



GEF

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**GEF CONTRIBUTION TO
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its 55th session, the U.N. General Assembly agreed to organize a 10-year review of progress in the implementation of UNCED as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The WSSD was hosted by South Africa, August 26 to September 4, 2002.
2. The GEF, its contributions to the implementation of the outcome of UNCED, and its third replenishment, were specifically recognized in the General Assembly Resolution. The GEF and other international organizations were invited to participate fully in the 10-year review “in order to reflect their experiences and lessons learned as well as to provide ideas and proposals for the way forward for further implementation of Agenda 21 in relevant areas.”
3. At its meeting in December 1999, the GEF Council requested the CEO/Chairman to reflect upon, and to consult with interested parties, on how the GEF could make a substantial contribution to the process as well as the events connected with the. At its meeting in May 2001, the Council approved the activities proposed in the *CEO WSSD Note on GEF activities related to the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (Document GEF/C.17/9) as a contribution to the Summit.
4. This report describes the activities that were undertaken in 2001 and 2002 to contribute to the WSSD and its preparatory process. The report also includes a compilation of paragraphs referencing the GEF in the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

GEF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE WSSD

GEF Contribution to Regional Preparatory Committees (September –November 2001)

5. Regional Preparatory Committees (PrepComs) were called for at the 10th Session of the CSD to set an agenda that allows governments and other major players to join forces effectively in Johannesburg so as to confront the real challenges of sustainable development.¹ Preparations began at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, moving towards the global stage. A series of five regional preparatory meetings were held, taking account of results of national and sub-regional meetings, to identify issues to be considered at the WSSD.²
6. The GEF was represented at all five regional PrepComs, and participated in discussions to share information on the GEF with the meeting participants. At the regional PrepComs, the

(i) ¹ Regional Preparatory Meetings were convened as follows: East and Central Europe (Geneva, Switzerland; September 24 and 25, 2001), Africa (Nairobi, Kenya; October 15- 18, 2001), Latin America and Caribbean (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; October 23 and 24, 2001), West Asia(Cairo, Egypt; October 24 and 25, 2001) and Asia Pacific (Phnom Penn, Cambodia; November 27 – 29, 2001).

(ii) ² Preparation Process,
http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/prep_process/prep_process.html

GEF focused on sharing its experiences and lessons learned in implementing projects in the region during the last ten years.

7. For each of the meetings, the GEF prepared:

- (a) a report on GEF action in the region in the last ten years,
- (b) a display that highlights the main points in the report,
- (c) a compilation of fact sheets on projects in the region, and
- (d) five news stories on its projects in the region.³

8. The GEF worked closely with its NGO network to identify up to ten NGO representatives from each region familiar with GEF and assisted them to attend the meetings. These NGOs included representatives of NGOs working on GEF projects in the region. They made presentations on their experience with the GEF during the NGO forums organized at the regional PrepComs.

9. For the African meeting in Nairobi, the GEF supported GEF focal points in Sub-Saharan African countries to attend the PrepCom to ensure their active participation in the WSSD preparatory process.

10. GEF worked closely with the Council Members from Africa to promote the organization of constituency meetings on the margins of the regional PrepCom. Four Council Members took the initiative to convene meetings of their constituency during the regional PrepCom in Africa. In total 15 focal points from the region participated in their respective constituency meetings. Also, representatives of countries not having a GEF focal point but attending the WSSD meeting, were invited by the Council Members to take part in the meetings to familiarize them with the GEF.

GEF Roundtables (January – June 2002)

11. The GEF planned a series of four roundtables with a view to producing recommendations for future action in areas of direct relevance to the global environment and sustainable development. The issues addressed were financing, sustainable energy, forests, and land/water and food security.

12. At the Roundtables, panels of experts and Ministers of Finance and Environment from around the world, in consultation with civil society and other participants, provided concrete and practical recommendations for an action agenda to achieve global sustainability over the next decade. The recommendations were presented at the WSSD preparatory committee meetings and at a special briefing at the UN Forum on Forests, and in other international fora.

