

COMDEKS Phase 4

Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Programme

**COMDEKS Programme Landscape/Seascape Strategy (CPLS)**

**Note:** text in green provides guidance to completing the various sections of the CPLS and should be deleted in the final CPLS, other text should be retained. CPLS should be no longer than 15 pages.

Each country, led by the NC and NSC, must prepare a COMDEKS Programme Landscape/Seascape Strategy (CPLS) as a simple and user-friendly tool to complement and link with the OP8 CPS. In collaboration with the NC, the NSC contributes towards and approves the COMDEKS CPLS. The COMDEKS CPLS is designed to help NCs simplify as well as receive maximum benefit from the COMDEKS planning process. The template is intended to provide a common structure for the COMDEKS CPLSs, and to ensure portfolio-wide coherence.

The COMDEKS CPLS must be submitted to the COMDEKS Partnership Specialist (Rissa Edoo) for technical review. After receiving feedback from the COMDEKS Partnership Specialist on adraft COMDEKS CPLS, the strategy should be submitted to the NSC for final approval to ensure consistency with national environmental and development priorities.

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

*Country teams are highly encouraged to review* [*COMDEKS publications and guidance materials*](https://comdeksproject.com/knowledge-management-products/publications/) *from previous COMDEKS phases to benefit from the learnings, experiences and best practices already garnered by the programme.*

Background

The COMDEKS programme was launched in 2011 as a flagship programme of the Satoyama Initiative- a global effort to promote sustainable use of natural resources in landscapes and seascapes with local communities. The first two phases of COMDEKS, funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF) at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), were implemented from 2011 to 2018 by the UNDP through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the CBD Secretariat, and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

These working landscapes and seascapes, known as socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), include many uses, from farming and fishing to forestry. Their productivity and resilience are central to the economic well-being and cultural identity of communities who depend on them throughout the world.

The COMDEKS programme provides small-scale finance- delivered through the GEF SGP directly to local communities, Indigenous Peoples and civil society to implement locally led projects that enhance livelihoods and well-being, conserve biodiversity, address climate change, and support local cultures and traditional practices. In this way, COMDEKS activities not only contribute to the ecological resilience of SEPLS, but also strengthen the social and economic resilience of communities within these areas. By enhancing governance and participatory decision-making processes in local communities, COMDEKS offers a critical pathway for humans to effectively manage natural resources and live in greater harmony with nature. The programme also collects and disseminates knowledge and experiences from successful local initiatives to facilitate broader adoption by other communities throughout the world.

Initiated in 2020, COMDEKS Phase 3 expanded on the results of previous phases by examining options for the institutional and financial sustainability of SEPLS. Ten countries from Phases 1 and 2 were selected to participate in Phase 3 which focused on strengthening knowledge, sharing experiences, and disseminating best practices and lessons learned on SEPLS. Phase 3 focused on the consolidation of COMDEKS’ experiences, implementing policy dialogues, and providing inputs towards the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), under negotiation at the CBD from 2020-2022.

At the CBD COP15 in Montreal, December 2022, the Ministry of Environment of Japan, Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, UNDP and other partners announced the launch COMDEKS Phase 4. This phase aims to further expand and ensure sustainability and sound biodiversity management, governance and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities in SEPLS. It will be implemented in 15 countries over the period 2023 to 2027.

Phase 4 will seek to catalyse and drive integrated local actions and provide concrete contributions to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and will focus on GBF targets related to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. COMDEKS Phase 4 will also contribute and support implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans at the country level, through locally led initiatives.

COMDEKS Phase 4 also aligns to [UNDP’s Nature Pledge](https://www.undp.org/nature/nature-pledge) which will advance three interconnected shifts (value, economic and finance, and policy and practice) to transform global systems to meet vital targets to protect and restore the planet, eradicate poverty, reduce gender and other inequalities, protect human rights, and accelerate overall progress on the SDGs.

**COMDEKS Phase 4 Goal:** to further expand and ensure sustainable biodiversity management, enhanced governance and livelihood activities with local communities in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.

**Component 1:** grant making to civil society and community-based organizations to support sustainable landscape and seascape management.

**Component 2:** knowledge management for capacity building, replication, and up-scaling.

COMDEKS Background Phases 1, 2 and 3 (as relevant) (1 ½ pages max)

Please provide a brief summary of activities undertaken by COMDEKS during Phases 1, 2 and 3, as relevant. It is noted and understood that some participating countries have been involved in all three Phases of COMDEKS, whilst others are new during Phase 4.

