



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



BEHIND THE NUMBERS 2015

A CLOSER LOOK AT GEF ACHIEVEMENTS







Our numbers tell a story about the depth and breadth of the GEF's activities: In its **25-year history**, the GEF has invested **\$14.5 billion** directly, and leveraged **\$75.4 billion** in additional resources, for **3,946 projects** in **167 countries**.

Rooted in our role as a financial mechanism for the Rio Conventions and other multilateral agreements, the GEF is uniquely placed to help buttress the health of the global commons—the planet's finite environmental resources, from land and forests to oceans and the atmosphere—which are essential for a thriving world.

The GEF's long-term strategy, GEF2020, recognizes the importance of tackling complex interdependent issues in an integrated manner. Our financing, holistic approach and wide network of partners help catalyze innovation and transformational change to provide the stable conditions on Earth required for the future we all want.

A large group of African school children, both boys and girls, are gathered together. They are wearing green and white patterned uniforms. The children are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others away. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A semi-transparent white banner with the text "Investing in Our Planet" is overlaid across the top of the image.

Investing in Our Planet



What is the GEF?

A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP of 18 agencies—including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs—working with 183 countries to address the world’s most challenging environmental issues. The GEF has a large network of civil society organizations, works closely with the private sector around the world, and receives continuous inputs from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel.

A FINANCIAL MECHANISM for 5 major international environmental conventions: the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

AN INNOVATOR AND CATALYST that supports multi-stakeholder alliances to preserve threatened ecosystems on land and in the oceans, build greener cities, boost food security and promote clean energy for a more prosperous, climate-resilient world; leveraging \$5.2 in additional financing for every \$1 invested.



Biodiversity

The GEF has invested over **\$4.2 billion** to conserve and sustainably use global biodiversity. This investment has leveraged over **\$12 billion** in additional funds, supporting **1,300 projects** in more than **155 countries**.

As the largest funding mechanism for protected areas (PAs) worldwide, the GEF has invested in over **3,300 PAs**, covering more than **860 million hectares (ha)**, an area larger than the size of Brazil. The GEF has also provided biodiversity protection and planning for more than **350 million ha** of productive landscapes and seascapes.

The GEF has also supported the development of National Biosafety Frameworks in **126 countries**, and their subsequent implementation under the Cartagena Protocol.



Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services make significant contributions to sustainable development, but are often not taken into account in economic and development policies. For this reason, the GEF supports countries in mainstreaming efforts such as the ProEcoServ pilots, where the GEF invested \$6.3 million in four pilot projects, leveraging additional contributions of \$24 million from partners. ProEcoServ successfully mainstreamed ecosystem services into macroeconomic policy, helping build a road map for implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

CHILE

Water is scarce in the San Pedro de Atacama municipality, and improper resource management can undermine the delicate Andean ecosystems. The Chilean pilot developed a model to simulate the hydrological balance in the Atacama plateau and the inter-connections between desert conditions, water potential, ecotourism and recreation. Armed with information from the model, the municipality developed its first tourism plan that integrated ecosystem services. Based on this successful outcome, the regional government invited ProEcoServ to expand in other areas of Chile.

SOUTH AFRICA

The South African pilot developed several case studies that generated three key results that informed policy: (i) Powerful processes such as the National Development Plan and the \$93 billion National Infrastructure Development Plan adopted the concept of ecological infrastructure in their narratives; (ii) ProEcoServ developed maps of strategic water source areas, which cover only 8% of the country but contribute to more than 60% of water resources, and incorporated them into the National Water Resources Strategy; (iii) Together with the insurance sector, ProEcoServ

evaluated the drivers of disaster risk in Eden District municipality, and found that appropriate land-use management can reduce the risk of disasters. Building on this work, ProEcoServ provided inputs into the National Disaster Management Amendment Bill, National Disaster Management Centre and National Treasury processes.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Recognizing the importance of these issues for the islands' economy, environment and human health, ProEcoServ played a key role in bringing forward biodiversity and ecosystem services for consideration in the National Spatial Development Strategy.

