

What Kind of World?

A very old man

once directed his gardener to plant a beautiful but slow growing tree. "Do you realize," asked the gardener, "this tree won't bear fruit for decades?" "Why then," said the old man, "plant it right away, for there is no time to lose." Protecting the environment for current and future generations is at the heart of sustainable development. And like a slow growing tree, it requires the initial spadework and continual care.

*GEF:
Caring for Generations*



Increasing Participation by Women

Global population growth and fertility rates have begun to drop, in part due to increased participation by women in education and development activities. Case studies in Africa identify women as the “major keepers” of forests and home gardens, yet they are often excluded from government-supported agricultural programs. GEF experience has shown that enhancing women’s participation in biodiversity conservation and in delivery of renewable energy services enhances the inter-generational link.



A GEF project in **Mozambique** targets women’s groups as key partners in the conservation and sustainable use of 7,000 square kilometers of coastal and 2,500 square kilometers of marine areas inhabited by threatened and endangered turtles and dugongs. Social surveys showed that women’s groups were the primary caretakers of turtles that reach the shore and that women determined who had access and control. Women have long opposed illegal hunting safaris and have assisted the project in developing restrictions on marine

harvesting. These women’s groups will now help manage the project’s community micro-enterprise program, identifying selection criteria and participating in the final selection and management of projects receiving micro-credit. (Implemented by the Government of Mozambique/World Bank)

Malawi’s energy program is heavily biased towards wood fuel, accounting for more than 90 percent of the country’s total energy supply; just 4 percent of the population has access to grid-connected electricity. A GEF project in **Malawi** will reduce wood fuel dependence by introducing alternative forms of renewable energy such as photovoltaics (PVs) in rural and urban households as well as the commercial and industrial sectors. Micro-credit loans will enable women clients of community banks to buy these technologies in bulk. Women’s groups will be represented in the project’s District Development Committees, which are the local units for delivery of PV systems. (Implemented by Malawi’s Department of Energy/UNDP)

Tapping Young People’s Conservation Potential

Over one billion people are between the ages of 15 to 24 years. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 850 million reside in developing countries and that some 500 million additional jobs will be needed in the coming decade for these new entrants into the workforce. With urban and industrial employment unable to absorb this new wave of workers, the burden will be felt in rural and agricultural sectors. This will mean increased demand for resource-based livelihoods and labor-intensive rural enterprises. Experience in GEF-financed projects has demonstrated that young people can be gainfully employed and serve as active partners in sustainable development projects.

Some 150 of the poorest communities in the Amazon region of **Peru** — roughly 200,000 people — are the beneficiaries of a promising rural energy program that addresses post-

conflict reconstruction while providing the energy necessary to power the basic infrastructure required for recovery. Diesel/photo-voltaic hybrid systems using energy storage batteries will help maintain a long-term energy supply for small-scale industries. Youth groups will operate the community-based diesel generators and teams of young employees will be recruited for the collection of agreed-upon energy maintenance fees. (Implemented by a local non-profit, ILZRO RAPS-Peru, which is contributing close to \$12 million in cofinance, and UNDP)

An inventory of globally significant plants and animals in Bale Mountains National Park and nearby Harena Forests in **Ethiopia** points to a wide diversity of medicinal plants. However, these plants are increasingly threatened by agricultural expansion, deforestation, and over-harvesting. A GEF project is supporting farmer-based cultivation trials of selected threatened and indigenous species in home gardens. Social surveys showed that elders provided the best advice in identifying and conserving medicinal plants, including their “safe and efficacious herbal remedies.” Traditional health providers are mostly elderly women who have used these herbal remedies in home health care. Youth groups were formed to cultivate similar gardens along the boundaries of the villages and market herbal remedies outside the villages. (Implemented by the Government of Ethiopia and the World Bank)

Saving Biological, Historical, and Cultural Heritage

The United Nations Social Summits in 1995 and 2000 underscored the importance of recognizing “the cultural dimension of development to ensure respect for cultural diversity and that of our common human cultural heritage.” There are over 5,000 indigenous or tribal groups worldwide with an estimated population of about 600 million. Indigenous groups are the caretakers of many of the world’s reserves of biological diversity and

Consider...

just in the last year or two, Hurricane Mitch, the devastation caused by earthquakes in Mexico, Taiwan, and Turkey, the floods in China and Mozambique, and the cyclone that pummeled India’s eastern coast. These disasters affect rich and poor nations alike, but they can have a disproportionate effect on the quality of life in developing countries for generations. And the most vulnerable — women, children, and low-income communities in general — are bearing the brunt.

sites of historical and cultural significance. Recognizing the contributions of cultural groups not only corresponds to the World Heritage Convention, but also provides necessary support to people living under conditions of extreme poverty.