For countries that participated in COMDEKS Phase 3, please provide a brief summary of the national policy dialogues which focused on: (1) promoting institutionalization of SEPLS; (2) enhancing financial sustainability of SEPLS; and (3) engagement of SEPLS as OECMs to contribute to the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Landscape/Seascape Selection and Priority Areas (2 pages max)

Indicate if the same OP7/OP8 landscape/seascape will be used for the COMDEKS Phase 4 portfolio of projects. Or if a sub-region of the OP7/OP8 landscape will be selected for COMDEKS projects.

If a different landscape/seascape will be selected, please indicate and justify the approach and the rationale for selection.

Describe the proposed landscape/seascape and include:

* Map of the landscape/seascape- e.g. aerial photos/ satellite images/ sketch map
* Coordinates of the landscape/seascape
* Total hectarage of the landscape/seascape
* Typology of landscape/seascape- typology here means the kind of landscape (mountain, low-lying plain, valley, riverine etc.) and seascape (wetland/mangrove, river basins, bays, seagrass to coral reef, marine areas etc.). There could also be a combination of a landscape with a seascape (i.e. from upper watersheds to coastal mangrove, seagrass and coral ecosystems) which is actually preferred as it covers the continuum of related ecosystems and communities.
* Key biodiversity features and protection/conservation status (e.g. is the area a Protected Area, ICCA, OECM, other area of nationally significant biodiversity importance, it is aligned to NBSAP priority areas etc.)

Also consider cultural/traditional/Indigenous features, local/community/traditional governance systems, presence and distribution of potential grantee partners, etc.

This section should also explain how the COMDEKS Programme Landscape/Seascape Strategy is complementary to the SGP OP7 and OP8 landscape/seascape and the Country Programme Strategy.

Explain the process and justification for selecting the landscape/seascape.

Describe the consultative process that was undertaken to select the landscape/seascape. Which stakeholders (communities/civil society, NSC, etc.) were involved.

Contribution to the 2030 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (1 page max)

Please provide a summary of the linkages to the 2030 Targets and Indicators of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) including in relation to the new GBF Target 1 (spatial planning), Target 2 (ecosystem restoration), and Target 3 (on protected and conserved areas), as well as other GBF Targets and frameworks as relevant.

The section should refer to the proposed role of SEPLS in relation to area-based conservation measures, including OECMs (other effective area-based conservation measures).

**Background note on OECMs:** Parties to the CBD adopted Decision 14/8 (2018) on “Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures” in which the work of the Satoyama Initiative was recognized. Decision 14/8 defines an OECM as: *A geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values.*

Among other activities, Decision 14/8 encourages parties and other governments, relevant organizations, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to apply the scientific and technical advice on OECMs (Annex III-Decision 14/8). This includes identifying OECMs and submitting relevant spatial data and other complementary information to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) to be included in the Protected Planet portal and newly launched World Database on OECMs.

Situation Analysis (threats and opportunities) (1 ½ pages max)

The baseline assessment provides SGP Country Programmes and stakeholders with information about the current state of the landscape/seascapes which can be used as a basis for setting goals and desired outcomes. The baseline assessment assists stakeholders in the target area to design strategies defined and agreed upon in a participatory manner, with the aim of enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and production systems.

Provide some details on how the baseline assessment was conducted and the application of the SEPLS resilience indicator toolkit[[1]](#footnote-1) (this step is used to assess the current environmental and socio-economic features of the landscape/seascape and develop strategies to address them- see footnote).

Outline the environmental, social, economic and development context and challenges of the landscape/seascape. Provide a brief description of key stakeholders (i.e. number of people and socio-economic characteristics of people living in the landscape/seascape, land tenure systems, size of land holding, poverty, and food security issues etc.).

Landscape/Seascape Strategy (Outcomes and Impact Indicators) (2 pages max)

The overall long-term objective of the COMDEKS landscape/seascape strategy is to enhance socio-ecological production landscape seascape resilience through community-based activities.

Please list the main outcomes, and impact indicators to be adopted by the country-level COMDEKS programme addressing:

* Landscape/seascape diversity, ecosystem integrity and resilience,
* Biodiversity and sustainable management (agriculture and fisheries),
* Livelihoods and well-being,
* Governance and social equity.