13. The Roundtable recommendations recognize the interrelatedness of environmental problems, their links to economic and social development, and the need to forge new and substantive alliances to address them. Panelists identified key factors which should guide

³ Copies of the reports and fact sheets will be made available at the 20th session of the GEF Council meeting.

discussions on sustainable development to facilitate a paradigm shift away from unsustainable development practices, in which the environment is marginalized or ignored, to one in which the environment, including the global environment, is central to sustainable development. Four issues are particularly important:

- (a) ***Enhanced capacity***: People in developing countries, including smallholder farmers and local community leaders, must be empowered and trained so they can better contribute to and benefit from sustainable development.
- (b) ***Strengthened institutions and enabling policies***: Countries and the international system must invest in their citizens and institutions to enable them to capitalize on new opportunities. Countries must also systematically reach out to the smallest communities as part of the solution. New policy models and approaches can enable sustainable solutions. The role of the donors, GEF, and multilateral organizations is critical.
- (c) ***Organized learning and replication***: Successful pilot programs, experimental projects, and innovative policies must be replicated and scaled up, particular attention should be given to the ways this can occur.
- (d) ***Funding and financing strategies***: Resource mobilization must be coupled with new models of enterprise development and financing that addresses risks, capital, incentives, and subsidies.

14. The Roundtable discussions highlighted the potential opportunities for each of these issues to contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As can be seen from the Roundtable reports, the problems are significant—and deeply challenge our ingenuity, commitment and seriousness—but there are some promising and positive trends upon which we can build our efforts. A few examples that emerged from the discussions:

- (a) Clean renewable fuels are now the world’s fastest-growing energy technologies with wind power and solar power growing 20-40% annually (but still representing only 2% of the world’s energy consumption).
- (b) More countries are devolving control of their forest resources to local communities and indigenous groups, providing a unique opportunity for sound forest management.
- (c) Food production must increase to feed a growing global population, but there is growing awareness that ignoring the environmental impacts of agriculture will only make the challenge more difficult.

15. The Roundtables showed that our positive experiences since the Rio Earth Summit, as well as the knowledge and tools we have gained, can be translated into concrete measures that put humanity on a sustainable path.

Ministerial Roundtable on Financing the Environment and Sustainable Development
(March 17-18, 2002, and June 4, 2002)

16. Approximately 25 Ministers drawn from developed and developing country Ministers of Development Cooperation/Finance and Environment and representatives of other stakeholders participated in the GEF Ministerial Roundtable on Financing Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss innovative sources of financing for sustainable development. The ministers met twice to prepare a set of proposals for submission to the WSSD.

17. The first session on March 17-18, 2002, was convened during the International Conference on Financing for Development in Mexico. The meeting was chaired by Rt. Hon. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom and H.E. Mohammed Valli Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa.

18. The second session on June 4, 2002, was organized during the Ministerial Preparatory Committee in Indonesia (May 27 – June 6, 2002). The meeting was chaired by Minister Valli Moosa and H.E. Kjell Larsson, Minister of Environment, Sweden.

Thematic roundtables: sustainable energy, forest, and land/water and food security

19. The roundtable on **sustainable energy** was convened on the margins of the WSSD preparatory meeting in New York on January 30, 2002. The meeting was organized to discuss and exchange views on a background paper on sustainable energy in developing countries, which took stock of the past 10 years and highlights promising trends, emerging strategies, and remaining gaps in achieving a sustainable future. Dr. José Goldemberg of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, chaired the meeting.

20. The roundtable on **forests** was convened on March 11, 2002, during the second United Nations Forum on Forest Ministerial meeting in New York. The meeting was organized to discuss the different forces acting on forests and in particular to reaffirm the central role of sustainable forest management within the context of sustainable development. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jeff Sayer, Senior Associate of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

21. The roundtable on **land, water, and food security** was organized on March 26, 2002, in conjunction with the third PrepCom in New York. The meeting was organized to highlight the issues of continued degradation of land and water ecosystems worldwide and its implications for food security and to make recommendations on actions needed to address it. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. S. W. Kazibwe, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, and Professor M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.

22. The outcomes of all three thematic roundtables were presented during the third PrepCom, held in New York (March 25 to April 5, 2002).