GEF is funding in-situ conservation and compatible ecotourism activities that benefit tribal communities living in and around five of the most important cultural and historical sites in **Ecuador**. These include: Sangay National Park, a World Heritage Site of more than 270,000 hectares in the provinces of Chimborazo, Tungurahua, and Morona Santiago, occupied by the Shuar and Quichua indigenous communities and some of the country’s most diverse species; Cotacachi-Cayapas ecological reserve, home to the pre-Colombian archaeological site of La Tolita and the Chachi and highland Quichua tribes; Machalilla National Park, a two-mile transitional zone between dry and humid tropical forests, under which lies the remains of the Machalilla, Mantena, and Chorrera cultures; Yasuni National Park, a World Heritage Site occupied by the Huaorani and lowland Quichua tribes, as well as more than 700 species; and the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador’s best-known World Heritage Site, which has been called the “living laboratory of Darwin’s

evolution theory.” (Implemented by the Government of Ecuador and the World Bank)

Koprulu Kanyon National Park, in the Taurus Mountains of southern **Turkey**, is a World Heritage Site featuring international cultural heritage, including ruins of the ancient (400 B.C.) city of Selge and the Greco-Roman Theater. GEF’s project is encouraging 18 villages with a population of 25,000 people to adopt sustainable agricultural practices in the cultivation of traditional food crops, wheat and barley, and the harvesting of pine resin. In addition, the project hires local people for in-situ park conservation activities, and grants small loans for ecotourism. Conservation is directed towards preserving the world’s largest remaining pristine cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) forests and the Mediterranean maquis, the thick underbrush unique to the region. (Implemented by the Government of Turkey and the World Bank)

Poland’s Bialowieza Primeval Forest, a UNESCO-designated “Biosphere Reserve” and World Heritage Site, is shared with

Belarus, and the Sudety Mountains are shared with the **Czech Republic**. A GEF project adopted a transboundary approach to ensuring forest conservation — setting up a Polish/Belarus scientific committee with the principle objective of promoting cooperation in the Bialowieza transboundary forest. This resulted in numerous scientific exchanges on biological issues, human uses of the forest, pollutants, and the development of collaboration in park management activities with international organizations. The project also set up a Polish/Czech scientific committee which tackled the common issue of dying forests in the Sudety Mountains by looking at the pollution impacts on the forests in the “Black Triangle,” an area with 16 large coal burning power plants and smelters. Polish and Czech researchers jointly produced the first ecosystem maps to enhance collaborative management of a transboundary forest area. (Implemented by the Government of Poland and the World Bank)

*Prepared by Maria C. J. Cruz
mcruz3@worldbank.org*



Environmental Security

Peace and stability are eluding many countries because the root cause of people's suffering is not only being ignored, it isn't even recognized. Environmental degradation, ill-conceived economic policies, and the population explosion have pushed millions of people into cities and fragile areas that are unprepared for them. A lack of education, training, and job opportunities for young people — in short, little hope for the future — ignites their discontent, resulting in extremism and crime. What is needed is a comprehensive program of economic and social development and environmental protection and rehabilitation, offering hope for all citizens and not just certain segments of society.

Last fall, earth's population reached 6 billion people. What kind of world can this six billionth child expect to live in as an adult?

One where people fight for air, water, food, housing, jobs, schools, roads, and farmland? Where one person in three lacks adequate fresh water? A globe besieged by the wide-ranging repercussions of climate change? A political landscape dominated by disputes, between and within nations, over shared natural resources and their respective environmental security? An ever wider gap between rich and poor?

Or can this child hope to live in a world whose leaders embrace the values of responsible change inherent in global environmental protection and sustainable development, and not the same old business as usual? This is the vision of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Mohamed T. El-Ashry,
CEO & Chairman, GEF

The Role of the GEF

At the Earth Summit in 1992, it was agreed that most financing to achieve the goals of Agenda 21 would come from within each country's domestic resources. New and additional external funds were deemed necessary, however, to share the costs — and benefits — of sustainability with developing countries and nations transitioning to market economies.

Finance: The GEF has been entrusted with channeling a major portion of these "new and additional" funds on behalf of current and future generations. In 1994, 34 nations pledged \$2 billion to the GEF, and in 1998, 36 nations committed another \$2.75 billion. Today, GEF's portfolio encompasses close to 700 projects in 140 nations. GEF has allocated nearly \$3 billion and raised another \$8 billion in co-financing from recipient governments, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private industry.

Partnerships: GEF's institutional framework, or cluster of partnerships, is many faceted. A total of 166 nations participate — and GEF's 32-member governing Council balances the interests of all, developing and developed. Projects are fundamentally driven by country priorities related to sustainable development and the global environment. But they are also the primary means by which the goals of the

Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are put into practice on the ground. GEF-financed initiatives also support the goals of the Convention to Combat Desertification, extend the ozone layer protection of the Montreal Protocol to Russia, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe, and underwrite most international waters programs and projects worldwide.

Strategy: GEF is pursuing a new generation of projects that recognizes the systemic nature and inter-relatedness of environmental problems and their links to economic and social development, and the need to forge new and substantive alliances to address them.

Three issues are particularly important for ensuring positive intergenerational impacts in the context of achieving truly sustainable development:

- * increased participation by women in environmental conservation and food production
- * expanded interventions targeted to youth groups and people entering the global workforce, notably those with resource-based livelihoods
- * improved protection of vulnerable cultural groups, including those residing in sites of cultural and historical importance.

GEF and Sustainable Development

First coined by the Brundtland Report in 1987, “sustainable development” became the theme of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. GEF is a catalyst for sustainable development, combining forces for environmental protection and sound economic and social development. One means of linking these forces is by focusing on issues of gender, age, and culture—key elements of intergenerational impacts.

The Global Environment Facility is a multilateral financial mechanism that assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition to protect the global environment in four areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone layer depletion. GEF has funded more than 650 projects in 140 countries, committing close to \$3 billion in grants and raising an additional \$8 billion in cofinance. These projects are implemented by the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank on behalf of the GEF.

For more information:

**Hutton Archer, Senior External Relations Coordinator, GEF Secretariat,
1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433 USA
Tel: 202.473.0508 Fax: 202.522.3240 On the Web: gefweb.org**

Printed on recycled paper