Four outcomes should be adopted, and the indicators selected should correspond to each of those outcomes[[2]](#footnote-2) (see footnote). These indicators will be adopted for the national COMDEKS programme and will be achieved through support to community projects.

The COMDEKS indicators will be aligned to the SGP OP8 indicators (see OP8 CPS template). Community projects will have their own project -based indicator system, which should align with SGP OP8 project level indicators.

Examples of possible outcomes include: landscape seascape connectivity enhanced; increased resilience of agroforestry systems; enhanced food and water security, watersheds under restoration, agriculture production systems diversified, landscape seascape management is improved; soil conditions improved and erosion reduced, water use efficiency and availability enhanced; cross-sectorial institutions at landscape/seascape level strengthened to support planning, negotiation, implementation and capacity-building.

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| **Landscape Outcomes**  (Below are examples of outcomes that can be developed. These should be developed during the baseline assessment and resilience indicator consultations together with the community and stakeholders). | **Indicators**  (Below are some examples of indicators that can be used. Use the OP8 indicator list to help develop country specific indicators based on the outcomes developed). |
| **Landscape/seascape diversity, ecosystem integrity and resilience**  Ecosystem services improved and land degradation reduced by strengthening participatory land use planning and management practices. | * Hectares of land (by land use type: ICCAs, PAs, OECMs, production landscapes-seascapes, including marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds) brought under sustainable land and resource management. * Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status. * Number of targeted communities implementing innovative or traditional sustainable land use management practices. * Hectares of land/marine ecosystems under restoration |
| **Biodiversity and sustainable management (agriculture and fisheries)**  Sustainable agro-ecological practices are implemented across the landscape to enhance and revive traditional practices and promote adoption of new sustainable practices. | * Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural, and water management practices. * Number of farmers implementing traditional and adaptive agro-ecological practices * Number of farmers/farming groups with improved capacity for sustainable agro-ecological practices |
| **Livelihoods and well-being**  Livelihood and well-being of target communities/groups within the landscape are sustained and enhanced through the development of enterprises in line with local tradition and culture. | * Number and type of livelihood enterprises (and/or alternative income sources) established and sustained. * Number of targeted households and communities with improved income generation (disaggregated by gender) * Number of women-led/youth-led eco-enterprises developed |
| **Governance and social equity**  Institutional and local community  capacity strengthened to  enhance participatory planning, conservation and landscape management | * Number of representatives from social inclusion groups meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms. * Number of institutions created or strengthened that are engaged in integrated landscape/seascape management. * Number and type of plans/decisions relevant for the target landscape that have been agreed and implemented. * Number of COMDEKS knowledge products developed to capture and disseminate lessons learned at the programme level. |

Typology of potential community-based projects and criteria for project selection (2 pages max)

Define the criteria for project selection taking into account: strategic importance of the project for the target landscape seascape/seascape (i.e. biodiversity value and hotspots etc.); projects that can affect the entire site through replication; projects that address policies; projects that link income generation to conservation; projects that address innovative approaches; projects that address multiple threats or needs; project with a social inclusion (gender, youth, PWDs, IP) and conservation focus.

Briefly describe the types of community projects that can be funded to achieve socio-ecological production landscape/seascape resilience. This should not be overly prescriptive but should give a sense of the types of projects that will be compatible with the CPLS, and will contribute to the desired outcomes and indicators. Please indicate if any strategic project will be implemented.

Examples of types of eligible projects should outline the desired impact the activities would have on long-term socio-ecological resilience of the selected landscape seascape and should include a description of how they might address ecosystem functions (water, habitat, carbon, soil, etc.) and conservation of biodiversity, local livelihoods, agricultural production, and institutional structures.

Activities can include both the revival of traditional conservation and production practices and the adoption and development of new techniques.

Examples of possible eligible projects include: forest restoration activities to enhance landscape/seascape connectivity; reforestation of tropical hillsides, riparian forests and mangroves; rangeland rehabilitation and improved pasture management; restoration of wetlands, peatlands, watersheds, coral reefs and seagrass beds; re-vegetation in drylands; protecting and enhancing ecosystem services such as water flows and water quality through restoration of forest areas, and soil and water retention infrastructure; diversification of agricultural landscapes via agro-forestry, climate-resilient agriculture and water use practices; diversification of production systems (cultivation of a higher diversity of crops and varieties; soil conservation, improved water management and water efficiency (mulching, cover crops, rainwater harvesting, re-vegetation, fallow, intercropping, crop rotation); adjustments in crop and herd management; use of climate-tolerant/drought-resistant and fast maturing crop species and varieties. Note that this list is not comprehensive and other locally relevant, traditional practices should also be prioritized. Projects and activities should be developed based on the needs of the community.

