the socio-ecological production landscape.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Kyrgyzstan Landscape Strategy was finally approved by the NSC in April 2014, with a call for proposals launched shortly after. The Landscape Strategy can be downloaded [here](#). The types of community projects that will be supported by the COMDEKS initiative in Kyrgyzstan include the restoration of degraded land in the coastal zone of the lake, revegetation of drylands, restoration of wetlands surrounding the lake, and the creation of nurseries of wild endemic plant species. Additionally, other types of projects might include the promotion of innovative practices of aquaculture to mitigate the strain on Lake Issyk-Kul's naturally occurring fish species, as well as the cultivation of medicinal herbs, and the use of renewable energy sources to reduce the impact of the felling of local natural forests.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, four additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 76,821 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Mongolia**

*Target Landscape.* A large central part of the country known as the Central Selenge region, stretched across 628,856 ha of forest and mountain ecosystems, has been selected as the target landscape for



COMDEKS projects in Mongolia. This area, home to a diverse ecosystem of plants and animals, including bears, lynxes, foxes, and wolves, is currently under pressure from a combination of factors including forest and water source depletion, pollution, and the effects of climate change. As humans continue to rely on unsustainable lumber consumption and the effects of livestock grazing, these issues are intensified. Additionally, as a region crippled by widespread poverty, the environmental deterioration of the area has had disproportionately serious consequences for the local population.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* A baseline assessment was conducted in the region to identify core problems and strategies in the region. Several workshops involving a range of community groups, stakeholders, and local government representatives were held, and assessments were made based on the Resilience Indicators. A total of 36 participants were involved in the resilience indicators scoring exercise. A follow up workshop saw the participation of 50 stakeholders. The baseline assessment workshop was followed by a range of county level community consultations with involvement of 132 persons in five “*soum*” (counties). Based on these community consultations, the overall objective of COMDEKS participation in Mongolia was developed, focusing on the conservation of local biodiversity, enhancing food security, the diversification of agricultural products, and the creation of institutional governance systems. Additionally, community members and other key stakeholders outlined the types of interventions that could contribute to strengthening landscape and community resilience, including activities ranging from diversification of agricultural landscapes and agro-forestry systems to constructing local dams and ponds to the promotion of eco and agro tourism in the region. These activities are aimed at addressing some of the problems endemic to the region.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Mongolia Landscape Strategy was approved by the NSC in January 2014. The document can be downloaded [here](#). There are currently eight COMDEKS projects under implementation, for an overall commitment of USD 224,787. COMDEKS projects will be focusing on the diversification of agricultural landscapes and agro-forestry systems, forest and ecosystem restoration activities to enhance landscape resilience and connectivity, construction of community dams and ponds to regulate stream and spring flows, promotion of alternative energy technologies, improvement in access to credit and market through the development of business plans, and support to handicraft production.

*SGP Co-financing:* In complementarity to the COMDEKS grants, twelve additional grants have been supported in the same landscape through SGP, for an overall amount of USD 84,293 in GEF grant funding.

### **COMDEKS Namibia**

*Target Landscape.* The selected landscape for the COMDEKS project in Namibia is the Ipumbu-ya-Shilongo Conservancy. This conservancy was officially gazetted by the Republic of Namibia in April 2012. The conservancy is located in Otamanzi and Uuvuudhiya constituencies, of northern Namibia, bordering the Etosha National Park. The conservancy has a total area of 154,800 hectares. The conservancy is a semi-arid area with relatively poor soil quality. As such, it has been very susceptible to drought and flooding. Within the boundaries of the Ipumbu-ya-Shilongo conservancy, there are two types of landscapes – i.e., Shrub Mopane and lishana (north). The Shrub Mopane landscape is a mix of alluvial clays and aeolian sands which are generally salty as a consequence of high rates of evaporation. The lishana landscape is characterised by a combination of wind-blown sands on the higher ground and