23. At the plenary session of the fourth PrepCom, held in Bali, Indonesia (May 27 to June 7, 2002), Minister Valli Moosa and H.E. Kjell Larsson presented the outcomes of the Ministerial

Roundtable on Financing the Environment and Sustainable Development. The GEF also organized a workshop on the margins of the PrepCom to present the recommendations and common themes emerging from the three thematic roundtables.

24. The GEF published the outcomes of the four roundtables, including recommendations on future action, and disseminated them widely.

25. A series of 10-15 minute videos on the issues discussed at the three thematic roundtables was prepared by Television Trust for Environment (TVE). A viewing room was arranged at the WSSD to showcase the videos.

GEF's Outreach at WSSD

26. As a joint effort of the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies, the GEF organized a number of outreach activities at the WSSD. The program included the components set out below, along with the GEF's formal input into the WSSD process and the Summit itself, which contributed greatly to promoting the achievements of the GEF during the WSSD.

Billboards

27. Billboard space was reserved in very prominent locations; the Johannesburg Airport international arrivals lobby; the road from the airport to the city; the Sandton Convention Center (main venue of the Summit); The Ubuntu Village exhibition site; and the NASREC civil society location. The artwork consisted of composite photographs of the GEF's operational activity, the GEF logo and website address, and the message "The Global Environment Facility: Your partner for the Global Environment and a Sustainable Future." Large numbers of WSSD participants saw and commented positively on the impact of the billboards.

GEF Display at Ubuntu Village

28. The GEF organized a 74 square meter display at the Ubuntu Village exhibition site, located at the main crossroads within the exhibition tent. Most visitors to the exhibition walked through the display which consisted of 12 very large world and regional maps marked with icons representing GEF projects by focal area or by geographical region. One of the billboards formed the main backdrop of the display. Two continuously running audiovisual presentations on large flat screens, racks of GEF publications, and a standing display of the GEF Small Grants Project complemented the display. Many visitors, including South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki on the opening day, made a stop at the display. It was contiguous to the WSSD Greening Project display which also carried the GEF logo in recognition of the funding provided to the project by the GEF.

WaterDome

29. The main feature of the GEF's exhibit at the WaterDome was a very large world map marked with GEF waters projects along with GEF publications. The exhibit was mounted in

collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The WaterDome exhibit was formally opened in a ceremony at which former South African President Nelson Mandela spoke.

Joint United Nations Exhibit in the Sandton Convention Center

30. The logo of the GEF and descriptive text on the Facility, along with the billboard artwork, were part of two exhibition panels within the joint United Nations System exhibit at the Sandton Convention Center (SCC). This exhibit was one of only two permitted at the SCC. The other was the WSSD Greening Project which also carried the GEF logo.

Media coverage

31. The GEF enjoyed significant media coverage throughout the Summit. In its issue dated August 13, 2002, the *International Herald Tribune* carried an op-ed written by Mohamed El-Ashry and entitled: "On the environment, it isn't all bad news." On the first day of WSSD, Mr. Nitin Desai flagged the GEF replenishment as the Summit's first success. This created a media momentum which led to several media encounters and interviews mainly featuring the CEO/Chairman, including a South Africa Broadcasting Corporation live interview that reached all of Africa. There were many newspaper references to the GEF including a series in the 10 issues of the Earth Times Daily.

International Federation of Environment Journalists (IFEJ)

32. Under a Government of Switzerland/GEF Initiative, the travel and subsistence of 12 journalists from developing countries were supported so that they could report on the WSSD and on GEF issues.

Parallel Events

33. The CEO/Chairman and other members of the GEF delegation to the WSSD attended and made presentations at numerous parallel events organized during the WSSD.

Other GEF Contributions

34. The GEF financed a medium-sized project (MSP) to increase opportunities for legislators from developing countries to actively participate in the WSSD and its preparatory process.⁴ In close collaboration with GLOBE International (executing agency of the MSP) and UNEP (the Implementing Agency), the project aimed to strengthen support at the national level to address global environmental issues.

35.

(iv) ⁴ The medium-sized project is entitled: *Involving National Legislators in International Environment Decision-making through Participation in the Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development Proceedings and the Second GEF Assembly.*

36. Under the project, various meetings were organized in conjunction with the events leading up to and including the WSSD, to present lessons learned and best practices of GEF's activities so as to promote successful ways of addressing major environmental challenges at the national level. The project financed legislators from developing countries to participate in these meetings and assisted in strengthening the network between north and south legislators.

