gef 30 years

The GEF and Climate Change

Catalysing Transformation

Foreword

It may be hard to believe, but despite the pandemic that briefly slowed down travel and activity around the world, the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that drive climate change are at their highest levels ever registered. This is an unprecedented existential crisis that continues to grow exponentially, and we need to step up our ambitions and actions to change its trajectory.

More extreme and faster-than-expected climate change effects are impacting every region on Earth. Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tell us the world is on track to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming within the next two decades—much earlier than governments and business leaders have been planning for. At the current pace, even with implementation of the latest national commitments on emissions cuts, the entire "global carbon budget" that could keep warming below a 1.5°C increase would be consumed in just a decade, by the end of 2031.

Actions this decade will determine whether we limit warming to this level and prevent the most severe climate impacts, or whether we open the door to irreversible damage at a much larger scale.

Despite growing political ambition to deal with the climate crisis, six years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, we are falling short of the expectations that it created. The reality is that our warming world will impact all of us but hit developing countries, and the most vulnerable, the hardest.

Ensuring adequate financial flows, investments, and innovation is critical.

This is why the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is launching its eighth replenishment cycle with a high-ambition agenda—with meaningful action on climate change mitigation, as well as urgent assistance for developing and least developed countries that need to prepare for and cope with the impacts of the climate change that is already upon us.

The GEF is the largest and most experienced multilateral fund dedicated to addressing climate change and threats to nature, working across both borders and sectors. We are also working in an integrated way to address land degradation, improve chemical and waste management, support sustainable forests, fight biodiversity loss, and ease pressures on the ocean, while supporting nature-based solutions that can slow and reduce the impacts of climate change.

We are seeking more resources in our next four-year funding cycle, GEF-8, so that we can scale up critically needed climate action and help ease other pressures on our planet in an integrated manner.

To ensure a viable future for humanity, we need to change how we produce and consume food and energy; how we build infrastructure and cities; and how we value nature. Without urgent and coordinated action, environmental threats will intensify and harm human development, livelihoods, and justice in the near term.

We must significantly step up our collective climate ambition now, or we will soon pass a point of no-return. The GEF's donor governments and the countries receiving its grants and blended finance are all committed to act, and more funding will enable them to turn these plans into action.

A strong GEF-8 replenishment will support the implementation of the outcomes of COP26 in Glasgow.

I invite you to learn more about the GEF's work in climate change mitigation and adaptation through this publication; how we're collaborating with others and supporting clean energy; healthy oceans; and sustainable cities, food, and forests; and how we're investing in climate resilience for the most vulnerable; nature-based solutions; private sector engagement; transparency; and reporting.

The challenges before us need to be addressed together, with everyone at the table. Join us as we seek to support, finance, and scale climate change solutions. This work is essential to building a carbon-neutral, nature-positive, pollution-free, and climate-resilient future.

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez
CEO and Chairperson of the GEF

From Science to Action

The latest science is unequivocal in linking human-induced carbon emissions to global warming. Changes in the Earth's climate are being observed by scientists in every part of the globe, with a level of intensity that has not occurred for tens of thousands of years. Some of these trends, such as the increase in sea levels, are likely to have already crossed tipping points that will make them irreversible for millenniums. Furthermore, the rapid decline of biodiversity and forest cover, which are intimately linked to the climate crisis, has already transformed ecosystems in many regions from carbon sinks to net carbon emitters.

The latest IPCC report shows the world is already 1.1°C hotter compared to pre-industrial levels and that we are likely to exceed the 1.5°C threshold over the next 20 years. To make matters even worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the underlying economic drivers for both the climate and the biodiversity crises, adding further stress to our ability to reverse such trends.

Deep, unprecedented transformations are needed to the way we generate and consume energy and food, use land, and move people and goods. And yet, the national climate plans submitted to date under the Paris Agreement will lead to increases in carbon emissions of 16 per cent by 2030, instead of the 45 per cent reduction required for the 1.5°C goal.