water-borne clays in the low-lying channels and pans. In a broader context, the Ipumbu-ya-Shilongo lies within a trans-boundary wetland shared almost equally between Angola and Namibia. This trans-boundary wetland is called the Cuvelai-Etosha Basin. The Cuvelai-Etosha Basin consists of hundreds of drainage channels (called iishana, in the local language) that emerge and diverge hundreds of times. Most iishana are dry for much of the year. When flows do occur, they range from tiny trickles to broad fronts of flood water. The majority of people living in the Ipumbu-ya-shilongo conservancy have traditional (customary) rights to the use of the land, portions of which are allocated to individuals by local traditional authorities. Land use in Ipumbu-ya-Shilongo is divided into three distinctive zones – crop farming, livestock farming and conservation and tourism. About 75% of the land is used for crop and livestock farming. These land use types are predominant in the iishana landscape. The majority of the people live in the northern part of the conservancy, and the estimated population within the conservancy is about 13,500 people.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* The baseline assessment workshop of the target landscape was held in late March 2014, toward the end of the rainy season, after extensive consultation with local communities and other stakeholders. The baseline assessment was carried out with the support provided by the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, and financed by a grant. A total of 38 local stakeholders took part in the day and a half workshop, with 15 women and 23 men. A wide variety of stakeholders, from local traditional authorities to government representatives to natural resource monitors took part in the assessment, contributing to a lively exchange of views on challenges and opportunities for the conservancy. The workshop was carried out in English and in Oshiwambo, the local language for most of Northern Namibia. After a mapping exercise, conducted in two separate groups (men and women), the resilience indicators were piloted assessing the current conditions of the Conservancy, and contributing to the development of a landscape strategy for the Conservancy to guide participatory activities at the local level, and future funding opportunities in the area of sustainable resource management.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Namibia Landscape Strategy is currently under development.

### **COMDEKS Niger**

*Target Landscape.* In Niger, the area surrounding “La Mare de Tabalak” a natural freshwater pond, in the central South-Western part of the country has been selected as the target landscape for COMDEKS activities. Located in the Tahoua region, and spreading across an area of 3,557 hectares, Tabalak is one of 12 local wetland ecosystems. Due to its geo-climatic position, Tabalak pond plays a critical role in maintaining biodiversity, and is a remarkably verdant and beautiful wetland habitat surrounded by an arid landscape. It is home to diverse flora and fauna, most notably as an important habitat for migratory birds of the Western Palearctic. In addition, the landscape plays a vital role in local socio-economic production which is heavily dependent on the agricultural, livestock, and fishing activities that rely on this key water source. Currently, Tabalak pond is facing threats of accelerated degradation of natural resources due to pressure from human activities and climate change. Additionally, high incidence of poverty, and poor sanitation services, a poorly developed waste collection system, and lack of latrines all contribute to serious health hazards in the region.

*Baseline Assessment and Resilience Indicators.* In October 2013, a baseline assessment was conducted in order to mobilize local community members, stakeholders, and government representatives in



evaluating the condition of the target landscape and collaborating on the development of a landscape strategy to enhance the resilience of the area surrounding La Mare de Tabalak, and communities living in the area. Community leaders were engaged in participatory planning processes to develop a strategy for the target landscape and propose projects that would facilitate sustainable development and management of the production landscape. An initial meeting with local leaders was held in October 2013 in the town of Tabalak, and the community was invited to participate in a mapping exercise to identify key components and vulnerabilities of the socio-ecological landscape. 150 stakeholders, including community leaders, members of the rural population, and the mayor then participated in seventeen workshops where participants used the SEPL indicators to evaluate the condition of the target landscape. A landscape strategy was developed based on the results of the focus group discussions and results of the scoring exercise.

*Landscape Strategy and Portfolio Development.* The COMDEKS Niger Landscape Strategy was approved by the NSC in January 2014, and the document can be downloaded [here](#). A number of proposals (seven) are currently under development, and an NSC meeting to review and approve project proposals is expected to take place in May 2014. Proposed activities will focus on land restoration in the landscape, the application of sustainable mining technology, or activities aimed at increasing aquatic biodiversity. In particular, given the advanced state of degradation of the ecological landscape which has decreased agricultural productivity, there will be a particular focus on activities aimed at the diversification of farming practices.

## Knowledge Management

During this reporting period, the COMDEKS project has continued to place a large emphasis on knowledge management activities and the collection and dissemination of lessons learned at the global and local levels. Later in 2014, a comprehensive publication is expected to be launched systematizing results and lessons learned from the first phase COMDEKS countries, including individual country case studies with detailed information on target landscapes and seascapes and supported activities at the local level.