ProEcoServ also adapted natural capital accounting for the country's national fiscal planning, generating accounts for water, carbon, biodiversity and land. A gap analysis led to a scoping paper for the introduction of ecosystem services accounts in Trinidad and Tobago. These findings and their application are being used by the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the Central Statistical Office.

VIETNAM

The Cape Ca Mau National Park/Biosphere Reserve and surrounding Mekong Delta cover 12 per cent of the country, comprising one of the largest remaining contiguous mangrove forests in Vietnam. Working with the provincial government and national park managers, the pilot developed coastal vulnerability and carbon sequestration maps. In addition, a valuation study found that Ca Mau province's 45,523 ha of mangroves generate annual ecosystem services worth up to nearly \$3,000 per ha—25 times more than the timber market value of mangroves. The project also provided input to mainstream ecosystem services into the National Strategy on Green Growth and the National Strategy on Environment Protection to 2020.



Climate Change Mitigation

The GEF provides critical support for countries to help their transformation to a low-emission development pathway.

Since 1991, the GEF has invested more than **\$4.2 billion** in **1,010 projects** to mitigate climate change in **167 countries**. The GEF's investments leveraged more than **\$38.3 billion** from a variety of other sources, including GEF Agencies, national and local governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations

These projects target a vast range of sectors: from technology transfer, energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport to land use, land-use change and forestry. Together, GEF investments have supported more than **50 low-emission technologies**, and helped directly reduce **2.7 billion tonnes** of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the equivalent of taking **560 million cars** off the road for a year.

Supporting Sustainable Transport in Peru

A GEF grant of \$7 million helped leverage over \$260 million to create Lima's first bus rapid transit system, using a 29.4 km exclusive right of way. This system connects Lima's historic center to its periphery and serves a population of approximately 3.5 million. A scheme was established to scrap old, polluting buses to ensure they were taken off the road, and 53 km of bikeways were upgraded and expanded. The project also included effective public awareness and capacity building activities, and established a solid foundation for an efficient, reliable, cleaner, and safer mass rapid transit system.



Enhancing Capacity and Promoting Innovative Approaches in China

Transforming markets for energy efficient practices and technologies requires a multi-pronged approach. Through the Utility Energy Efficiency Program in China, for example, the GEF worked with the International Finance Corporation to build capacity in the utility and banking sectors and expand access to finance for efficiency upgrades. The project also supported policy reforms to help China successfully adapt and apply the energy services company (ESCO) business model in innovative ways.



Building Global Alliances

Bringing different sectors together can help stakeholders develop, harmonize and implement sustainable practices, leading to multi-country commitments. A GEF initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has established a strong public-private partnership to support the phase-out of inefficient lighting. Through En.lighten, more than 60 countries have committed to phase out inefficient lighting, and are launching country-level policy reforms and incentives.

A sunset over a beach with two women carrying baskets on their heads. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple, and the water reflects the light. The women are silhouetted against the bright sky.

Climate Change Adaptation

The GEF is a mechanism for adaptation to climate change, managing two UNFCCC funds for adaptation—the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

The GEF has approved **\$943 million** through the LDCF for adaptation projects and programs, as well as activities to help countries lay the foundation for adaptation. It has financed the preparation of **51 National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)**, of which 50 have been completed.

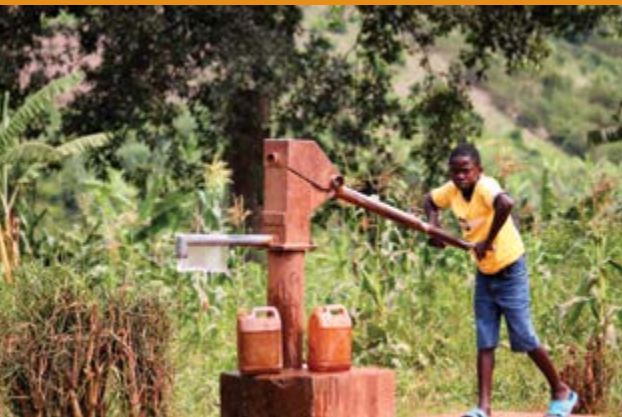
Through the SCCF, the GEF has provided **\$290 million** for adaptation projects. All told, **66 projects** have mobilized another **\$2.3 billion** from other partners.