37. GLOBE had over 300 legislators from countries around the world in attendance at the WSSD. GLOBE successfully facilitated dialogues between key southern and northern legislative leaders to promote global environment and sustainable development.

38. At the Second GEF Assembly, GLOBE will organize a panel entitled: *Parliamentarians and the Global Environment*.⁵ National legislators (panelists) from developed and developing countries who actively involved in the MSP will present a legislative perspective on the WSSD outcomes and present key follow-up policy initiatives that may be pursued by Parliaments.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE WSSD

39. The World Summit on Sustainable Development concluded with the adoption of two main official documents: the *Plan of Implementation* and the *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development*. In addition, more than 220 partnerships were identified to complement government commitments. Seven paragraphs in the *Plan of Implementation* refer specifically to the GEF. These paragraphs are concerned with capacity building, the designation of land degradation as a focal area of the GEF, the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, and strengthened collaboration among international institutions. The text of these paragraphs is presented in the Annex to this report.

(v)

⁵ The panel is currently scheduled to be held on October 18, 2002, from 9:00- 10:30 am.

Annex: Compilation of Paragraphs with reference to the GEF in the WSSD Plan of Implementationⁱ

Paragraph 19 (n), under Chapter III on Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production:

“Utilize financial instruments and mechanisms, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF), within its mandate, to provide financial resources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to meet their capacity needs for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy, including promoting energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies”.

Paragraph 39 (f), under Chapter IV on Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development:

“Call on the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to take action on the recommendations of the GEF Council concerning the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area of the GEF as a means of GEF support for the successful implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification; and consequently, consider making GEF a financial mechanism of the Convention, taking into account the prerogatives and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of GEF and the Global Mechanism of the Convention in providing and mobilizing resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes”.

Paragraph 52 (a), under Chapter VII on Sustainable development of small island developing States:

“Accelerate national and regional implementation of the Programme of Action [for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States], with adequate financial resources, including through GEF focal areas, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and assistance for capacity-building from the international community”

Paragraph 52 (d), also under Chapter VII:

“Provide support, including for capacity-building, for the development and further implementation of:

- (i) Small island developing States-specific components within programmes of work on marine and coastal biological diversity;
- (ii) Freshwater programmes for small island developing States, including through the GEF focal areas”.

Paragraph 81, under Chapter IX on Means of Implementation:

“Welcome the successful and substantial third replenishment of the GEF, which will enable it to address the funding requirements of new focal areas and existing ones and continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries, in particular developing countries, and further encourage GEF to leverage additional funds from key public and private organizations, improve the management of funds through more speedy and streamlined procedures, and simplify its project cycle”.

Paragraph 122, under Chapter X on Institutional framework for sustainable development:

“The international community should:

- (a) Enhance the integration of sustainable development goals as reflected in Agenda 21 and support for implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit into policies, work programmes and operational guidelines of relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, GEF and international financial and trade institutions within their mandates, while stressing that their activities should take full account of national programmes and priorities, particularly those of developing countries, as well as, where appropriate, countries with economies in transition, to achieve sustainable development;
- (b) Strengthen collaboration within and between the United Nations system, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and the WTO, utilizing the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the United Nations Development Group, the Environment Management Group and other inter-agency coordinating bodies. Strengthened inter-agency collaboration should be pursued in all relevant contexts, with special emphasis on the operational level and involving partnership arrangements on specific issues to support, in particular, developing countries’ efforts in implementing Agenda 21”

Paragraph 133, also under Chapter X:

“Stress the need for international institutions both within and outside the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, WTO and GEF, to enhance, within their mandates, their cooperative efforts to:

- (a) Promote effective and collective support to the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels;
- (b) Enhance the effectiveness and coordination of international institutions to implement Agenda 21, the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, relevant sustainable development aspects of the Millennium

Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the outcomes of the fourth WTO ministerial meeting, held in Doha in November 2001”.

ⁱ Paragraphs taken from the advance unedited text, dated September 5, 2002.