At the global level, in June 2013 the launch of the project in ten additional countries was announced through a joint UNDP and MOE-Japan press release, available on the [UNDP website](#), the [UNDP Tokyo website](#), and the [Ministry of Environment of Japan website](#). The press release includes quotes from UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, and quotes from Japan's Minister of Environment Nobuteru Ishihara. The press release was also featured in the July 2013 issue of the [IPSI newsletter](#).

During this reporting period, the COMDEKS website has been revamped and updated to include information from all twenty participating countries to facilitate knowledge sharing and communication among participating countries and the overall public. The COMDEKS website serves to help communicate project progress and results to a wider audience, and includes newsletters, posts, articles, case studies, reports, videos, photo stories and guidelines. Additionally, each country page hosts information on the target landscapes/seascapes, the community-based landscape approach, the COMDEKS landscape strategies, the country programme portfolio as well as knowledge products (such as photo stories) capturing progress at a glance in each country. COMDEKS has also an updated dedicated subpage under the UNDP corporate Local Development website<sup>5</sup> and a dedicated subpage under the GEF-SGP global website<sup>6</sup>.

Substantive quarterly newsletters were published in June 2013 ([Issue 4](#)), September 2013 ([issue 5](#)), December 2013 ([Issue 6](#)), and March 2014 ([Issue 7](#)), and the eighth issue of the COMDEKS newsletter is expected to be launched in June 2014. As in previous years, COMDEKS newsletters have been circulated globally through the COMDEKS website, the UNDP-GEF corporate website and other UNDP bulletins and through Satoyama Initiative newsletters to all IPSI members, for wider dissemination on the status of ongoing activities, project impacts and results. Additionally, COMDEKS stories are frequently showcased in the IPSI monthly newsletters to contribute to knowledge sharing and learning on the *Satoyama* Initiative among IPSI partners (see for example the April 2014 issue of the [IPSI Newsletter](#) for an article on "Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS Baseline Assessment in Namibia").

Since 2013, UNDP (through COMDEKS) has been working together with Bioversity International, the Institute of Global Environmental Studies (IGES), and the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability on a collaborative effort, under IPSI, to develop a toolkit for the

---

<sup>5</sup>

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/strategic\\_themes/local\\_development/community-development-knowledge-management/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/strategic_themes/local_development/community-development-knowledge-management/)

<sup>6</sup> [http://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=104&Itemid=166#.UYIIGPDD\\_mQ](http://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=104&Itemid=166#.UYIIGPDD_mQ)



application of the Indicators of Resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS). From January 28-30, 2014, a public seminar and a technical workshop were held in Rome at Bioversity headquarters to review the first draft set of indicators based on field testing carried out by Bioversity International and UNDP. The workshop was also an opportunity to advance in the development of the toolkit to be used for the application of the indicators in the field. The indicators toolkit is expected to be launched during the Fifth IPSI Global Conference (IPSI-5) and CBD COP12 in October 2014.

During this reporting period, each country programme has produced a number of photo stories, fact sheets, press releases in local newspapers, posters, banners and reports (in English and/or in local languages), websites in local languages with information tailored for local contexts for outreach purposes (i.e. examples from Turkey, available [here](#) and [here](#)), and UNDP CO newsletters (i.e. Bhutan, linked not available). The SGP Turkey Country Programme, in particular, has produced a short film that documents the landscape approach piloted by COMDEKS, and describes COMDEKS supported activities in the Datca-Bozburun Peninsula to enhance the resilience of the landscape. The English version of the short film is available at this link: <http://vimeo.com/92213654>. Branding guidelines for all communication materials produced in participating countries at the national and local levels guide SGP Country Programmes and grantees to make COMDEKS support visible in all materials and communications<sup>7</sup>. Additional communication materials produced at the national level have been featured in the COMDEKS website as well as in COMDEKS newsletters (i.e. brochures from [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [India](#), “Ghost Net Hunters” [video](#) from Turkey). A number of COMDEKS photostories were developed describing the process that led to the development of the landscape strategy through the baseline assessment and community consultation, as well as the support to innovative actions identified by the local communities (see COMDEKS photostories from [Nepal](#), [Fiji](#), [Cambodia](#), [Turkey](#), and [Malawi](#)).