To put the global community on the path to carbon neutrality by 2050, we urgently need to embark on a race to zero emissions. At a global level, in the power sector, this will mean increasing the penetration of renewable energy six times by 2030 and phasing out unabated coal five times faster than the current reduction rate. In the built environment, all actors will need to step up decarbonization actions by a factor of five for the sector to align with net-zero targets by 2050. The rate of adoption of electric vehicles will need to increase 12 times compared to current global sales rates by 2030. Tree cover gains will need to increase five times while deforestation will have to come to a complete halt by 2030.

As we move forward from planning to action, the GEF is uniquely positioned to deploy resources where they can be most transformational for all stakeholders—governments, businesses, communities, researchers—to climate action, and close the Paris Agreement ambition gap.

Blue and Green Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the fragility of human societies and their dependence on a healthy and resilient natural world. The economic and social impacts of the pandemic have spared no one and no country around the world. The response to the pandemic has been swift and the time has now come to focus on the "rebuilding" phase of global, regional, and national economies. Much focus is now on efforts to build back better, which should include blue and green investments at the core of all strategies.

However, recent analyses show that only between 2.5–10 per cent of the stimulus and recovery packages approved to date in major economies will generate net-positive impacts for climate and nature. Much remains to be done to avoid locking in long-lived polluting assets, and to maximize the positive long-term impacts of emergency recovery spending.

The GEF is well positioned to contribute to a greener and bluer recovery and climate change investments are central to this. To help with the immediate consequences of the pandemic, the GEF has strengthened its entire portfolio but applying additional focus on socioeconomic co-benefits such as job creation and support to small and medium-sized enterprises. Rapid response investments were approved to protect hard-fought climate and development gains in sectors like energy access and small-scale sustainable tourism. The GEF-AfDB COVID-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform for Africa and the GEF-IFC Hotel Green Revitalization Program are two key examples of rapid-response, recovery-oriented GEF programming.

Looking ahead past the immediate crisis, the pandemic has reinforced the logic behind the GEF's transformational programs and underlined the need for lasting systemic changes towards a sustainable, inclusive, resilient, low-carbon, nature-positive, and circular economy. Rebuilding through programs like the Good Growth Platform, the Sustainable Cities Impact Program, and the Food, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program will help build societies that will thrive despite the inevitable shocks that will come through climate change and future pandemics.

Photo by Lewis Tse Pui Lung/Shutterstock

Sustainable Cities

If managed well, compact, resilient, inclusive, and resource-efficient cities could become key drivers towards global sustainability. If managed poorly, sprawling urban areas will exacerbate climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and air and water pollution. Cities already consume over two-thirds of the global energy supply, and account for over 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Further, urban expansion into natural habitats could severely affect ecosystems and their critical services, including carbon sequestration and resilience to climate extremes such as flooding, droughts, and heatwaves.

In developing countries, a significant share of growth in the per capita GHG emissions is attributed to urban areas, through expanding and intensifying energy use from transport, buildings, waste, and industries. Cities offer great opportunities to cut large-scale GHG emissions while generating co-benefits such as jobs, clean air, and improved health. In so doing, they contribute to global green recovery from COVID-19. Increasingly, city networks, businesses, and international financing institutions are joining forces to harness innovative planning tools, financing opportunities, and technologies for promoting sustainable urban growth.

The GEF has adopted an integrated and systems-based approach to catalyse transformation towards urban sustainability under its flagship Sustainable Cities Program. It is supporting improved land-use planning and innovative investments for decarbonizing urban infrastructure, scaling up nature-based solutions and adopting circular economy approaches.

The program aims to create enabling conditions for urban sustainability through stronger local governance, innovative financing, global partnerships, and private sector engagement. Through dedicated catalytic investments in more than 50 cities globally and a global platform, the program is facilitating city-to-city exchange of experience, knowledge creation, capacity building in collaboration with global city networks, financial institutions, and urban development experts such as C40, ICLEI, WRI, MDBs, UN Agencies, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, World Economic Forum, and the European Space Agency. The Sustainable Cities Program is providing more than $300 million in grant financing to reduce nearly 280 million tons of GHG emissions, improve management of 1 million hectares of land, and increase climate resilience of around 58 million people globally.