Project should also focus on enhancing and diversifying livelihoods, improving well-being, establishing or improving governance systems, facilitating CSO-government-private sector dialogues, enhancing social inclusion and empowering the most vulnerable, communicating, sharing and disseminating knowledge and experiences, facilitating policy influence, replication and scale-up.

Define criteria for NGO/CBOs selection: NGOs/CBOs should be selected to participate in the COMDEKS activities based on their ability to deliver community projects that fit within the country programme landscape/seascape strategy. Please describe strategies to be used to engage with NGOs/CBOs.

Describe awareness raising and capacity building strategies for the COMDEKS programme.

Please indicate expected frequency of SGP National Steering Committee meetings to approve COMDEKS projects. The role of the NSC is clearly described in the Operational Guidelines of the SGP and it will follow established practices. In particular, the NSC contributes to additional resource mobilization, approves project grants, participates in the monitoring and evaluation of projects, and helps in the communication of lessons learned and their integration into national policy development and development planning. Note that the NSC membership should be reviewed to ensure expertise on landscape/seascape issues, and if necessary, expanded to include relevant skills. TAG members can also participate in the review of COMDEKS proposals and provide technical advice as relevant.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (1/2 page max)

Describe how community members and local stakeholders will participate in setting landscape/seascape outcomes and indicators; how they will participate in monitoring; and how progress will be documented and reported. How will progress on COMDEKS indicators be tracked.

Describe the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual COMDEKS projects.

Consult the OP8 CPS template for more detailed M&E guidance.

Knowledge Management and Communication Plan (1 page max)

Describe your plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices identified through the COMDEKS projects and portfolio (i.e. development of case studies, brochures, fact sheets, videos, publications, and other knowledge products etc.). This is a key component for COMDEKS grants and each grant should allocate some budget to facilitate development of KM products and communication.

Describe how the SGP Country Programme will use this knowledge to inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels where relevant (i.e. identify key policy processes and relevant networks).

Describe how the SGP Country Programme will use this knowledge to replicate and up-scale COMDEKS good practices and lessons learned for landscape seascape management to support sustainable socio-ecological production activities at the country, landscape seascape, community and farmers levels. Indicate how COMDEKS learnings can be scaled up or applied to OP8.

The COMDEKS KM and communication plan should also align and complement the overall approach to KM and Communication in OP8.

Work Plan and timeline (1/2 page)

Describe the tentative timeline for COMDEKS implementation in your country. Some items that can be included in the workplan are: outreach and awareness activities, baseline assessment, CPLS development, call for proposals and evaluations, NSC meetings, site visits, stakeholder consultations, M&E activities, KM activities and events, CSO-government dialogues. A simple table can be developed and inserted for the workplan and timeline. The timeline can be done per year or per quarter. Example below:

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| **Activities/Tasks** | **2024/ Q2/Q3** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** |
| Site visits, community meetings/outreach/baseline assessment exercise | Q2 2024 |  |  |  |
| Call for proposal |  |  |  |  |
| NSC meetings |  |  |  |  |
| Project implementation |  |  |  |  |
| Knowledge sharing events |  | Q1 2025 |  |  |
| M&E and site visit | Q4 2024 |  |  |  |

1. Review: [Updated resilience indicator toolkit](https://live-unu-edu.pantheonsite.io/publication/indicators-resilience-socio-ecological-production-landscapes-and-seascapes-sepls-2024), [Indicator resilience toolkit publication](https://comdeksproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/toolkit-indicators-web.pdf) and [Assessing landscape resilience publication](https://comdeksproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/resilience-indicators-publication-web.pdf) from previous COMDEKS Phases. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Review[: Communities in action for landscape resilience and sustainability](https://comdeksproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/communities-in-action-comdeks-web-v2.pdf) for country case studies and examples of landscape strategies, outcomes and indicators. Consult OP8 CPS template for further examples of OP8 indicators. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)