Information about COMDEKS activities in participating countries were also shared during international events, which featured, for example, the participation of SGP National Coordinators from [Nepal](#), during the Satoyama Initiative workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal during 14-16 May 2013), [Fiji](#), during the IPSI/SPREP side event titled “Challenges and Opportunities for the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) from Pacific Perspectives” held on 4 December 2013 during the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Suva, Fiji), and [Turkey](#), at a workshop convened by MEDPAN, the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean, where the SGP Turkey National Coordinator was invited to share Turkey's experience on promoting sustainable, recreational fishing practices (including COMDEKS supported activities). A COMDEKS Turkey landscape [poster](#) of the Datca-Bozburun Peninsula was also featured at IPSI-4 in Fukui Japan, as an example of the quality of local knowledge captured during the community consultative process and the mapping exercise of the COMDEKS socio-ecological production landscape, and the on the ground community-based activities funded by COMDEKS at the landscape level. For more information about the events, please read the COMDEKS newsletters.

Additionally, two SGP regional workshops provided opportunities to promote collaboration amongst COMDEKS Phase 1 and Phase 2 participating countries to share experiences, best practice and lessons

---

<sup>7</sup> As agreed with the donor, all COMDEKS knowledge and communications materials, including publications, will always include the following five logos: the Satoyama Initiative, Japan Biodiversity Fund, GEF, SGP, and the UNDP.



and ensure coherence across global project objectives. The COMDEKS Project Manager, and six SGP National Coordinators implementing COMDEKS activities in the Africa region (Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, and Niger) were fully funded by SGP to participate in the SGP COMPACT replication workshop near Mt. Kenya in September 2013, and discuss key lessons and results emerging from twelve years of SGP's work in the context of the COMPACT programme (Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation). The SGP COMPACT workshop provided a valuable capacity building opportunity for SGP National Coordinators implementing COMDEKS activities to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices related to their efforts in implementing a community-based landscape management approach, engaging local communities in highly participatory and inclusive activities to enhance landscape and community resilience. The workshop was also an opportunity for countries participating in the second phase of COMDEKS to receive additional guidance on the baseline assessment exercise, the implementation of the Resilience Indicators and related scorecards. Similarly, in October 2013, SGP National Coordinators from Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, and India, participated the GEF SGP Upgrading Country Programme Global Workshop held in Merida, Mexico. These countries represent some of the most mature, experienced, and successful SGP country programmes, and among other things, the workshop provided an opportunity for exchange of experiences on the development of focused programmatic approaches, including the community-based landscape management approach.

While the above two opportunities provided a cost effective way for country experience from COMDEKS to be exchanged through the involvement of the SGP National Coordinators, it is recommended that resources be allocated to hold a similar regional workshop to convene SGP National Coordinators from other COMDEKS participating countries in the Asia region in 2014, as well as to convene a global workshop for all COMDEKS participating countries as an opportunity for capacity building, replication and up-scaling of landscape practices.

Knowledge management, including the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, is a primary component of COMDEKS. It is important to highlight that these regional workshops underscore the importance of promoting additional opportunities for the exchange of information and knowledge among participating countries. Peer-to-peer active learning among SGP National Coordinators and grantees can create invaluable inputs towards policy formulation and processes at the national and sub-national levels. Thus, the following section of this report recommends that a discussion with the donor take place during the next Project Board/partnership meeting on the possibility of reallocating some of the grant funds (with a 65% of project funds to be allocated for grant-making activities, instead of the originally envisioned 70%) for a series of knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation activities, including inter alia, the development of comparative case studies, a more thorough final evaluation, and most importantly a COMDEKS global workshop towards the end of 2015 in order to share and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication and upscaling in other participating countries. The participation of project partners from MOEJ, SCBD, UNU-IAS, IGES and Bioversity International, SGP staff and other practitioners (i.e. including experts from the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the World Agroforestry Centre, and others) in this proposed global workshop will be welcomed in order to promote a better understanding of the Satoyama Initiative's concept and activities and its partnership, IPSI, and share experiences on the application of the resilience indicators and opportunities for capacity building, replication and up-scaling of landscape practices.