GEF climate change adaptation projects have helped reduce the vulnerability of more than **17 million** people in **129 countries** around the world.



Building Resilience in Cambodia

Climate change is putting Cambodia's agriculture sector at risk of losing access to water for irrigation. A GEF-funded project enabled 29 villages in 16 communes to incorporate climate change risks into their planning, strengthening the resilience of water management and agricultural practices. More than 11,000 households gained better access to more accurate and more timely weather forecasts and early-warning for extreme events. And nearly 1,500 households improved access to water resources through pump wells, community ponds, rainwater harvesting systems and solar pumps. More than 3,500 households added at least one measure to reduce their vulnerability to climate change.



Reducing Vulnerability in Rwanda

In Rwanda, the Gishwati ecosystem and the Nile-Congo crest watershed are susceptible to intense and frequent floods due to climate change, putting both lives and livelihoods at risk. In response, the GEF supported a comprehensive project to improve early warning systems and support watershed management in flood-prone areas. The project installed 22 automatic weather stations to provide real-time data, as well as a modern computing system to process, model and forecast weather and climate data. It also trained key stakeholders, and introduced more resilient land management practices on more than 1,400 ha in the Gishwati ecosystem. Through improved climate information services and early warning, as well as ecosystem-based adaptation measures and alternative livelihoods, the project directly benefited some 60,000 people.



Adapting to Climate Change in the Pacific

This regional project enhanced the capacity of 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to adapt to climate change by integrating climate change risks and adaptation measures into relevant development policies and plans. This was done through measures to reduce the vulnerability of coastal zones, crop production and water resources management; and by enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to plan for and respond to variations in climate change-related risks. After five years of implementation, the project had reached over 40,000 direct beneficiaries, strengthened the capacities of 150 government institutions in climate change adaptation, and strengthened or developed 20 national policies, plans or frameworks for enhanced adaptation.



Chemicals and Waste

Over time, the GEF has moved toward an integrated approach to chemicals and waste that combines persistent organic pollutants (POPs), ozone-depleting substances (ODS), mercury and the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management (SAICM) in a single focal area. This new approach maximizes cross-cutting global environmental benefits, while continuing to support the individual chemical conventions.

Since the adoption of the Stockholm Convention in 2001, the GEF has committed **\$982 million** to **POPs projects**. Additional funds invested by partners in the public and private sectors have brought the total value of the portfolio to more than **\$3 billion**. These investments help dispose of PCBs and obsolete pesticides, including DDT. They also reduce both POPs unintentionally generated by industrialized countries, as well as those produced in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The GEF has invested **\$194 million** to help **18 countries** with economies in transition to meet the **ODS** phase-out targets of the Montreal Protocol. National and bilateral partners contributed an additional **\$211 million** to these projects, which have transferred new technologies, enhanced recycling operations and provided training to reduce ODS use. With GEF support, consumption and production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) have been eliminated, but some work remains to address other ozone-depleting substances such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

Since 2010, the GEF has committed **\$47 million** to **mercury projects**. These range from Minamata Initial Assessments, development and capacity building to healthcare waste management, lifecycle management of mercury-containing products and waste, and artisanal small-scale gold mining. Since 2013, the GEF has been a financial mechanism for the Minamata Convention.



