



**SUBMISSION BY THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TO THE STOCKTAKE ON PRE-2020
IMPLEMENTATION AND AMBITION AT THE 25TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

INTRODUCTION

1. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) welcomes the opportunity to submit information on the GEF's work of relevance to pre-2020 implementation and ambition for the consideration of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2019, in line with decisions 1/CP.23 and 1/CP.24.
2. As an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC, as well as the Paris Agreement, the GEF has provided financing for country-driven climate change mitigation action from the GEF Trust Fund since its establishment in 1991. The GEF has also been supporting adaptation initiatives that address national priorities through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), established in response to guidance from COP 7 in 2001. Through these funds, the GEF has been supporting national and global efforts to help enable developing countries accelerate their national action and raise the level of ambition through the provision of financial, technological, and capacity-building support for the pre-2020 and post-2020 periods.
3. The GEF submitted its Report to COP 25 on August 29, 2019, which could serve as an input for this process.¹

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST YEAR

4. The GEF-7 period (July 2018 to June 2022) continues the GEF support for pre-2020 implementation and ambition and coincides with a key phase in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
5. The GEF-7 resource allocation framework includes \$802 million for climate change mitigation, comprising of \$511 million of country allocations and \$291 million of set-aside resources. The GEF-7 Programming Directions builds upon focal area investments on renewable

¹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/200164>

energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon transport and cleantech innovation, as well as on impact programs aiming to transform urban, food and land-use systems by integrating priorities across multilateral environmental agreements to deliver multiple global environmental benefits. In GEF-7, countries will also continue to have access to resources for National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) for small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs), and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) support. Country allocations will be available to deliver on other enabling activities in line with COP guidance.

6. In the first year of GEF-7 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), the GEF allocated \$615.7 million from the GEF Trust Fund to activities with climate change mitigation objectives, including \$143.4 million drawn from the climate change focal area. These resources supported 5 programs, 17 projects, and 14 enabling activity projects. These 36 programs and projects are expected to leverage approximately \$4.4 billion in co-financing and are expected to avoid or sequester over 533.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq) in total over their lifetime.

7. The new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF for the period 2018-2022 aims to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries, and support their efforts to enhance adaptive capacity, in alignment to the Paris Agreement's global goal on adaptation. Supporting countries to strive for a higher level of ambition in climate action is an important feature of the strategy, particularly through the LDCF support.

8. In the first year of GEF-7, the LDCF has allocated \$148.3 million to 17 projects and programs. The LDCF has been off to a promising start in GEF-7 to provide timely support to more LDCs. Within 12 months of the new LDCF/SCCF strategy roll-out, 20 LDCs, or 43 percent of the LDCs, have successfully accessed LDCF resources through 17 projects and programs.

9. National adaptation priorities addressed through the 17 projects and programs include climate-smart agriculture and forestry, urban and rural climate resilience enhancement, water resource management, climate-resilient livelihood support, climate-proofing of infrastructure, climate information services and adaptive capacity enhancement of communities through integrated approaches.

10. Contributions from these projects and programs include: 6,931,270 direct beneficiaries, of which 3,469,867 are female; 723,009 hectares of land under climate-resilient management; 129 policies and plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience; and 63,670 persons, of which 31,164 are female, with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures.

11. During the first year of GEF-7, one project was supported with \$1.0 million from the SCCF combined with \$8.4 million from the GEF Trust Fund. The Caribbean Small Island Developing States multi-country soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems (CSIDS-SOILCARE) will mainstream climate

resilience in three regional sustainable land management (SLM) plans and support seven small island developing states to achieve climate resilient land degradation neutrality. The project is expected to impact 80,000 hectares of land, directly benefit least 5,000 people, and deliver mitigation co-benefits.

12. The LDCF received \$71.4 million in new pledges during the first year of GEF-7, including a pledge by a sub-national government. In addition, a Ministerial dialogue and pledging session for the LDCF was co-hosted by the LDC Group, Government of Germany, and the GEF on 24 September 2019. At this event, four donor governments pledged a combined total of \$160 million of new contributions, and another donor re-confirmed its commitment of \$7.5 million announced at the 2019 G7 Summit.

13. In response to the COP 21 decision adopting the Paris Agreement, the GEF supported the establishment and operationalization of the CBIT, in order to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020, as a priority reporting-related need, including through voluntary contributions during GEF-6 and future replenishment cycles. In GEF-7, this support is embedded in the climate change strategy with \$55.0 million notionally allocated for programming.

14. In the first year of GEF-7, ten additional CBIT projects have been approved, including seven national projects in Afghanistan, Armenia, China, Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, India, and Nicaragua, one regional project supporting five eastern and southern African countries, and two global projects that aim to improve knowledge sharing, coordination, and facilitate additional capacity-building.

15. The GEF provides financial support for developing countries to undertake TNAs, and the fourth TNA project (TNA phase IV) to support 15 LDCs and SIDS was approved with total financing of \$4.4 million. The participating countries include: Comoros, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Maldives, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, St. Kitts and Nevis, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Yemen. This project will continue to build upon lessons and experiences captured from the three previous TNA projects.

16. Capacity-building is a key theme of GEF projects, and it is embedded in the design of both climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. In calendar year 2018, the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF, and SCCF portfolios supported 76 stand-alone and multi-focal area projects with various capacity-building priorities (as listed in decision 2/CP.7) in the form of technical assistance. The total amount of support towards these activities amounted to approximately \$96.6 million. Of these activities, 36 projects provided support to 43 SIDS and LDCs with capacity-building activities amounting to \$51.7 million.

17. Building on the ongoing active collaboration among the operating entities of the financial mechanism, the GEF and GCF are also strengthening partnership for coordinated engagements and programming at the country level, outreach, and sharing of experiences and lessons learned. These measures are expected further enhance complementarity and financial leverage.

SUMMARY OF SUPPORT

18. As of June 30, 2019, the GEF has supported 972 climate change mitigation projects with more than \$6.2 billion in GEF funding in over 165 countries through the GEF Trust Fund. This funding leveraged over \$52 billion from a variety of sources, including GEF agencies, national and local governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations. Key mitigation sectors addressed by the GEF for the pre-2020 action include: energy efficiency, renewable energy, agriculture, forest and land use, urban and transport systems, among others.

19. In addition, the GEF has supported a total of 384 enabling activity projects with an additional \$490 million through the GEF Trust Fund since its establishment. These enabling activities include NCs, BURs, and TNAs.

20. As of June 30, 2019, the CBIT had supported 47 country projects and four global projects with \$78 million. Through these projects, 15 LDCs and seven SIDS, of which one is also an LDC, are being supported in their efforts to enhance transparency.

21. The GEF has supported climate change adaptation projects and enabling activities, with \$1.4 billion for 282 projects through the LDCF and \$350 million for 79 projects through the SCCF. These numbers include support for the preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) in 51 countries. The LDCF also supports the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Key sectors addressed in NAPA implementation project support included: agriculture, water resource management, climate information systems, natural resource management and fragile ecosystems, disaster risk management, and infrastructural development.