## Project delivery

Funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, established within the CBD Secretariat, COMDEKS is implemented by UNDP, and delivered through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) as a five year project (2011-2016) with an overall contribution of USD 10 million. Initially funded with a contribution of USD 2 million with a scope of expanding to a 5-year partnership project, the Parties (UNDP and UNEP/SCBD) agreed in 2012 to provide additional funds for the full remaining amount of USD 8,000,000. The USD 10 million contribution from the UNEP/CBD Secretariat (through the Government of Japan) is managed as two separate UNDP projects. The first donor contribution of \$2 million was accepted as cost-sharing to the SGP OP5 Global Project. The second contribution of \$8 million was accepted as cost-sharing to a new stand-alone UNDP project focusing exclusively on COMDEKS, while the GEF SGP Global OP5 project and GEF SGP Upgraded country programmes continued to provide in-kind support by allocating staff time and resources for the management of COMDEKS activities in the 20 participating countries. COMDEKS activities are substantively managed and reported to the donor as one project, administratively they are two separate UNDP projects. As such, the Preliminary Financial Report, included as Annex 1 of this annual report, covers both the first donor contribution of USD 2 million (COMDEKS 1), and the second contribution (COMDEKS 2). The second contribution has been released in tranches of USD 2 million in September 2012 and USD 4 million in November 2013. A third and final tranche of USD 2 million is foreseen for July 2014.

The project delivery rate by the close of the 2013 calendar year period was at 32.6%, representing a disbursement volume of \$882,407.78 against a planned budget of USD 2 million for the first contribution (86.5%), and a disbursement volume of \$878,703.58 against a planned budget of USD 6 million for the second contribution (14.6%). See Annex 1: Preliminary Financial Report as of December 2013.

**Table 5: Financial Delivery for COMDEKS 1 and 2 during the period June 2011 and December 2013.**

Contribution received	Year 2011 (June-December)	Year 2012 (January-December)	Year 2013 (January-December)	Total
COMDEKS 1 USD 2m	USD 93,871.30 (4.7%)	USD 754,719.07 <sup>8</sup> (37%)	USD 882,407.78 (44.1%)	USD 1,730,998.15 (86.5%)
COMDEKS 2 USD 6m	-	-	USD 878,703.58 (14.6%)	USD 878,703.58 (14.6%)

<sup>8</sup> Please also note that the 2012 Financial Report includes the IPSAS adjustment increase in 2012, as the preliminary 2012 financial report was prepared before 2012 account closure. The 2012 preliminary financial report submitted with the second annual report included an amount of USD 739,854.43. The amount reflected in this third annual report is consistent with the certified financial report submitted to UNEP in July 2013.



The low delivery rate for the second contribution is due to the fact that in June 2013 ten additional countries joined COMDEKS in its second phase, bringing to twenty the number of countries involved in the COMDEKS Project. As for the first phase countries, the pace of grant-making reflects the time required for each participating SGP Country Programme to undertake a number of planning and capacity building activities specifically needed to apply the landscape approach – such as the piloting of the Resilience Indicators and the preparation, review and approval of COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategies.

Delivery picked up consistently during the first months of 2014 after the approval of the Landscape Strategies in the second phase countries. In May 2014, at the time of the submission of this annual report, COMDEKS has one hundred and twelve grant projects approved and several additional projects in the pipeline. Additionally, the first phase countries (with the exception of Brazil) have already committed the majority of programmed resources (as suggested in the table below), and additional resources may be allocated in some of the Phase 1 countries subject to future arrangements, and based on the availability of resources and absorptive capacity in each country.

**Table 6: COMDEKS Grant-making - Allocations and Commitment Amount (as of 14 May 2014)**

COUNTRY	Region	Programmed	Grant Allocation Letters Sent	Commitment as per Database based on Allocated Amount 14 May 2014	Commitment Percentage
<b>Phase 1 - Since June 2011</b>					
Brazil	Latin America	280,000.00	255,000.00	25,000.00	10%
Cambodia	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	280,000.00	255,000.00	91%
Ethiopia	Africa	280,000.00	280,000.00	255,000.00	91%
Fiji	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	255,000.00	245,000.00	96%
Ghana	Africa	280,000.00	280,000.00	255,000.00	91%
India	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	255,000.00	226,519.00	89%
Malawi	Africa	280,000.00	255,000.00	240,000.00	94%
Nepal	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	280,000.00	254,482.00	91%
Slovakia	Europe & CIS	280,000.00	280,000.00	279,998.44	100%