Managing PCBs in Mexico

Across the globe, many polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are widely used in electrical transformers because they are a useful fire retardant. Mexico no longer uses PCBs in new equipment, but older equipment still contains the hazardous chemical. The GEF supported a \$4.6 million project in Mexico for the environmentally sound management and destruction of PCBs, generating \$10.8 million in complementary funding from partners. The project exceeded targets, disposing of nearly 2.5 MT of PCB oil and 5.4 MT of equipment containing PCBs.



Reducing Exposure to Mercury in Latin America

Many artisanal and small-scale gold miners (ASGM) risk exposure to mercury because of lack of training and knowledge about this dangerous chemical. Through a regional project in Peru and Ecuador, the GEF has invested about \$1 million to reduce mercury use and exposure among ASGM miners. The investment, which leveraged another \$2.4 million, will introduce cleaner and more efficient gold-processing techniques, as well as provide relevant health information to mining communities. Ultimately, it will reduce the impact of mercury on both human health and the environment.



Phasing Out ODS in Belarus

The GEF supported a comprehensive project in Belarus to phase out ODS in the refrigeration industry and the solvent sector with a GEF investment of \$7.47 million and \$2.23 million in additional leveraged funds. The project supported the conversion of the refrigerator manufacturing industry to non-ODS materials, as well as provided training and equipment to establish 3R (recover, reclaim and recycle) capacity in the industrial, commercial and transportation refrigeration servicing sector. Solvents used in manufacturing processes were targeted by this project through the conversion of electronics and consumer product manufacturers to use non-ODS solvent technologies in their production processes. This project also led to the development of mandatory ODS licensing, training and certification of personnel and equipment, and establishment of a permitting process for imports and exports. The project phased out about 523 ozone depleting potential (ODP)-tonnes of CFCs and 24 ODP-tonnes of halons.



Tackling e-waste in Ethiopia

Electronic waste has become an emerging threat to both human health and the environment. In Ethiopia, GEF supported a project to promote and up-scale the management of e-waste activities through national legislation, as well as launch pilot projects for collection and dismantling. As of May 2015, the responsible ministry had drafted e-waste legislation. The next steps are to study recommendations for the collection scheme and the business model for a dismantling facility. The GEF provided financing of \$1 million, which mobilized an additional \$1.9 million from national and bilateral sources.



International Waters

The GEF is a significant global funder of multi-country collaborations on shared water systems, including both freshwater and oceans.

Projects support **34 transboundary river basins** in **73 countries**, **12 transboundary lakes**, **8 transboundary groundwater basins** and **23 of Earth's 64 large marine ecosystems**, shared by developing countries working together to manage their transboundary water resources.

More than **\$1.6 billion** has been invested directly, leveraging **\$10.3 billion** in additional funds for over **230 projects** in **170 countries**.



Protecting the Seas of East Asia

The marine resources of the East Asia seas are critically important for food, livelihoods and economic development for over 1.9 billion people. A regional project known as PEMSEA has fostered cooperation, demonstrating how countries are willing to work together toward sustainable development without a legally binding protocol or convention. PEMSEA became the first program in the sector to use integrated and holistic approaches through an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) model. With this strong foundation, PEMSEA has set a regional target for 20% of the coastline to be under ICM.

Improving Watershed and Coastal Management in the Caribbean

Watersheds and coastal areas in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean are highly integrated and closely intertwined. With that in mind, a GEF project known as IWCAM developed a multi-sectoral approach to watershed and coastal management. Specifically, it targeted land-based sources of marine pollution problems in 13 Caribbean SIDS. At the same time, it is building the capacity of six countries to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its protocol on land-based sources of marine pollution.

Safeguarding the Pacific Tuna Fishery

The waters surrounding the SIDS of the Pacific support the largest tuna fishery of any ocean. GEF support has helped establish the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which manages tuna resources across an area that covers approximately 20% of the planet's surface. The Commission has adopted measures to limit overfishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks, and is not permitting any more vessels to fish for Albacore in the North and South Pacific Ocean. It has also introduced a fee-based system to support these measures.