Climate vulnerability in unplanned and rapidly urbanizing developing countries, particularly in least developed countries, continues to increase. Through the two dedicated adaptation funds—the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)—the GEF is also supporting cities to become climate resilient through investments in innovative projects. These projects facilitate integrated rural-urban adaptation planning, climate-resilient design of urban infrastructure, innovative climate adaptation financing, and economic valuation of adaptation benefits of nature-based infrastructure in cities. The LDCF and SCCF together have provided nearly USD 150 million for projects related to urban resilience.

Clean Energy and Electrification of Transport

Decarbonization of the global energy system is critically important for meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and reaching net zero by mid-century. Thanks to technology advancements and rapidly falling costs, barriers to the adoption of clean energy technologies are waning quickly; nevertheless, the transition must be accelerated. Moreover, energy demand in developing countries is expected to continue to rise, driven by economic and population growth, while emissions from the transport sector are growing in tandem.

The GEF seeks to reduce risks and enhance enabling environments to facilitate the replication and scale-up of investments in sustainable energy from other sources, including the private sector. The GEF is focused on promoting innovation for sustainable energy breakthroughs in four key areas: decentralized renewable power with energy storage; electric mobility; energy efficiency; and cleantech innovation.

Decentralized renewable energy: While significant progress has been achieved with large-scale, grid-connected wind and solar energy, the achievement of SDG7 goals for rural energy access still needs significant attention. By focusing on supporting clean minigrids solutions for residential and productive uses, the current GEF strategy is expected to contribute to both mitigation and energy access goals. The GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program is the centrepiece of this strategy; it supports 13 African countries on overcoming policy, technology, and financing barriers to ensure clean minigrids can compete against carbon-intensive alternatives.

Electric mobility: Coupled with renewable energy, electric vehicles are efficient and zero-carbon, and can improve grid reliability and reduce local air pollution. Still, regulatory, technical, and financial barriers to adoption of electric mobility remain substantial in developing countries, including high costs, range anxiety, limited availability of models, and lack of supporting infrastructures. The GEF-7 Global E-Mobility Program supports the introduction of electric mobility in 26 low- and middle-income countries by promoting an integrated approach through activities at global, regional, and country levels. The key objectives of the program are to de-risk pilot investments, build local capacity, and promote development of standards and integration with renewable energy.

Energy efficiency: Building on a successful partnership with Sustainable Energy for All, the GEF's energy efficiency accelerators have expanded their support to more countries and across subsectors, including buildings, district heating and cooling, energy management in industry, equipment, and appliances. These accelerators promote global best practices, foster harmonization of testing and performance standards, and provide targeted technical assistance to countries. The Net Zero Carbon Buildings accelerator supports select developing countries to adopt pathways for the complete decarbonization of the building sector by 2050. Since the beginning of GEF-7 in 2018, the GEF has approved over $450 million for energy and transport investments, for a combined carbon mitigation potential of over 555 million tCO_2eq.

Photo by Nicola Messana Photos/Shutterstock

Forests and Food Systems

While the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use sector accounts for about a quarter of GHG emissions, it is also a compulsory part of the solution to meet our climate goal.

To meet the growing and changing demand for nutritious food and fibre, farmers will need to increase agricultural production by at least 50 per cent. At the same time, climate change will continue to have serious and unequal impacts on food security. How the world's food system and land use evolve over the coming decades will therefore have major implications for the health of the planet and humanity. The GEF's Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program promotes a holistic approach and supports countries in reconciling competing social, economic, and environmental objectives in land management. Acting in 27 countries, it promotes sustainable food systems to tackle negative externalities in entire value chains; removes deforestation from commercial commodity supply chains; and supports large-scale restoration of degraded landscapes for sustainable production and ecosystem services. The FOLUR Impact Program is building a global coalition that will engage key stakeholders in the major food systems and supply chains, including existing partnerships such as the Food and Land Use coalition, Tropical Forest Alliance, Consumer Goods Forum, the Global Landscape Forum and others, to work collectively with countries towards achieving sustainability. The GEF will invest approximately $340 million in this program and leverage close to $3 billion in co-financing to contribute towards restoration of 1.7 million hectares of lands; the improvement of management practices in 26 million hectares of landscapes; and the mitigation of an expected 500 million metric tons of CO_2 eq. emissions.