Turkey	Europe & CIS	280,000.00	280,000.00	280,000.00	100%
<b>Phase 2 - Since June 2013</b>					
Bhutan	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	255,000.00	127,000.00	50%
Cameroon	Africa	280,000.00	255,000.00	255,000.00	100%
Costa Rica	Latin America	280,000.00	255,000.00	25,000.00	10%
Ecuador	Latin America	280,000.00	280,000.00	273,250.00	98%
El Salvador	Latin America	280,000.00	127,000.00		0%
Indonesia	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	255,000.00	205,000.00	80%
Kyrgyzstan	Europe & CIS	280,000.00	255,000.00	24,950.00	10%
Mongolia	Asia & Pacific	280,000.00	255,000.00	224,787.00	88%
Namibia	Africa	280,000.00	127,000.00	25,000.00	20%
Niger	Africa	280,000.00	255,000.00	24,860.00	10%
		<b>5,600,000.00</b>	<b>5,019,000.00</b>	<b>3,500,846.44</b>	<b>70%</b>

As the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategies and Baseline Assessment processes are concluded in both phase 1 and phase 2 countries (with the exception of Namibia and El Salvador), commitment and delivery rates are expected to rise significantly in 2014.



## *The way forward*

As outlined in this third annual report, covering COMDEKS activities undertaken between May 2013 and May 2014, this period was significant for launching the project in ten additional countries, identifying new target landscapes and seascapes, field-testing the landscape-wide baseline assessment methodologies and the indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes, and consolidating community-based activities in the first phase participating countries.

As we move forward in 2014-15, COMDEKS activities will be focused on the following:

- Conducting outreach activities for Phase 2 participating countries for the **identification and approval of small grants** to community organizations to help them maintain and manage more resilient socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.
- COMDEKS **ex-post baseline assessment methodologies** will be tested and applied in the second phase pilot countries. Projects will be near completion in some of the first phase countries, and first phase countries are expected to undertake ex-post baseline assessments in order to evaluate achievements, achievements at the landscape level through the use of the indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes; produce participatory COMDEKS videos with stories from supported activities, and develop case studies focused on key activities, results and impacts achieved at the landscape level and recommendations for the future.
- Ongoing participation in a collaborative activity with UNU-IAS, Bioversity International and IGES for the development of a **Resilience Indicators Toolkit**. Drawing from COMDEKS lessons learned in the application of the resilience indicators and the development of the landscape-wide baseline assessments and community consultations, the toolkit will be used to mobilize communities to assess the status of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, and to develop community-based strategies for sustainable production in biodiversity rich landscapes.
- Systematization of results and lessons learned from the **first phase countries** to produce a comprehensive **flagship publication** with summaries of ten individual country case studies with detailed information on target landscapes and seascapes and supported activities at the local level to be launched at the forthcoming CBD COP in Korea in October 2014.
- Through the production and dissemination of COMDEKS newsletters of other KM products, UNDP and the COMDEKS project team will continue to increase exposure of COMDEKS activities to IPSI members, as well as policy makers and a wider audience via the project website and other UNDP-GEF platforms.

It is recommended that a **Project Board/Partnership (MOEJ, SCBD, UNU-IAS, UNDP) meeting** be conducted in July 2014 to discuss, inter alia, the decision to reallocate part of the grant-making funds for, among other things, a Global COMDEKS Knowledge Management and Replication Workshop, to take place at the beginning of 2015 as an opportunity for exchange of experiences and replication of best practices among participating countries and partners. The participation of experts



from, SCBD, MOEJ, UNU-IAS and other partners in this global workshop is welcomed in order to promote a better understanding of the Satoyama Initiative's concept and activities and its partnership IPSI. It is also proposed that additional funds should be used for the development of comparative studies, and a more thorough final evaluation, and other KM and ME activities.

Finally, it is recommended that the **fourth year contribution** be released in July 2014.



***Annex 1: COMDEKS Preliminary Financial Report as of December 31, 2013.***

(see attached pdf documents)