Balancing Water Use in West Africa

With support from the GEF, countries around the Senegal River Basin began working together on a basin-wide project to manage land and water resources. The project led to the countries signing the Senegal River Water Charter, which established principles for guiding water resources management and allocation among the states in an integrated manner. Currently, the GEF is partnering with Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania and the World Bank to strengthen transboundary water resources management in the basin, including support for climate change adaptation.



Land Degradation

Since 2006, when land degradation became a dedicated GEF focal area, the GEF provided **\$876 million** in resources for **190 projects** and programs with a specific focus on supporting sustainable land management to combat desertification and deforestation, creating multiple benefits for the global environment in production landscapes.

The Land Degradation focal area projects and programs have targeted **281 million ha** of agro-ecosystems globally. Based on the incoming implementation reports of the partly ongoing projects and programs, **103 million ha** are under sustainable land management (SLM). These have benefited **more than 50 million smallholders** through various activities such as inputs into their farming systems, improvement of irrigation structures, training and capacity building, and alternative livelihood opportunities.

The GEF's investment has leveraged almost **\$3 billion** from partners. These funds have helped hold the line against global land degradation, while simultaneously improving the livelihood base of millions of rural people who rely on agriculture for their livelihood.



Conserving Biodiversity and Improving Livelihoods in India

The Himalayas are well-known for their beauty and watershed function for many countries in Asia. But land degradation upstream combined with climate change are threatening the livelihoods of communities living downstream. In 2006, the GEF invested \$7 million in a project to improve livelihoods through sustainable land, water and biodiversity conservation. The initiative, led by the World Bank, attracted \$83 million in contributions from other partners. Following initial success in 11 districts, the Government of Uttarakhand turned to some 126 villages in the middle-Himalayas that were home to 74,000 people. Communities designed a watershed plan through participatory processes and acted to control land degradation, promote alternative energy and create sources of income to reduce pressure on natural resources. The project has completed 20 micro-watersheds; planted trees on 883 ha with oak regenerating naturally on 115 ha; created 315 village ponds and 125 roof-water harvesting tanks; and secured 423 water sources. Nearly 5,000 pine briquettes have been distributed to the villagers, and more than 3,300 solar lanterns and 66 biogas plants have been installed.



Developing Sustainable Land-use Systems for Livestock

Preserving the integrity of land-based ecosystems, while enabling people to earn livelihoods from this same land is complex, especially when the needs of land users may conflict with each other. In Kazakhstan, the GEF invested \$5.4 million in a drylands ecosystem management project that generated an additional \$4.4 million from other partners. Working with local communities, the government developed sustainable livestock-based land-use systems. Nine farmers' associations were formed, enabling 133 small and medium farmers to better manage assets and share knowledge with their peers. Meanwhile, the project's integrated ecosystem management approach has restored 105,000 ha of degraded and remote pastures with annual carbon sequestration benefits of 4 tonnes per ha.



Building Networks for Sustainable Land Management in Dominican Republic

In Dominican Republic's Upper Sabana Yegua watershed system, the GEF's \$4.4 million investment in SLM has generated \$25.5 million in contributions from partners. To date, the project has successfully forged close collaboration among local and national government institutions, affected communities, NGOs and universities. It has elaborated nine zonal plans based on 54 community development plans, as well as developed a five-year master plan for the integrated management of watershed systems using SLM practices. Currently, farmers are applying SLM practices on more than 1,000 ha. The project created an Eco-Fund managed by direct stakeholders that provides direct incentives to offset costs incurred from adopting SLM practices and payment for environmental services.



Sustaining Forest Management

Since its inception, the GEF has sought to develop long-term, sustainable approach to maintaining forests—a vital component of Earth's ecosystem. Deforestation is a key driver of biodiversity loss; it reduces the supply of clean water and lowers soil productivity. Additionally, forest loss accounts for about 12% of annual global GHG emissions.

