Brazil
AND THE GEF
- A TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Photo by reisegraf/iStock

Photo by Yuri de Mesquita Bar/iStock

INTRODUCTION

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility

Brazil has been an important partner for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for decades. Indeed, the GEF is practically a *Carioca*—a native of Rio de Janeiro City. The GEF was founded on the eve of the Earth Summit held in Rio in 1992 and Brazil has been a close partner and collaborator ever since. Projects across Brazil's diverse ecosystems helped shape the GEF as it evolved from a small pilot program to a multilateral fund seeking to catalyze transformational changes in the behavior of people, governments, and businesses.

The GEF has invested more than $1.2 billion in Brazil in 133 projects over the past 30 years and helped generate an additional $5 billion in co-financing (see Table 1)[1]. In that time, we have employed a range of strategies, from focusing on specific areas such as biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land management, sustainable cities, and coastal, marine, and international waters, to broad, cross-sectoral projects that seek to address the root causes of environmental and development challenges.

> The global importance of Brazil for protecting nature — on which half the world's GDP depends — and providing sustainable and resilient livelihoods and food security for people cannot be overstated.

1 Refer to Table 1

Photo by kynny/iStock

The country boasts extraordinary biodiversity, the largest intact forest on Earth, more than 7,000 kilometers of coastline, vast natural resources, and a diverse, highly-educated population that makes it an economic powerhouse. At the same time, Brazil must confront climate change, biodiversity loss, chemical pollution, and pressures on forests, land, oceans, and wildlife that threaten to undermine human development, livelihoods, and social justice.

The challenges facing Brazil are in many ways a microcosm of the challenges facing the planet as a whole. Together with the GEF, Brazil is well-placed to demonstrate the enormous potential of a transition to a nature-positive economy, to tackle the drivers of environmental destruction, and to advance transformative change across our food, land use, energy, urban, and other key human systems that shape the planet.

Brazil has been a regional and global leader in a host of key areas that together demonstrate both the need and the enormous potential of a transition to a green economy. In one area in particular, however, Brazil has been without question the world leader.

In 1998, the Brazilian government surprised the world with a bold announcement: Brazil would set aside 10 percent of its forests in protected areas, a commitment of 25 million hectares, about half the size of France, most of it tropical rainforest in the Amazon.

That pledge set the stage for the Amazon Region Protected Areas Program, or ARPA, the most ambitious tropical forest conservation program ever attempted. ARPA has since become a touchstone for the GEF and has demonstrated the interconnections between biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, provision of ecosystem services, and economic security for the people of the Amazon region.


Photo by Gustavo Fonseca/GEF

No discussion of ARPA, Brazil, and the GEF would be complete without a recognition of the role played by Gustavo A.B. da Fonseca, the GEF's long-standing Director of Programs, who passed away in August 2022. Born in Minas Gerais, Gustavo became a leading figure in the world of conservation for more than 30 years. He worked with, trained, and hired hundreds of conservationists, many of them from Brazil, and he was an ardent champion of ARPA and other protected spaces for biodiversity around the world. More than that, Gustavo was instrumental in steering the GEF toward integrated projects and programs aimed at arresting the drivers of environmental degradation.

Gustavo's legacy will live on in the vibrant partnership between the GEF and Brazil. The first tangible expression of that legacy is the establishment of a new Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership program to support the education of promising young conservationists from developing countries who play a critical role in effecting future change. The GEF is strongly committed to supporting their research, studies, professional development, and leadership, and the program will include conservation fellowships, grants for biodiversity field work, awards for participation in international conservation events, and a recurrent global conservation symposium bringing together young environmental leaders.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Photo by Alexandre Fajardo Rego/GEF

RESULTS

Projects approved over the past decade have delivered key actual results:

- **22.4 million hectares of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management**
- **178.4 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated**

EXPECTED RESULTS

Expected results from ongoing projects approved since 2014 include:

- **13.4 million hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management**
- **112,300 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration**
- **15.2 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices**
- **25,000 tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced**
- **21.3 million people benefiting from GEF investments, of whom 10.6 million are women**

Photo by Antonio RIBEIRO/GettyImages

HISTORY OF THE RIO CONFERENCE AND THE GEF

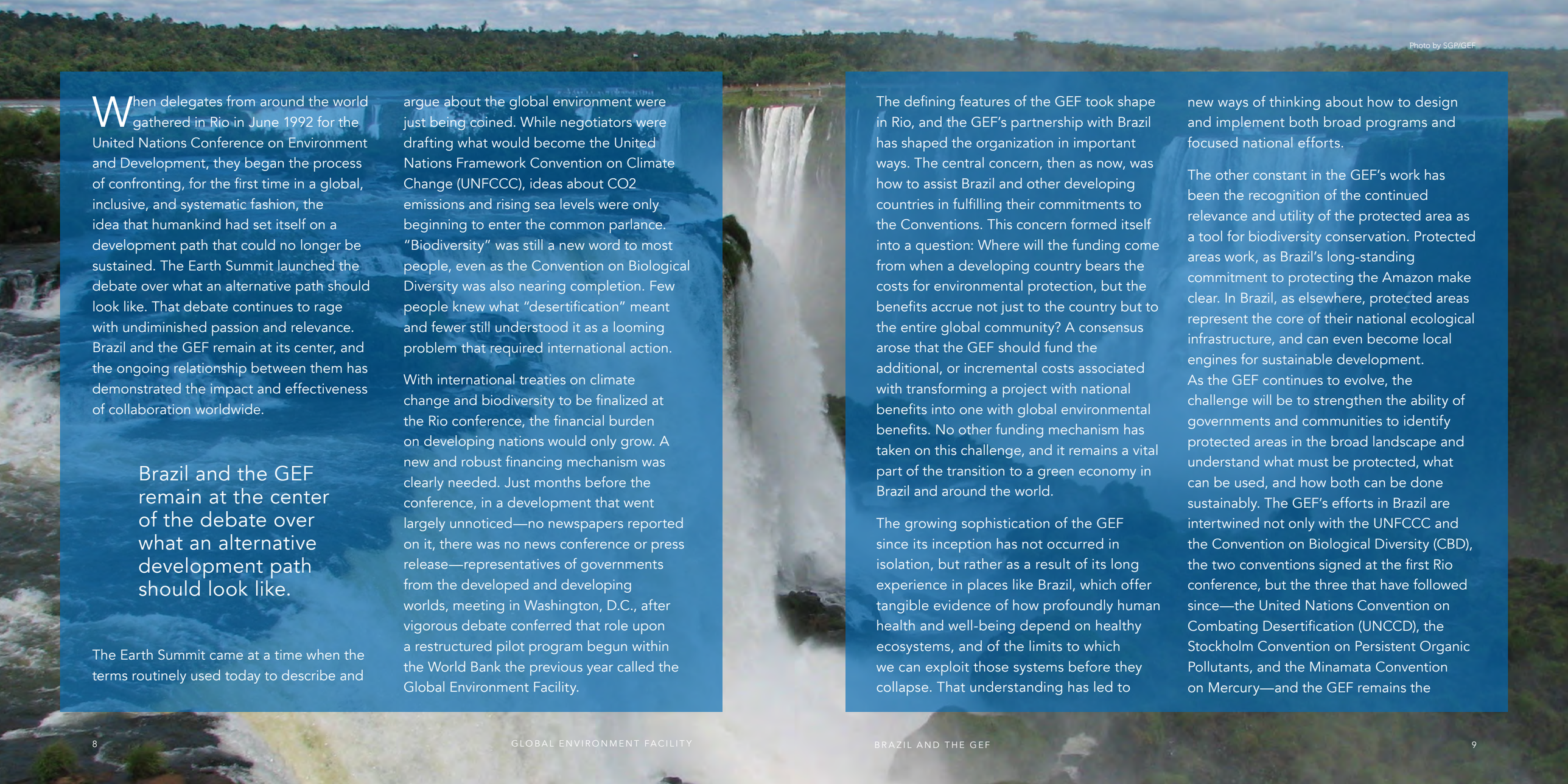


Photo by SGP/GEF

When delegates from around the world gathered in Rio in June 1992 for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, they began the process of confronting, for the first time in a global, inclusive, and systematic fashion, the idea that humankind had set itself on a development path that could no longer be sustained. The Earth Summit launched the debate over what an alternative path should look like. That debate continues to rage with undiminished passion and relevance. Brazil and the GEF remain at its center, and the ongoing relationship between them has demonstrated the impact and effectiveness of collaboration worldwide.

> Brazil and the GEF remain at the center of the debate over what an alternative development path should look like.