By protecting forests, the GEF is also harnessing their climate mitigation potential. The GEF Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program focuses on globally important biomes such as the Amazon and the Congo Basin, and selected dryland ecoregions. The program includes 25 countries and seeks to avoid further degradation and deforestation through the conservation of forests and sustainable management of landscapes, addressing the complex nexus of land degradation, climate change, livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation. The novelty of the program resides in its aim to maintain the ecological integrity of entire biomes by concentrating efforts, focus, and investments, as well as ensuring strong regional cross-border coordination. The GEF will invest approximately $270 million in this program and leverage around $1.5 billion for the sustainable management of 120 million hectares of landscapes; the restoration of 1 million hectares of lands; and the mitigation of an expected 250 million metric tons of CO_2 eq. emissions.

Oceans and Climate Change

The world's oceans are vital to economic development and human well-being and essential in stabilizing the global climate, while providing a myriad of essential other services. Marine and coastal ecosystems sustain fisheries and tourism, protect shorelines from storm damage, sequester carbon, filter run-off waters, and provide biodiversity hotspots. Mangroves, saltmarshes, and seagrasses store five times more carbon than tropical forests. Together with coral reefs, these ecosystems also provide critical buffers against flooding and high winds from increasingly frequent storms due to climate change.

Yet, as the IPCC Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere unequivocally points out, these ecosystems are increasingly threatened by climate change and the resulting ocean acidification, and by unsustainable fishing, pollution, and habitat degradation. The need for strong, resilient marine and freshwater ecosystems is clear to all levels of society and resource users. Long-term solutions need national implementation and action that is supported by regional cooperative frameworks to ensure local priorities are acknowledged and respected by the stakeholders sharing ocean resources.

Recognizing the significance of these valuable, threatened ecosystems, the GEF is investing in the blue economy. Its initiatives recognize the ocean for its potential sustainable development of existing and new sectors, including tourism, extractive industries, renewable energy production, fisheries and aquaculture, coastal development, and marine transport.

The GEF supports the formulation of national marine spatial plans to inform political priority setting, decision-making and implementation of long-term strategic priorities. Such priority setting supports the establishment of marine protected areas that protect and restore mangroves, saltmarshes, and seagrass beds. The GEF has recently joined the Blue Nature Alliance (BNA) as a founding member, along with other partners. The objective of the BNA is to catalyse the effective conservation of at least 1.25 billion hectares of ocean, safeguard global ocean biodiversity, build resilience to climate change, promote human well-being, and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.

Specifically focused on carbon sequestration, the Blue Forest project is providing the first global-scale assessment of the values associated with coastal carbon and ecosystem services. An essential step to improve coastal ecosystem management is recognizing and maximizing the value of ecosystem services. Mangrove shorelines, for example, provide fisheries regeneration, carbon sequestration, and storm protection.

The GEF supports the International Maritime Organization's call for improvements in ship energy efficiency, helping create a global platform to address the rise of CO_2 emissions from the international maritime sector. The project is expected to help reduce 24-80 million tons of CO_2 per year by 2020, which will reduce pressure on the global marine system. At the same time, the project aims to catalyse a global transformation in ship efficiency by stimulating private sector investment in ballast water treatment technology.

Enhancing Climate Resilience

The GEF Secretariat hosts two funds exclusively dedicated to climate change adaptation, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Together, they have provided nearly $2 billion in grant finance to many of the world's most vulnerable developing countries, including all LDCs and several Small Island Developing States, and have directly benefited over 60 million people to date. The LDCF and SCCF portfolio includes support for a diverse array of sectors and themes, including nature-based solutions in coastal and urban contexts; food security and value chain resilience; water security; climate-resilient infrastructure and energy; diversified and strengthened rural livelihoods; early warning and climate information systems; health; and more. Gender and a "whole of society" approach are underlying themes, as is mainstreaming climate resilience in policies and plans.