The GEF has responded to invitations from the United Nations Forum on Forests to support sustainable forest management (SFM). Based on the success of previous interventions, GEF-6 provides a **\$250 million** incentive mechanism for SFM, which has the potential to mobilize up to **\$750 million** to enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests. The GEF is also launching a **\$45 million** program to take deforestation out of commodity supply chains.

To date, the GEF has supported over **380 forest-related projects**, with **\$2.1 billion** in grants that leveraged an additional **\$9.5 billion**. GEF-5 funded **69 projects** in **80 countries** with over **\$700 million** in grants.

Preserving Brazil's Amazon Forest

Brazil's Amazon region is home to nearly one-third of the planet's biodiversity, including the world's largest remaining tropical forest. In addition to playing a major role in global carbon cycles, the Amazon provides a home and livelihoods to many indigenous and traditional cultures. The GEF has financed a three-phased program known as ARPA to conserve biodiversity of global importance in the region.

An innovative public-private partnership dating to 2000, ARPA brings together government, civil society and financing partners. With an initial focus on biodiversity and sustainable land management that later substantially impacted forests, ARPA has helped reduce deforestation in the Amazon by 80% over the past 10 years. ARPA has expanded forest protection by some 25 million ha, surpassing its original goal of 18 million ha.

Efforts to create large protection areas are a critical investment in limiting carbon emissions and maintaining high quality ecosystems. The project illustrates the GEF's approach to generate multiple environmental benefits from forests in areas of very high biodiversity and significant carbon stocks, while preserving key functions for local communities.

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management Around the World

In the **Congo Basin**, the GEF approved a \$50 million SFM program that leveraged \$150 million from partners. Designed to build countries' sense of ownership, the project improved knowledge and capacity for the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiative, and helped countries articulate this new concept within the broader agenda of SFM. The project built capacities for measurement and monitoring of carbon stocks through technical assistance, including South-South learning on community forestry and REDD+ between Brazil and six African countries.

In the **Greater Mekong Subregion** countries, the GEF provides opportunities to address trans-boundary forest and biodiversity issues in a comprehensive, strategic manner. The program supports protected areas, forests, land and watershed management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable livelihoods development. It helps harmonize conservation policies and planning across borders, promotes cooperation on reducing illegal trade in wildlife and forest products, develops capacities for maintaining protected areas and conservation landscapes, and mobilizes long-term sustainable finance for conservation.





Supporting Gender Equality

Only by engaging partners, both women and men, can the negative trends threatening Earth's ecosystems be reversed. Following the adoption of the **GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy in 2011**, there has been a steady increase of the share of projects reporting on gender: from 24% in 2011 to **56% in 2014**. The **GEF Gender Equality Action Plan** adopted in 2014 and the subsequent launch of the **GEF Gender Partnership** will help accelerate efforts of the GEF and its partner organizations to advance our common goals to mainstream gender at the country and focal area levels. Most prominently our multi-focal area, land degradation and climate change adaptation portfolios respectively have **83%**, **80%** and **78% of projects addressing gender equality**, involving on-the-ground activities with local communities.

In Sri Lanka, a project with a focus on women-headed households has facilitated the effective implementation of a community coastal co-management plan for adaptation. The project also developed a gender strategy to support effective implementation of the project activities that targeted women stakeholders. This has led to active involvement of women in conservation and livelihood development activities, particularly for mangrove conservation and disaster management.

A person in silhouette stands in shallow water, holding a large fishing net that stretches across the frame. The scene is illuminated by a warm, golden sunset, creating a strong contrast between the dark figure and the bright background. The net's mesh pattern is prominent, and the water reflects the light from the sky.

The GEF's **Small Grants Programme (SGP)** has invested **\$523 million** in almost **20,000 projects**, leveraging more than **\$665 million** in cash and in kind, mainly from participating communities. GEF SGP projects are managed by community-based organizations and indigenous peoples in **128 countries**. Although these grants are small (on average about \$25,000), they contribute to improving livelihoods of local communities, while delivering multiple environmental benefits.