The Earth Summit came at a time when the terms routinely used today to describe and argue about the global environment were just being coined. While negotiators were drafting what would become the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ideas about CO2 emissions and rising sea levels were only beginning to enter the common parlance. "Biodiversity" was still a new word to most people, even as the Convention on Biological Diversity was also nearing completion. Few people knew what "desertification" meant and fewer still understood it as a looming problem that required international action.

With international treaties on climate change and biodiversity to be finalized at the Rio conference, the financial burden on developing nations would only grow. A new and robust financing mechanism was clearly needed. Just months before the conference, in a development that went largely unnoticed—no newspapers reported on it, there was no news conference or press release—representatives of governments from the developed and developing worlds, meeting in Washington, D.C., after vigorous debate conferred that role upon a restructured pilot program begun within the World Bank the previous year called the Global Environment Facility.

The defining features of the GEF took shape in Rio, and the GEF's partnership with Brazil has shaped the organization in important ways. The central concern, then as now, was how to assist Brazil and other developing countries in fulfilling their commitments to the Conventions. This concern formed itself into a question: Where will the funding come from when a developing country bears the costs for environmental protection, but the benefits accrue not just to the country but to the entire global community? A consensus arose that the GEF should fund the additional, or incremental costs associated with transforming a project with national benefits into one with global environmental benefits. No other funding mechanism has taken on this challenge, and it remains a vital part of the transition to a green economy in Brazil and around the world.

The growing sophistication of the GEF since its inception has not occurred in isolation, but rather as a result of its long experience in places like Brazil, which offer tangible evidence of how profoundly human health and well-being depend on healthy ecosystems, and of the limits to which we can exploit those systems before they collapse. That understanding has led to new ways of thinking about how to design and implement both broad programs and focused national efforts.

The other constant in the GEF's work has been the recognition of the continued relevance and utility of the protected area as a tool for biodiversity conservation. Protected areas work, as Brazil's long-standing commitment to protecting the Amazon make clear. In Brazil, as elsewhere, protected areas represent the core of their national ecological infrastructure, and can even become local engines for sustainable development.
As the GEF continues to evolve, the challenge will be to strengthen the ability of governments and communities to identify protected areas in the broad landscape and understand what must be protected, what can be used, and how both can be done sustainably. The GEF's efforts in Brazil are intertwined not only with the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the two conventions signed at the first Rio conference, but the three that have followed since—the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury—and the GEF remains the

only financing facility to serve that role for multiple conventions. The GEF's long engagement with the Rio conventions has allowed it to make integrated investments into sustainable forest management, and Brazil is one of the best examples on how multiple benefits can be achieved through integrating biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation objectives.

The GEF's work in Brazil reveals how the debate is shifting from a focus on symptoms and effects of environmental degradation to its fundamental drivers and the need for systems changes. **Brazil has been vital to this understanding and will continue to shape how the GEF advances transformative change in everything it does.**

Photo by Christian Hofer/GEF

A TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIP

The GEF has backed innovative and ambitious projects in Brazil that have created new opportunities and improved lives. Brazil has used GEF resources strategically for more than three decades (see Annex 1, Figure 1) and has brought about lasting and transformative changes in three key areas: **building institutions that last; crafting effective policies that offer benefits to natural and human communities; and establishing protected areas that provide refuges for critical and endangered species and ecosystems.** The impacts of these changes have been felt far beyond the typical project cycle and in many cases have unleashed actions at local, state, and federal levels that have reverberated across sectors and across Brazil's diverse geographies.

TRANSFORMING INSTITUTIONS

Helping to build strong, dynamic institutions that foster innovative solutions to complex environmental challenges has been a central element to the GEF's work in Brazil from its inception. Among the first GEF projects were two in Brazil that focused on institutions that remain essential to the country's conservation and development efforts: the **National Biodiversity Project (PROBIO)**[2], and the **Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)**[3].

2 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/58
3 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/126

Photo by SGP/GEF

Even before the Earth Summit in 1992, the GEF was developing **PROBIO** within the recently created Ministry of Environment to help Brazil set biome-level priorities for biodiversity conservation and to develop a national biodiversity strategy, to establish a national biodiversity information network, and to fund model biodiversity projects involving various combinations of public and private sector organizations. **PROBIO** also assisted the government in producing the National Biodiversity Law and creating the Directorate of Biodiversity and Secretariat of Biodiversity and Forests within the Ministry of Environment.

PROBIO, a $10 million project implemented by the World Bank, defined 900 Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Brazilian biomes through a multidisciplinary, participative process. These priority areas were widely adopted throughout the country and in a variety of sectors (federal agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector). The Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) and the National Forestry Agency have incorporated these areas in their planning processes and IBAMA uses them as the basis for creation of new protected areas throughout the country.

The government has committed to updating the areas every 10 years. The National Petroleum Agency officially adopted the priority areas in its guidelines for licensing oil exploration, and two calls for proposals have already been issued under these guidelines. PROBIO bolstered the scientific research community in Brazil, playing a role that has been recognized as critical in stimulating research and dissemination of information on Brazilian biodiversity and conservation strategies.

In parallel to developing PROBIO, the GEF and the government of Brazil established FUNBIO as a new, independent institution to drive the implementation of the CBD in Brazil and serve as an agile, sustainable, and innovative financial mechanism catalyst for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Guided by the NGO, academic, business, and government sectors, FUNBIO, a $20 million project implemented by the World Bank, functions as a strategic partner for the private sector and for state and federal public agencies, enabling socio-environmental investments by

Photo by Christian Hofer/GEF

companies and reducing and mitigating the impacts of the companies on the environment. In the public sphere, Funbio assists in the consolidation of conservation policies and the viability of environmental financing programs.

FUNBIO went on to become a GEF project executor, and then, in 2015, one of its implementing agencies. The fund has disbursed more than $600 million to nearly 300 projects across all of Brazil's biomes and is a testament to the longevity of the GEF's results and capacity to identify lasting initiatives.

The GEF's International Waters focal area has been instrumental in strengthening the capacity of institutions in Brazil and neighboring countries. The GEF has invested $13.3 million with the World Bank[4] and more recently with a $4.8m grant with CAF[5] into protection of the **Guarani Aquifer System**, a vital freshwater reserve serving about 90 million people across Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Due to rising water consumption, climate change uncertainties, and the absence of a regional management framework, the countries sought the GEF's

4 GEF ID 974
5 GEF ID 10139

Photo by tirc83/iStock

assistance in developing a comprehensive plan for sustainable aquifer protection. Through the GEF's Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis6 and Strategic Action Program process, the countries established a shared vision and adopted strategic actions for long-term aquifer management7. This effort also raised awareness among stakeholders, facilitated the establishment of national committees, and led to reforms promoting cross-sector collaboration.

In 2010, the aquifer countries signed the historic Guarani Aquifer Agreement[8], marking Latin America's first transboundary aquifer management agreement. A new GEF project now supports the implementation of priority actions and the operationalization of the Guarani Agreement.

Brazil is a highly urbanized country; 85 percent of the population lives in cities. The urban development process has created diverse challenges such as urban sprawl, which is leading to the loss of rich biodiversity, increased emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs), and vulnerability of citizens to the impacts of climate change. To support **sustainable urban transformation**, the GEF has been collaborating with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovations and local governments in five cities (Brasília, Recife, Belém, Teresina, and Florianopolis) on integrated urban planning, investing in sustainability solutions, developing innovative financing options, and creating tools and knowledge to inform urban development policies and plans.

6 https://iwlearn.net/resolveuid/81988aa912c2f9844b25cbb1d4594b0e
7 https://www.oas.org/DSD/WaterResources/projects/Guarani/SAP-Guarani.pdf

8 https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/mul-143888English.pdf

Strengthening the capacity of institutions and supporting effective policies are at the center of the GEF-Brazil collaboration on sustainable cities.

For example, under the GEF-6 Sustainable Cities IAP in Brazil[9], a $22.6 million project implemented by UNEP, the GEF helped Brasília's government establish an Environmental Information System control room, which is a geographic information system-based integrated planning platform that utilizes latest digital technology applications and provides evidence and data to develop policies and plan investments for sustainable, low carbon, and climate-resilient urban development. Similarly in Recife, the project is supporting the city government through a Geo-referenced Integrated Management System that is helping the city to develop integrated and resilient urban planning and identify sustainability solutions. These systems and tools are not only strengthening capacity of national and city governments, but also supporting the National Platform for Sustainable Cities, which engages with more than 300 Brazilian cities.