In addition, the LDCF and SCCF jointly finance the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, which aims to catalyse investment and action by the private sector for climate resilience. The program is based on open calls for proposals, and enables the GEF to work with new partners around the world. It has supported innovative adaptation such as piloting coral reef insurance in Asia-Pacific, providing micro-insurance for fishing communities, building capacity for climate resilience of coffee and cacao supply chains, using drone technology to inform decisions relating to climate risks, and issuing green bonds.

Over 2022-2026, as part of the effort to achieve the Paris Agreement's global goal on adaptation, the GEF proposes to work towards partnership-based approaches at various levels in order to scale up support for climate resilience. This includes working with the GCF to develop major initiatives in LDCs and supporting joint national investment planning as part of the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the GEF and GCF, and other funds and entities.

Private Sector Engagement

Transforming the world's energy systems, cities, and land-use practices towards low-carbon and resilient pathways will require large-scale change in global finance flows. The overall volume of relevant financing is on the order of trillions of dollars per year, which will mostly have to come from the private sector. It is therefore critical that scarce public resources are deployed in a way that helps catalyse an increasingly larger share of private financing flows. The GEF has engaged with the private sector by: (i) improving policy frameworks to de-risk and attract low-carbon investments at scale; (ii) supporting technology innovation, demonstration, and transfer; and (iii) at transaction level, providing concessional funds through blended finance structures that further mobilize private sector finance. Going forward, the GEF will work across two pillars for private sector engagement. The first pillar is the use of blended finance to innovate and de-risk private sector investments with clear potential to generate beneficial climate change outcomes and other related co-benefits. Since 2014, the GEF has successfully invested in projects benefiting the private sector with an average co-financing ratio of 1:17; two-thirds of these funds were generated exclusively from the private sector. Most projects in the climate change mitigation focal area were selected to test innovative financial structures that can be replicated and scaled up in challenging areas such as the shipping industry and off-grid investments in Africa. In this way, they can build back better the tourism industry with energy efficiency investments. The second pillar is the expansion of private sector engagement with GEF projects, recognizing the key role of the private sector as an agent for market transformation. To further enhance the GEF's work with the private sector, the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) was established to provide strategic guidance to the Private Sector Engagement Strategy. As a representative group of diverse industries spanning key value chains globally, the PSAG can provide valuable insight and guidance across the GEF portfolio, including climate change. The Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation has demonstrated strong potential to catalyse innovation to, and private sector investment in, climate change adaptation by identifying and testing, as well as scalable and bankable investment approaches, business models, and technologies. Through two Calls for Concepts, in 2019 and 2021 respectively, this program has also demonstrated a strong potential for generating ambitious adaptation impacts, through non-traditional partnerships and innovative approaches. As one innovative element of this program, any proponent—not simply GEF Agencies—can submit project concepts.

Photo by Alf Ribeiro/Shutterstock

Transparency and Reporting

Transparency is the foundation for the Paris Agreement—it is a precondition to raising climate ambition. Transparency is essential to inform each country's contribution to the Paris Agreement, and helps build collective trust by holding countries accountable for their actions and obligations. As part of the Paris Agreement, Parties agreed to an Enhanced Transparency Framework. This framework makes it possible to track progress of each country, as described in the Biennial Transparency reports (BTRs), against its plans and ambitions, as described in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The GEF has been entrusted to build capacity to monitor and report progress towards NDCs, and to support countries in their preparation of BTRs.

CBIT: At COP 21, Parties requested the GEF support the establishment and operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), both pre- and post-2020, as a priority reporting related need. As of October 2021, the CBIT had invested $130.9 million to support 79 countries in all regions, and four global projects. National CBIT projects are addressing priority national needs, including developing methods and arrangements for transparency of NDCs, adaptation actions, and climate finance; strengthening institutional arrangements; supporting monitoring, reporting, and verification systems, and improving GHG inventories; and capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and training on transparency.