Small Grants, Big Effects

From the outset, gender equality and women's empowerment has been central to the GEF SGP. Of the **1,282 projects** completed in 2014 and 2015, **59% included strong gender components**, and **364 projects**, or **29%, were led by women**. These projects, ranging from business development in Nicaragua, eco-tourism in the Solomon Islands and fish processing in Sri Lanka to bio-coal production in Cameroon, beekeeping in China and Brazil, and the establishment of self-help groups in Ethiopia, India and Kenya, improve the livelihoods of women, contributing to their economic stability and position in society, while enabling them to contribute to sustainable development in their communities.

A close-up portrait of a young indigenous woman with traditional face paint and a beaded necklace. The background is a blurred natural setting.

Working with Indigenous Peoples

Many of the world's ecosystems and biodiversity areas of high importance overlap with indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources. The GEF is dedicated to ensuring that its operations fully respect the dignity, human rights, economies, cultures and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and their members. More than **220 GEF projects** involve indigenous peoples. In addition, **15% of GEF SGP projects**, about **2,500 projects**, have been directly awarded to indigenous peoples.

The Integrated Ecosystem Management in Indigenous Communities Project in Central America is a project where the GEF invested **\$9.7 million**, leveraging **\$39.9 million** to strengthen the role of indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation and management. The total area inhabited by indigenous people in Central America is estimated to be as high as 170,000 km², almost 33% of the area of the seven countries that make up the region. The projects emphasize achieving effective conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in the seven Central American countries (Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama) by strengthening the capacity of indigenous peoples to protect and manage their natural and cultural resources, as well as rescuing and reinforcing traditional land-use practices they have developed over centuries.

Recent programming directions: Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs)

GEF-6 and the GEF 2020 Strategy put a strong emphasis on tackling the drivers of environmental degradation, critical to slowing down and eventually reversing negative environmental trends. Pilot investments in programs addressing global commodities, sustainable cities and food security in Africa will test the delivery of more integrated approaches to address time-bound global environment challenges. Through a holistic approach and wide network of partners, and financing that complements existing GEF funding, we will help catalyze innovation and transformational change to provide more stable conditions on Earth.



- A newly-launched flagship program on **food security in Africa** works in 12 African countries, focusing specifically on safeguarding the natural resources—land, water, soils, trees and genetic resources—that underpin food and nutrition security. It brings a holistic perspective to the management of these resources in African agriculture and helps strengthen soil health, improve access to drought-tolerant seeds, adjust planting periods and cropping portfolios, and enhance on-farm agro-biodiversity for the benefit of smallholder farmers, both men and women. Bringing together more than \$900 million from a variety of sources, the program aims to enhance long-term sustainability and resilience of food production by reducing land degradation and biodiversity loss, recovering natural vegetation and increasing soil carbon.



- The GEF's **Sustainable Cities** program will demonstrate how innovative and focused investments in urban planning and management can start changing the trajectory of cities toward more sustainable pathways, while enhancing their climate and disaster resilience. It will provide \$1.5 billion to benefit 23 cities in 11 developing countries. The program puts strong emphasis on enabling city leaders to share knowledge and best practices in areas like low carbon public transport, clean water, green buildings and other interventions designed to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions, and promote resource efficiency, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, and climate resilience.



- The GEF's new flagship program, **Taking Deforestation out of Commodity Supply Chains**, will focus specifically on introducing sustainability measures throughout the supply chains of palm oil, soy and beef, which are responsible for about 80% of tropical deforestation. The program will support strengthened land-use policy, planning and governance, and encourage commodity producers to take up sustainable production practices.





GEF AGENCIES

The GEF Agencies support governments in the development, implementation and management of GEF projects. They are:

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)
- Conservation International (CI)
- Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
- Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- West African Development Bank (BOAD)
- World Bank
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

UN CONVENTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE GEF

The GEF serves as financial mechanism to five international environmental conventions. These are:

- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)





ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to address global environmental issues.

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