Early success of the GEF-6 IAP encouraged Brazil to join the GEF-7 Sustainable Cities IP[10], a $12.5 million project implemented by UNEP that provides further technical support to the national government and governments of the cities of Belém, Teresina, and Florianópolis on urban planning and supports innovative policies. For example, the project is working towards updating of laws and local legislation in Belém and Teresina, to enhance the governance and management of the metropolitan regions, and to develop socio-environmental macro zoning guidelines in Florianópolis.

9 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/9142
10 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10465

Photo by SGP/GEF

TRANSFORMING POLICIES

The GEF has adopted a cross-sectoral approach to policy in Brazil, with investments and activities in different sectors such as agriculture, health, and energy.

As a result of the GEF's efforts, several economic sectors today incorporate biodiversity criteria in their plans and policies.

In agriculture, the GEF supported the establishment of the **Low Carbon Agriculture Program** in 2010 that seeks to consolidate Brazilian agriculture based on sustainable, resilient, and productive systems. The program promotes sustainable agriculture through strategies of adaptation and mitigation of GHG emissions. Other objectives include contributing to international GHG reduction commitments; guaranteeing the continuous improvement of agricultural practices that reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon storage in vegetation and soil; incentivizing the adoption of strategies that increase environmental protection of plants and productive systems, while generating income for vulnerable rural communities; and supporting efforts to reduce deforestation by livestock and agriculture production in the Amazon and Cerrado biomes.

The GEF supported the preparation and adoption of a **National Policy on Agro-ecology and Organic Production** by the

Photo by SGP/GEF

Ministry of Agriculture in 2012. This policy promotes, expands, and consolidates processes relating to access, sustainable use, management, handling, restoration, and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems in general, with targets and initiatives directly related to themes of genetic resources, biodiversity, extraction, and conservation of natural resources.

Through the GEF's **Sustainable Multiple Use Landscape Consortia–Vertentes Project**[11], a nearly $25 million project implemented by the World Bank in GEF-7, rural producers are supported with sustainable agriculture, land restoration, and engagement with the private sector through commodity value chains with responsible sourcing of commodities and enhanced linkage to sustainable markets. Importantly, the project links two key private sector actors, farmers and commodity suppliers, with the commodity traders in the beef cattle and soybean value chains through sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and natural resource restoration in the degraded areas of the southern Cerrado. This engagement between the key private sector participants plays a key role in implementing and consolidating a socio-environmental business model conducive to deforestation-free traceability, restoring degraded land, and mainstreaming sustainable efforts made by soybean and beef cattle producers in their production systems.

These efforts are further upscaled through Brazil's participation in GEF's **Food, Land Use, and Restoration (FOLUR)** impact program[12], which promotes sustainable, integrated landscapes and efficient food value and supply chains at scale. The FOLUR impact program supports a system-wide approach that brings together strategies and stakeholders through both horizontal interventions (with actors within landscapes, policy reform, governance strengthening, etc.) and vertical dimensions (food value and supply chain commitments and financing). The impact program is based on a global coalition that engages key stakeholders in the major food systems and supply chains, including existing platforms such as the Food and Land Use coalition (FOLU), Tropical Forest Alliance, Consumer Goods Forum, and others, to work collectively with countries towards achieving sustainability.

In health, the research and technology focused **Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ)**, partnered with the Ministry of Environment to incorporate policies for environmental health and surveillance in its plans and policies. FIOCRUZ included biodiversity research and conservation in its statutes, and in 2014 established a Center for Information on Wildlife Health that disseminates information about the interrelationships between biodiversity and health, supports the detection of diseases in wild animals before they affect humans, and promotes monitoring of circulating pathogens through an online tool for recording field observations using mobile communication devices that is available to anyone—farmers, ecotourism guides, tourists, birdwatchers, as well as scientists and technicians. FIOCRUZ has been designated a collaborating center of the

11 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10468
12 https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/food-systems-land-use-and-restoration-impact-program

Photo by SGP/GEF

Photo by Joa_Souza/iStock

World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization on matters relating to environment and health and is a scientific member of the CBD.

In energy, the GEF helped the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Mines and Energy carry out **hydro-ecological studies on the Tapajós and Juruena River basins** to guide decisions relating to hydroelectric projects as an input to the environmental licensing processes. The studies identified critical areas for biodiversity conservation in the river basins and proposed activities to maintain the connectivity of rivers. Some of the areas have been incorporated into new Protected Areas and priority areas for ecosystem restoration under the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program.

The GEF also provided support to the **Indigenous Environmental and Territorial Management Project** to establish a ground-tested and officially recognized policy for environmental management in Indigenous Lands for effective conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. The project adapted the existing National Protected Areas Plan to meet the environmental and social needs of the indigenous lands. In addition, the GEF helped conduct ethno-management activities, dissemination of information on project activities, and trainings of community members on sustainable activities in 32 indigenous lands of five forest biomes across the country.

The GEF has been instrumental in developing a roadmap for collective action across 26 countries of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. Through three GEF projects with UNDP totaling nearly $35 million since 2008[13], the GEF produced three Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses[14] and developed a comprehensive 10-year Strategic Action Program[15] that addresses issues such as marine habitat degradation, unsustainable fisheries, marine pollution, climate change, and governance shortcomings. GEF projects have played a crucial role in implementing the SAP and strengthening region-wide coordination, fostering cross-sectoral dialogue on ocean governance among countries in the region to support ongoing conservation and sustainable utilization of the region's valuable resources.

The **chemicals and waste portfolio** is evolving in Brazil. Two full sized projects under the Stockholm Convention address the elimination of PCBs. The first PCB project sought to develop Brazil's capability to manage and dispose of PCB oils, PCB-containing equipment, and other PCB waste in a sustainable manner to achieve timely compliance with the Stockholm Convention requirements for PCB management, and to minimize the risk of PCB exposure to the population and the environment.[16]

This $4.7 million project implemented by UNDP supported the generation of a National Resolution for PCB management, four technical guidelines, and a PCB national management plan and training program. In addition, the project supported the generation of data of PCB-contaminated equipment and its labelling and implemented demonstration pilots for PCBs elimination. The participation of public and private electricity generation, transmission, and distribution companies was an essential part of the project since they were the main beneficiaries of the project's results and activities. On completion in 2018, the project reported elimination of 11,000 metric tons of PCBs.

A GEF-7 project seeks to **dispose of an additional 15,000 metric tons of PCBs**.[17] The $9.7 million project implemented by UNDP has already formalized the structure of the Federal Coordination Unit within the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. In addition, by contracting a specialized service, it developed a digital awareness campaign, which contacted more than 3100 representatives of the private sector. This effort made it possible to identify a national company with potential capacity to implement a new technology for PCBs destruction in the country. In addition, as part of the project's engagement strategy, the project established formal communication channels with the main environmental departments of State governments.

Under the Minamata Convention, the GEF has developed a multi-country project that **addresses mercury use in the Putumayo-Içá river basin in the Amazon region**.[18] The $12.8 million project implemented by the World Bank seeks to strengthen the enabling conditions for the participant countries to manage the shared freshwater ecosystems of the basin, including the phase of mining activities in the river basin and transition mining to sustainable livelihoods.

13 GEF ID 1032, GEF ID 5542, GEF ID 10800
14 https://www.clmeproject.org/download/regional_tda/
15 https://www.clmeproject.org/download/sap/
16 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/3282
17 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10368
18 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10531

Photo by Amanda Caroline da Silva/iStock

TRANSFORMING PROTECTED AREAS

The importance of the Amazon to the environment and development of Brazil and the world was clear long before the Earth Summit in 1992 and has only increased in the decades since. Despite long periods of deforestation, the sheer size of the Amazon remains astounding. In Brazil alone, the Legal Amazon Region—an area covering all or part of nine states—occupies over four million square kilometres of land, an area that would make it the seventh largest country in the world.

> The vast expanse contains approximately 30 percent of the planet's remaining tropical rain forest and is estimated to contain carbon stores of 120 billion tons.

The GEF's involvement in the Amazon began with a focus on building institutional capacity and financial sustainability to help Brazil and other Amazon basin countries manage national systems of protected areas. As this capacity grew, the GEF broadened its investment strategy to support sustainable management of production landscapes outside of the formal protected area estate. The GEF and its Brazilian partners recognized that ensuring ecosystem connectivity and socio-ecological resilience in the Amazon required managing landscapes in more integrated ways, where protected areas and production areas were part of a land-use mosaic that supported both sustainable economic development and ecosystem integrity. This focus has included the management of terrestrial and shared transboundary freshwater ecosystems.