BTR: At COP 24 in 2018, the GEF was requested to support developing country Parties in preparing their BTRs. In response, the GEF organized consultations to discuss different modalities and support in 2020, and rolled out BTR support in February 2021. This early roll-out provided sufficient lead time for Parties to meet the submission deadline of December 2024. Response from countries has been robust. As of October 2021, the GEF has already approved support for 11 countries for their first BTR preparations.

Other enabling activities: Since its inception, the GEF has also supported over 403 enabling activity projects for the preparation of over 492 National Communications, 206 Biennial Update Reports (BURs), 102 Technology Needs Assessments, as well as 11 BTRs. In total, the GEF has provided $529.3 million for these enabling activities. As countries transition to the Enhanced Transparency Framework, the GEF will tailor its support to enable countries to meet the changing requirements. The LDCF has supported preparation for National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPAs) in 51 countries and the NAP process in LDCs.

The GEF in Context

The GEF plays an active and catalytic role in the global climate finance landscape, within and outside the financial mechanism. The financial mechanism for UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement comprises multiple funds, namely the GCF, the GEF, LDCF, and SCCF. Since 2018, the GEF and GCF have been collaborating to enhance synergies and coordination, while also responding to COP guidance on complementarity.

Building on such efforts, the GEF and the GCF developed and agreed on a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration (LTV). The LTV was submitted to the GEF Council and GCF Board in June 2021, generating positive feedback. The LTV defines specific areas of cooperation, where complementarity of action might be more/most efficient and effective, and identifies possible modalities to generate long-lasting mitigation and adaptation outcomes. It covers the GCF, GEF, LDCF, and SCCF.

The two institutions have started planning for collaborative and coordinated programming, including jointly investing in major initiatives, undertaking joint national investment planning, and supporting collaborating financing platforms. The two institutions will work to provide support in line with each fund's strengths. Additional activities include sharing information, lessons learned, and knowledge, and facilitating communication and outreach. A Steering Committee has been established to guide and review the LTV progress.

In addition, collaboration with the Adaptation Fund (AF) has continued, including the GEF Secretariat's co-review of AF proposals, consultations on themes of mutual interest, and engagement of AF colleagues in major GEF meetings. Collaboration among climate funds, including the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and the AF, has also benefited from the annual dialogue of climate funds, and efforts to develop an announcement of collaboration.

The GEF in Action

More than **$6.8 billion in mitigation finance** programmed jointly with **$58.8 billion** from other partners contributing to over **9.4 billion metric tons of CO2 eq**. of expected GHG emission reductions.

More than $1.98 billion in adaptation finance to reduce the vulnerability of more than **27 million people** in more than **130 countries**

$2.7 billion for **512 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects**, contributing to **5.6 million metric tons of CO2 eq**. of GHG reductions

450 projects supporting sustainable forest management

Over **180 million hectares** under sustainable land management, benefiting more than 90 million smallholders

Protecting carbon sinks and biodiversity in **3,300 protected areas** covering **960 million hectares**

More than **650 projects** with **private sector co-financing**, more than 420 of which with equity, loans or risk-mitigation instruments, leveraging an average **co-financing ratio of 1:8**

Support for over **46 intended Nationally Determined Contributions**, **206 Biennial Update Reports**, **12 Biennial Transparency Reports** and **492 National Communications**.

Support to **79 countries** to build institutional and technical capacity for enhanced transparency with **$130.9 million** through the CBIT

About the GEF

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office—Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), 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 Group (WBG) and World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF-US).

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established 30 years ago on the eve of the Rio Earth Summit to tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, it has provided more than **$21.5 billion** in grants and mobilized an additional **$117 billion** in co-financing for more than **5,000 projects** and programs. The GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature, and supports the implementation of major international environmental conventions including on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, and desertification. It brings together 184 member governments in addition to civil society, international organizations, and private sector partners. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to more than 25,000 civil society and community initiatives in **135 countries**.

www.thegef.org

OCTOBER 2021

gef 30 years