The GEF has launched several major protected area programs in Brazil: the Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA),[19] the world's largest tropical-forest conservation program which began in 2002; the Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program (ASL);[20] and the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program.[21] The GEF's **Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Program** has made a considerable contribution to boosting marine protected-area coverage—up to 26.3 percent from 1.5 percent, and PROSPECIES,[22] a $13.4 million project implemented by FUNBIO, is dedicated to reversing the decline of the 300 most critically endangered species in Brazil.

The GEF, in partnership with UNEP and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, has been supporting the Amazon River Basin since 2010 through two projects totaling $19 million.[23] Initial activities were focused on strengthening cooperation among the eight Amazon countries through the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis[24] and Strategic Action Program[25] process, resulting in all countries endorsing the first ever basin-wide regional water management strategy in 2017. A second investment in 2020 has been supporting implementation of the strategy to strengthen national capacity and regional governance for integrated water resources management, enhance adaptation to climate change, and ensure solid regional data to improve decision making and coordination from source to sea.

19 https://www.thegef.org/publications/amazon-region-protected-areas-program-arpa
20 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10749
21 https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/GEF_IP_RainforestSystems_2023_05.pdf
22 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/9271
23 GEF ID 2364, GEF ID 9770
24 https://iwlearn.net/documents/28083
25 https://iwlearn.net/documents/28088

ARPA

Near Brazil's border with Suriname and French Guiana, endless swaths of green are punctuated by dramatic granite outcroppings that rise thousands of feet above the forest canopy. This is the Guiana Shield, one of the most biologically diverse ecoregions on Earth, and one of the most remote. In 2002, this area became a landmark for conservation with the creation of Tumucumaque National Park, the world's largest tropical forest national park, one of ARPA's most public successes.

By the time ARPA began, efforts to coordinate and implement environmental policies in the Brazilian Amazon had been lagging for years. The extent of the Amazon basin, lack of managerial capacity and resources, powerful forestry and mining interests, and poverty in the region have historically stymied regional and national reforms. ARPA set out to significantly change that situation and do so completely and in relatively short order.

ARPA helped Brazil ensure comprehensive protection of its majority portion of the Amazon by increasing the number of strictly conserved areas, improving their management, and creating new areas dedicated to the sustainable use of forest resources. While protected areas are not always the right tool for conservation in every context,

> in the Amazon, protecting large, contiguous areas of forest has proven to be effective in both conserving biodiversity and in maintaining crucial ecosystem services,

particularly reducing carbon emissions from deforestation, preventing floods and soil erosion, and regulating regional and perhaps even global rainfall and temperature.

Photo by SGP/GEF

ARPA thus established a goal at once simple to state and profoundly difficult to achieve: Create the most ambitious tropical forest national protected area system in the world. For a sense of the scale of the challenge, consider that a comparable protected area network, the National Park System in the United States, has been in development for 150 years yet is less than half the size of the ARPA reserves and has been vastly more costly to create. Few protected area systems face the daunting issues ARPA has had to overcome, including enforcement of environmental laws in remote areas, effectively addressing the needs and aspirations of rural people for improved livelihoods, and valuing and funding conservation activities against the wider backdrop of ongoing resource exploitation.

Despite the obstacles, ARPA has made nearly unequaled progress, creating or supporting 120 protected areas covering 62.5 million hectares in the Brazilian Amazon that include 16 out of 19 forest ecosystems in the Brazilian Amazon, five out of six floodplain ecosystems, and all four savanna types. An analysis of 39 of the protected areas supported by ARPA found over 11,400 species of plants and animals, a significant representative sample of the region's biodiversity.

Photo by SGP/GEF

But the creation of strictly protected areas alone is not enough. About half of ARPA protected areas are extractive reserves and sustainable development reserves that directly benefit local human communities. **The project has been instrumental in promoting the sustainable use of natural resources associated with the protection of culturally and socially important livelihoods—thus helping prevent even more damaging economic activities from taking root.** The economic gains, in turn, contribute to the delivery of global environmental services, including climate change mitigation.

As the world looks to protect the Amazon as a globally essential carbon sink, ARPA has been an important showcase for the types of mechanisms needed for successful action. Protected areas are the most cost-effective means of reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and are thus a sound investment that brings multiple benefits. Protected areas decrease emissions at less cost than other options while generating revenue. The economic profits from creating and strengthening protected areas are estimated to reach tens of billions of dollars by 2050, once the other benefits of leaving the forests standing—such as preventing flooding and soil erosion, regulating temperature and rainfall, ecotourism, cultural values, scientific research, and so on—are considered.

ARPA represents not only the world's largest conservation program in protected areas but a crucial component of a sustainable future for the Amazon. The project has demonstrated the economic value of biodiversity and protected areas.

ARPA has shown that dramatic expansion of biodiversity conservation is not only possible in the tropics, but that such expansion can be part of broader efforts to bring biodiversity and ecosystem services into local and national economies.

AMAZON SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

The ASL Program is emblematic of the GEF's evolution toward integrated programming and is a flagship of GEF's Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Program. The program and each of its projects rest upon a clear theory of change, which posits that the protection of biodiversity and the integrity and resilience of the Amazon biome can be achieved if: an adequate area of the Amazon is conserved under various regimes (protected areas and indigenous lands); agricultural, degraded, and forest lands are managed sustainably and restored, with zero tolerance for illegal deforestation; national policies and strategies support sustainable development that minimizes deforestation and loss of ecosystem services; and capacity of and regional cooperation between key players is improved.

The ASL program includes two phases. The first phase comprises five national projects led by the countries' Ministries of Environment and executed in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The second phase, a $19 million project implemented by the World Bank, comprises four new countries—Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, and Suriname—with one national project each, one new project in Peru, and the scale-up of two of the ongoing national projects in Brazil and Colombia.

The program builds on ARPA and the decades of work in the Amazon to strengthen biodiversity conservation, reduce deforestation, and improve community livelihoods.

Photo by SGP/GEF

These interventions together aim to strengthen protection, reduce deforestation, and improve ecosystem connectivity, thereby enhancing the integrity of the local, regional, and global ecosystem services that the Amazon provides, including biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and maintaining the hydrological cycle.

ASL strengthened integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in the Amazon region and facilitated a transition from a business-as-usual scenario characterized by forest conversion into low productivity cattle ranching and other unsustainable land uses to sustainably managed forest- and freshwater landscapes. The ultimate outcome of this process would be to maintain and restore the ecological resilience of the Amazon.

A landscape mosaic made up of well-managed protected areas and indigenous territories, with sustainable use in the surrounding landscapes, will conserve biodiversity and assure the required connectivity for key ecosystems and species to adapt to climate change. Adding more value for sustainable timber and non-timber (including aquatic) production chains and strengthening ecosystem services will improve the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous populations, conserve key local, national, and global ecosystem services by reducing global GHG emissions, enhancing adaptation for extreme climate change events, and maintaining regional rainfall patterns.

The ASL created and improved management of protected areas, promoted sustainable nature-based productive activities and value chains, restored degraded and fragmented lands, and strengthened policies toward the Amazon's sustainable development.

ASL continues to support communities, governments, and institutions in its efforts to protect the Amazon region, aiming to connect people and institutions to promote well-managed and conserved landscapes. The ASL will support countries' existing efforts and new environmental commitments, including the pledge to conserve at least 30 percent of the planet's lands and waters by 2030.

Photo by miroslav_1/iStock

AMAZON, CONGO, AND CRITICAL FOREST BIOMES INTEGRATED PROGRAM

In the tropics, primary forests, or Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs), store more carbon than any other forests. The Amazon and the Congo Basin are the two largest blocks of tropical forests in the world. These two basins are globally critical for biodiversity and carbon storage. They provide livelihoods and subsistence to communities that rely on forests and agriculture for their survival.

It is estimated that forest ecosystems soak up to a third of anthropogenic GHG emissions, 84 percent coming from old and primary forests. These forests are also irreplaceable in terms of biodiversity and are critical for other ecosystem services, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The conservation and sustainable management of the remaining IFLs has become crucial to combat global environmental degradation before it is too late. IFLs are also the cheapest solution to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Remaining IFLs comprise only 20 percent of tropical forest area, and only 22 percent of intact forests are within protected areas. Primary forests in the most extended tropical biomes continue to be lost or degraded at an alarming rate due to agriculture, logging, mining, and infrastructure development that are in turn fueled by poverty, policy incoherence, weak government and institutional capacities, or industrial expansion.

The goal of the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program is to maintain the integrity of globally important and critical tropical primary forests. This, in turn, will maximize multiple global environment benefits, notably related to carbon and biodiversity.

At the global level, the program will contribute to better conservation of primary forests, providing information and visibility of IFLs in the climate and biodiversity agendas. It will give particular attention to their definition, mapping, sustainable management, and financing. Several platforms should be targeted to catalyze the engagement of multiple stakeholders at global, regional, national, and local levels. This would enable the needed changes in governance models, policies, financial frameworks, information, and social systems. Beyond governments, the targeted stakeholders should include the private sector and various platforms involved in forest protection, sustainable use, and finance.

At the sub-regional level, countries will be invited to work together to increase and strengthen the protection and governance of IFLs. They will tackle the drivers of deforestation at the landscape and jurisdictional levels. This could include, for instance, developing land-use planning instruments at various levels and finding innovative ways to promote integration. Beyond the establishment and improved management of protected areas, the program will consider other effective area-based conservation measures.

The Small Grants Programme in Brazil

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is approaching 30 years of implementation in Brazil. It was the first program focused on the threatened Brazilian Cerrado biome, Brazil´s second largest biome after the Amazon and one of the most biodiverse savannah ecosystems in the world.

Despite its environmental importance, the Cerrado is one of the least protected regions in Brazil. Changes in land use, natural resource management practices, and agricultural practices have resulted in biodiversity loss and an increase in GHG emissions, with devastating impacts on communities dependent on healthy ecosystems for their survival.

SGP started testing and investing in innovations during its Pilot Phase, making resources available to community-based organizations so they could propose their own solutions for the problems they faced, through a bottom-up approach that is the SGP trademark. In Brazil, the Institute Society, Population, and Nature (ISPN) is implementing the SGP in partnership with the UNDP. SGP Brazil is a recognized delivery mechanism that has also leveraged funds from several other donors, such as the European Union, USAID, Amazon Fund and the Laudes Foundation, adding another $7.9 million in co-financing to the $11.9 million invested by the GEF.

As a result of SGP Brazil's support, Central do Cerrado cooperative was born 10 years ago. This cooperative aims to promote the sustainable commercialization of biodiversity products from about 30 associations and 20 other cooperatives supported by SGP. Today, this business model involves more than 10,000 families, and it is a well-known brand available in Brasília and via popular online marketing channels in Brazil.

Through the sustainable use of biodiversity approach, SGP Brazil supports the conservation of traditional territories and provision of ecosystem services for society in general, while promoting social inclusion, gender equality, poverty alleviation, and food security. More than 20,000 families have benefited, with more than 1,000,000 hectares of land under sustainable management.

More recently, SGP Brazil together with the local and Indigenous communities have designed the GEF-7 country program strategy[26] being implemented in four priority landscapes. The strategy aims to promote productive and resilient socio-ecological landscapes, where grant-making is focused on capacity building, empowering local communities and CSOs and advocating for their rights, mainstreaming gender and promoting social inclusion, and supporting multistakeholder platforms to foster partnerships and inclusive decision making.

26 https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10122

Photo by SGP/GEF

Photo by SGP/GEF

GEF FINANCING IN BRAZIL

This note outlines the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF) financing in Brazil since the Pilot Phase until May 2023 with the first two Work Programs of GEF-8 accounted for (December 2022 and June 2023). The note includes:

(i) Overview
(ii) Brazil's Portfolio
(iii) SGP in Brazil
(iv) Terminal Evaluations

OVERVIEW

Overall, Brazil is the second biggest recipient of cumulative GEFTF financing from Pilot Phase until the beginning of GEF-8 as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: GEF Trust Fund Financing by country over time, as of May 2023
(Numbers for GEF-8 are tentative, pending 64th GEF Council approval)

Total financing, in USD million										
Global/Regional/Country	**Pilot Phase**	**GEF-1**	**GEF-2**	**GEF-3**	**GEF-4**	**GEF-5**	**GEF-6**	**GEF-7**	**GEF-8**	**Grand Total**
Global/Regional	189	325	584	960	612	908	821	1,006	326	5,731
China	55	136	169	220	261	310	197	239	18	1,605
Brazil	38	26	73	93	112	140	138	114	79	813
India	41	35	15	94	149	132	110	111	38	725
Mexico	35	1	145	69	92	113	92	92	54	694
Indonesia	9	52	15	10	42	98	77	104	17	425
Russian Federation	3	60	43	38	124	120	-	-	-	388
Phillipines	50	0	38	51	43	39	34	55	15	326
Colombia	6	0	24	28	45	58	58	71	30	322
South Africa	-	13	12	38	41	53	69	58	19	304
Peru	6	4	21	44	32	41	64	52	34	299
Other Countries	264	408	690	1,149	1,186	1,660	1,621	1,818	864	9,660
Grand Total	**696**	**1,061**	**1,830**	**2,795**	**2,740**	**3,672**	**3,282**	**3,721**	**1,493**	**21,291**

GEF IN BRAZIL PORTFOLIO

With regards to the portfolio sourced from the GEFTF, Brazil has had a total of 133 projects programmed to date, including 52 global and regional projects where Brazil is one participating country. The number of Brazil's projects has been quite stable from GEF-2 to GEF-7 with an average of 18-19 projects per cycle. These numbers include approved stand-alone and child projects (including the June 2023 Work Program) in Brazil. Projects in biodiversity account for the largest share of 35% of the total 133 projects. (See Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Number of stand-alone and child projects programmed for Brazil

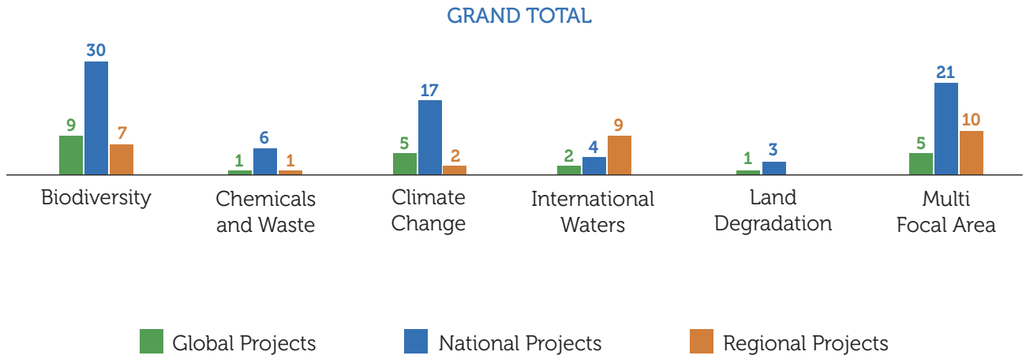


Photo by SGP/GEF

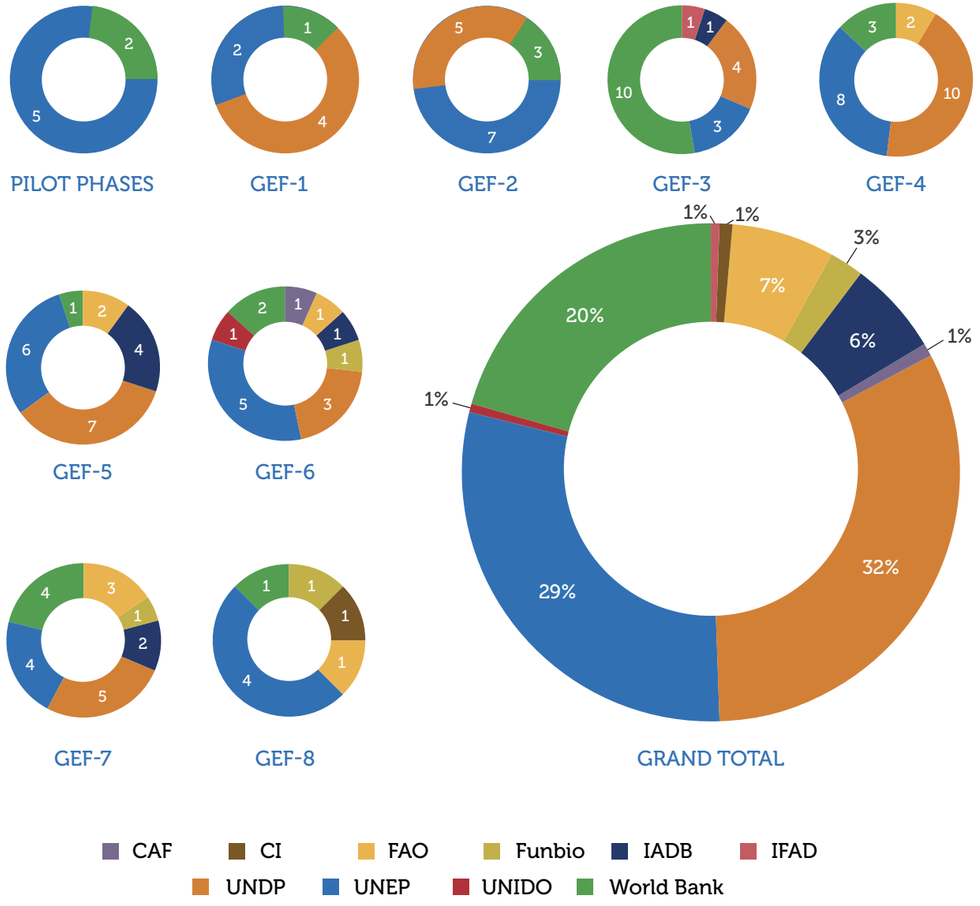
Table 2 below presents GEFTF financing and co-financing for projects in Brazil (both national and regional/global) for stand-alone and child projects over time. The co-financing ratio has increased steadily over replenishment phases and reached 5.69 with the first two work programs of GEF-8 (December 2022 and June 2023).

Table 2: GEF financing and co-financing by focal area in Brazil

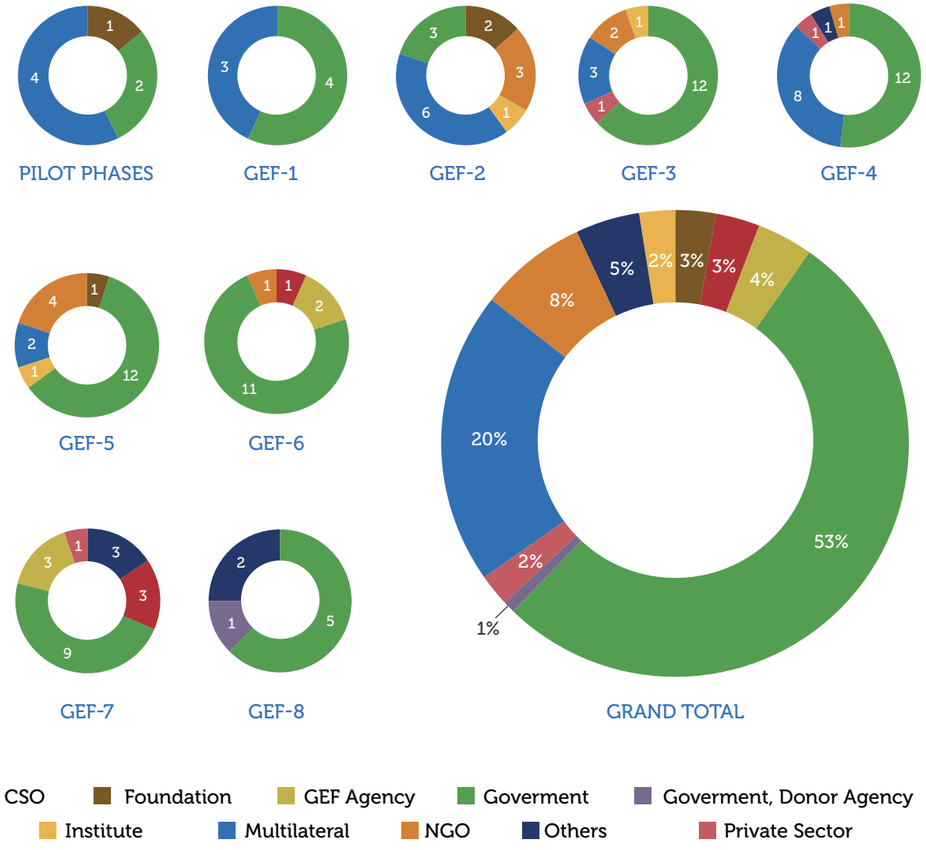
Geographic Scope	Pilot Phase		GEF-1		GEF-2		GEF-3		GEF-4	
Financing	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.
Global	**8**	**-**	**9**	**8**	**22**	**26**	**1**	**-**	**85**	**111**
Biodiversity	-	-	6	5	6	9	1	-	16	48
Chemicals & Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Climate Change	8	-	3	4	7	3	-	-	-	-
International Waters	-	-	-	-	8	13	-	-	7	18
Land Degradation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multi Focal Area	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	61	45
National	**38**	**10**	**26**	**106**	**73**	**122**	**93**	**187**	**103**	**452**
Biodiversity	30	10	1	-	49	85	48	116	52	175
Chemicals & Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	11
Climate Change	8	-	25	106	13	9	4	4	35	204
International Waters	-	-	-	-	11	27	1	1	1	5
Land Degradation	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	21	-	-
Multi Focal Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	44	10	57
Regional	**6**	**-**	**1**	**1**	**18**	**14**	**43**	**177**	**29**	**143**
Biodiversity	6	-	-	-	1	-	19	118	-	-
Chemicals & Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Climate Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	59	-	-
International Waters	-	-	-	-	16	13	-	-	8	48
Multi Focal Area	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	21	96
Grand Total	**52**	**10**	**36**	**115**	**113**	**162**	**136**	**363**	**218**	**707**
Co-financing ratio		0.19		3.17		1.43		2.66		3.25

Geographic Scope	GEF-5		GEF-6		GEF-7		GEF-8		Grand Total	
Financing	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.	GEF	Co-f.
Global	**7**	**19**	**3**	**9**	**2**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**137**	**173**
Biodiversity	3	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	34	71
Chemicals & Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Climate Change	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	15
International Waters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	31
Land Degradation	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Multi Focal Area	1	1	1	8	-	-	-	-	65	55
National	**140**	**723**	**138**	**769**	**113**	**674**	**74**	**376**	**799**	**3,418**
Biodiversity	31	132	21	79	22	124	26	100	281	821
Chemicals & Waste	1	2	0	-	12	62	-	-	20	77
Climate Change	23	204	8	58	12	1	10	67	138	653
International Waters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	33
Land Degradation	4	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	38
Multi Focal Area	81	368	108	632	67	488	39	209	327	1,796
Regional	**25**	**165**	**24**	**176**	**62**	**492**	**15**	**131**	**222**	**1,300**
Biodiversity	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	28	119
Chemicals & Waste	4	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13
Climate Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	59
International Waters	21	151	2	3	32	297	15	131	94	644
Multi Focal Area	-	-	21	172	28	195	-	-	72	465
Grand Total	**171**	**907**	**165**	**954**	**178**	**1,166**	**89**	**507**	**1,158**	**4,891**
Co-financing ratio		5.29		5.79		6.56		5.69		4.22

With regards to Implementing Agencies, UNDP accounts for 32% of the portfolio, followed by UNEP at 29% and WB at 20% (Figure 2).



As for Executing Partners, 53 percent of executing entities for stand-alone and child projects in Brazil is governmental organizations, followed by 20% multilateral institutions. It should be noted that 8% of the portfolio is executed by NGOs while 3% by CSOs (Figure 3).



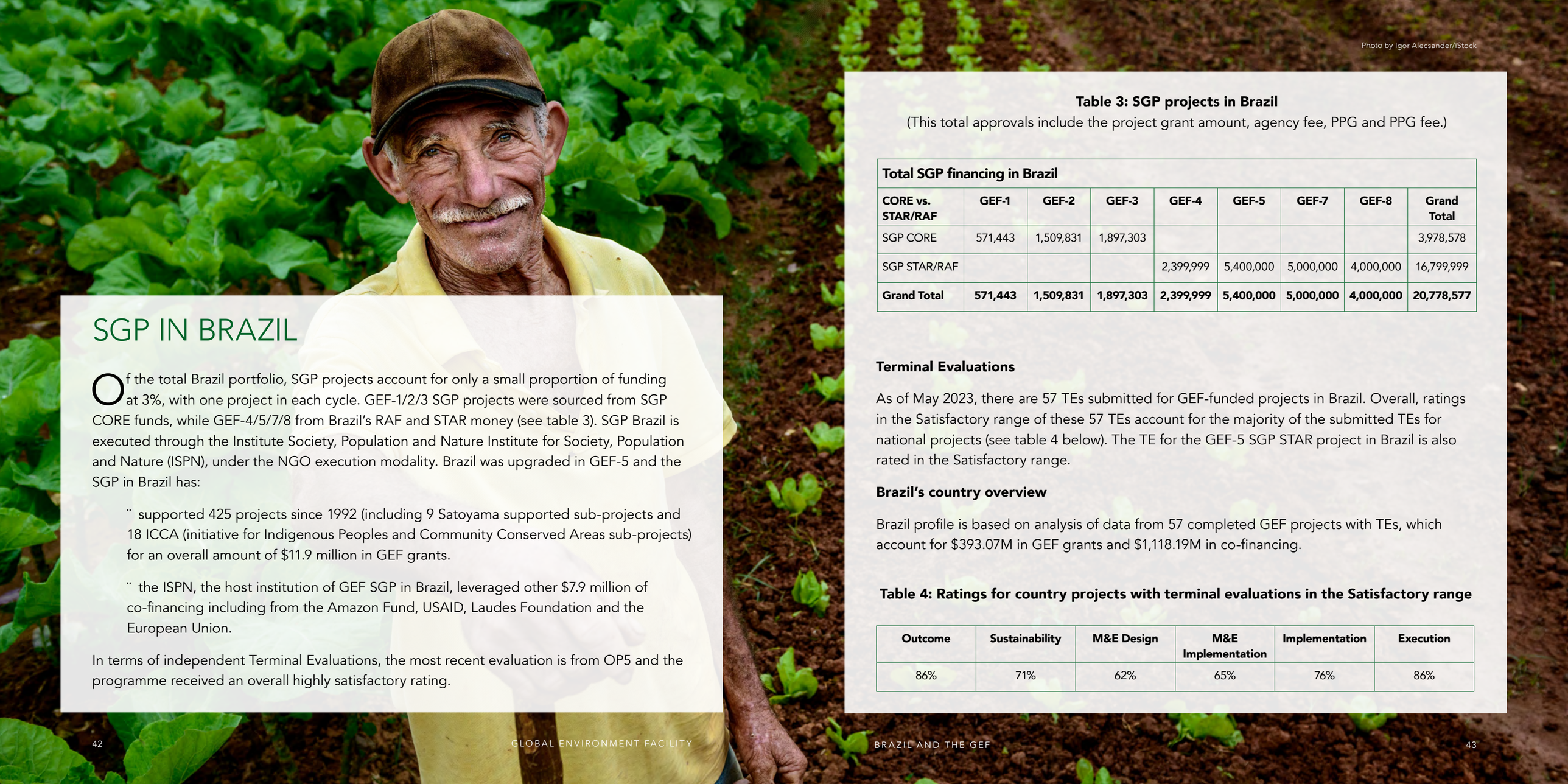


Photo by Igor Alecsander/iStock

SGP IN BRAZIL

Of the total Brazil portfolio, SGP projects account for only a small proportion of funding at 3%, with one project in each cycle. GEF-1/2/3 SGP projects were sourced from SGP CORE funds, while GEF-4/5/7/8 from Brazil's RAF and STAR money (see table 3). SGP Brazil is executed through the Institute Society, Population and Nature Institute for Society, Population and Nature (ISPN), under the NGO execution modality. Brazil was upgraded in GEF-5 and the SGP in Brazil has:

- supported 425 projects since 1992 (including 9 Satoyama supported sub-projects and 18 ICCA (initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas sub-projects) for an overall amount of $11.9 million in GEF grants.
- the ISPN, the host institution of GEF SGP in Brazil, leveraged other $7.9 million of co-financing including from the Amazon Fund, USAID, Laudes Foundation and the European Union.

In terms of independent Terminal Evaluations, the most recent evaluation is from OP5 and the programme received an overall highly satisfactory rating.

Table 3: SGP projects in Brazil

(This total approvals include the project grant amount, agency fee, PPG and PPG fee.)

Total SGP financing in Brazil								
CORE vs. STAR/RAF	**GEF-1**	**GEF-2**	**GEF-3**	**GEF-4**	**GEF-5**	**GEF-7**	**GEF-8**	**Grand Total**
SGP CORE	571,443	1,509,831	1,897,303					3,978,578
SGP STAR/RAF				2,399,999	5,400,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	16,799,999
Grand Total	**571,443**	**1,509,831**	**1,897,303**	**2,399,999**	**5,400,000**	**5,000,000**	**4,000,000**	**20,778,577**

Terminal Evaluations

As of May 2023, there are 57 TEs submitted for GEF-funded projects in Brazil. Overall, ratings in the Satisfactory range of these 57 TEs account for the majority of the submitted TEs for national projects (see table 4 below). The TE for the GEF-5 SGP STAR project in Brazil is also rated in the Satisfactory range.

Brazil's country overview

Brazil profile is based on analysis of data from 57 completed GEF projects with TEs, which account for $393.07M in GEF grants and $1,118.19M in co-financing.

Table 4: Ratings for country projects with terminal evaluations in the Satisfactory range

Outcome	Sustainability	M&E Design	M&E Implementation	Implementation	Execution
86%	71%	62%	65%	76%	86%

Photo by Alfribeiro/iStock

Annex

List of all GEF projects in Brazil	
Project Title	GEF Phase
Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to manage biodiversity data and information as a strategy to conserve their territories, safeguard traditional knowledge, and promote integrated biodiversity management (for 64th Council approval)	GEF - 8
Biodiversity Wildlife Territories (for 64th Council approval)	GEF - 8
Brazil Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Phase 3 Project (for 64th Council approval)	GEF - 8
Innovation ecosystem for the circularity of plastics, reduction of consumption, and disposal of single-use plastic in the HORECA sector (for 64th Council approval)	GEF - 8
Union for Restoration - Enabling large-scale restoration through national policy in Brazil (GEF-PROVEG) (for 64th Council approval)	GEF - 8
Promoting zero-emission buildings in Brazil through climate technologies and policies (EDinova) (for 64th Council approval)	GEF - 8
Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes	GEF - 8
Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (LAC 1)	GEF - 7

Photo by SGP/GEF

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting – GEF 7 EA Umbrella VI	GEF - 7
Strengthening the national transparency system in Brazil under the Paris Agreement (DataClima+)	GEF - 7
Cerrado standing with income generation: the baru production chain as an ally of biodiversity and traditional peoples	GEF - 7
Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Brazil	GEF - 7
Fifth National Communication, Biennial Update Report and Biennial Transparency Reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	GEF - 7
Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+)	GEF - 7
Brazil Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project – Phase 2	GEF - 7
Amazon Regional Technical Assistance	GEF - 7
Strengthening participatory natural resource management processes for sustainable economic development, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of carbon stocks in Amazon Wetlands.	GEF - 7
Transboundary cooperation for the conservation, sustainable development and integrated management of the Pantanal - Upper Paraguay River Basin	GEF - 7
Binational and integrated water resources management in the Merín Lagoon Basin and Coastal Lagoons	GEF - 7
Integrated watershed management of the Putumayo-Içá river basin	GEF - 7
Sustainable Multiple Use Landscape Consortia - Vertentes Project	GEF - 7
Promoting integrated metropolitan planning and innovative urban technology investments in Brazil	GEF - 7

Sustainable Cities Impact Program	GEF - 7
Environmentally sound destruction of PCBs in Brazil	GEF - 7
Agtech for inclusion and sustainability: SP Ventures'Regional Fund (Agventures II)	GEF - 7
Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program	GEF - 7
Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program - Phase II	GEF - 7
Brazil Sustaining Healthy Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Project	GEF - 7
Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Brazil	GEF - 7
Water Funds A Conservation Climate Resilient Model for Stressed Watersheds in Latin America and the Caribbean	GEF - 6
Preparing the Ground for the Implementation of the La Plata Basin Strategic Action Program	GEF - 6
AVACLIM : Agro-ecology, Ensuring Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods while Mitigating Climate Change and Restoring Land in Dryland Regions	GEF - 6
Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (6NR - LAC-II)	GEF - 6
Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change	GEF - 6
Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project	GEF - 6
Taking Deforestation Out of the Soy Supply Chain	GEF - 6
Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Brazil	GEF - 6
Sustainable, Accessible and Innovative Use of Biodiversity Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in Promising Phytotherapic Value Chains in Brazil	GEF - 6
Realizing the Biodiversity Conservation Potential of Private Lands	GEF - 6
AMAZON Coordination Technical Assistance	GEF - 6

Photo by SGP/GEF

Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program	GEF - 6
National Strategy for Conservation of Threatened Species (PROSPECIES)	GEF - 6
Cities-IAP: Promoting Sustainable Cities in Brazil through Integrated Urban Planning and Innovative Technologies Investment	GEF - 6
Support to Preparation of the Third National Biosafety Reports to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety - GRULAC and CEE Regions	GEF - 6
Cities-IAP: Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP-PROGRAM)	GEF - 6
Biogas Applications for the Brazilian Agro-industry	GEF - 6
Knowledge for Action: Promoting Innovation Among Environmental Funds	GEF - 5
Development of Minamata Convention on Mercury Initial Assessment in Brazil	GEF - 5
Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening on the National Framework for Access and Benefit Sharing under the Nagoya Protocol	GEF - 5
Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CMLE+)	GEF - 5
Fourth National Communication and Biennial Update Reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	GEF - 5
Reversing Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation (REDESER)	GEF - 5
Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (REBYC-II LAC)	GEF - 5
Sustainable Land Use Management in the Semi-arid Region of North-east Brazil (Sergipe)	GEF - 5
Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE): Conserving Earth's Most Irreplaceable Sites for Endangered Biodiversity	GEF - 5
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into NTFP and AFS Production Practices in Multiple-Use Forest Landscapes of High Conservation Value	GEF - 5

National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan	GEF - 5
Low-Carbon Urban Mobility for Large Cities	GEF - 5
Stabilizing GHG Emissions from Road Transport Through Doubling of Global Vehicle Fuel Economy: Regional Implementation of the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI)	GEF - 5
Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Latin American and Caribbean Region	GEF - 5
Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management Strategies to Enhance Caatinga, Pampa and Pantanal Biodiversity – GEF Terrestre	GEF - 5
Recovery and Protection of Climate and Biodiversity Services in the Southeast Atlantic Forest Corridor of Brazil	GEF - 5
Production of Sustainable, Renewable Biomass-based Charcoal for the Iron and steel Industry in Brazil	GEF - 5
Marine and Coastal Protected Areas	GEF - 5
Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Brazil	GEF - 5
The GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative	GEF - 5
Mitigation Options of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in Key Sectors in Brazil	GEF - 4
Amazon Region Protected Areas Program Phase 2	GEF - 4
Third National Communication to the UNFCCC	GEF - 4
4th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (RAF2)	GEF - 4
Integrated Management of the Ilha Grande Bay Ecosystem	GEF - 4
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Human Nutrition and Well-being	GEF - 4
Supporting the Implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs in Latin America and Caribbean States (GRULAC)	GEF - 4

SFM Strengthening National Policy and Knowledge Frameworks in Support of Sustainable Management of Brazil's Forest Resources	GEF - 4
Improving Brazilian Capacity to Conserve and Use Biodiversity through Information Management and Use	GEF - 4
4th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (RAF1)	GEF - 4
Establishment of PCB Waste Management and Disposal System	GEF - 4
Integrated Water Resources Management of the Sao Francisco River Basin and Its Coastal Zone	GEF - 4
Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency in Buildings	GEF - 4
SFM Catalyzing the Contribution of Indigenous Lands to the Conservation of Brazil's Forest Ecosystems	GEF - 4
Sugarcane Renewable Electricity (SUCRE)	GEF - 4
Espirito Santo Biodiversity and Watershed Conservation and Restoration Project	GEF - 4
Effective Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems in Brazil	GEF - 4
Rio Grande Do Sul Biodiversity Conservation	GEF - 4
Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Climate Change	GEF - 4
Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water (GloBallast Partnerships)	GEF - 4
Conservation & Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture through an Ecosystem Approach	GEF - 4
Sustainable Management of the Water Resources of the la Plata Basin with Respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change	GEF - 4
Sustainable Management of the Shared Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions	GEF - 4
LAC Regional Sustainable Transport and Air Quality Project	GEF - 3
National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Needs (NCSA)	GEF - 3

Photo by bitenka/iStock

CleanTech Fund	GEF - 3
Tabuleiro State Park: Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Rehabilitation	GEF - 3
National Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Institutional Consolidation Project	GEF - 3
Latin America: Multi-country Capacity-building for Compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	GEF - 3
Sustainable Cerrado Initiative	GEF - 3
Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP), Phase 1	GEF - 3
Sustainable Land Management in the Semi-Arid Sertao	GEF - 3
Biodiversity Conservation in Coffee: Transforming Productive Practices in the Coffee Sector by Increasing Market Demand for Certified Sustainable Coffee	GEF - 3
Ecosystem Restoration of Riparian Forests in Sao Paulo	GEF - 3
Development of a National Implementation Plan in Brazil as a First Step to Implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	GEF - 3
Improved Certification Schemes for Sustainable Tropical Forest Management	GEF - 3
FC-1: Fuel Cells Financing Initiative for Distributed Generation Applications (Phase 1)	GEF - 3
Formoso River -- Integrated Watershed Management and Protection	GEF - 3
Second National Communication of Brazil to the UNFCCC	GEF - 3
Rio de Janeiro Integrated Ecosystem Management in Production Landscapes of the North-Northwestern Fluminense	GEF - 3
Caatinga Conservation and Sustainable Management Project	GEF - 3
Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean	GEF - 3
Integrated Management of Aquatic Resources in the Amazon (AquaBio)	GEF - 3

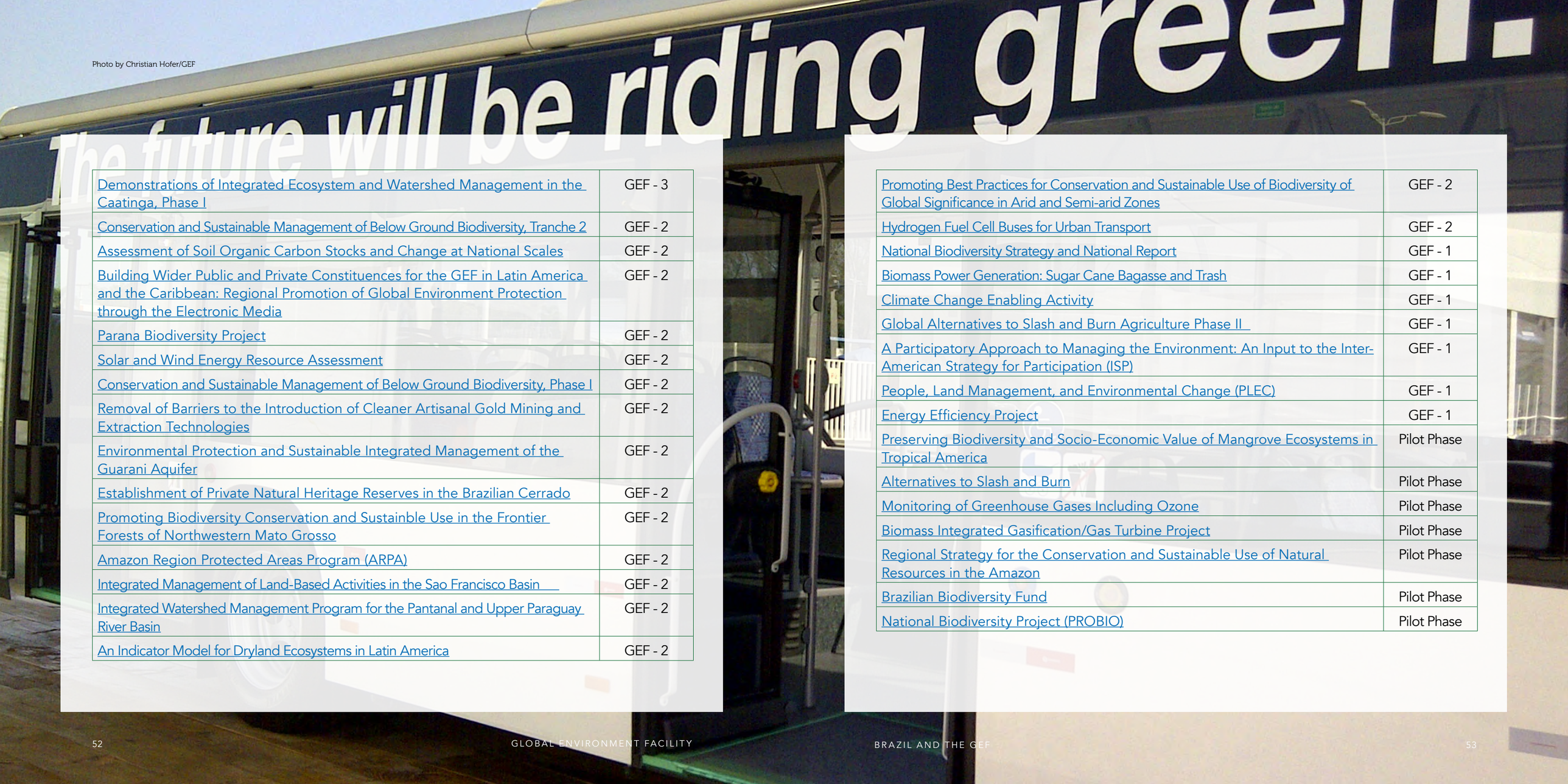


Photo by Christian Hofer/GEF

Demonstrations of Integrated Ecosystem and Watershed Management in the Caatinga, Phase I	GEF - 3
Conservation and Sustainable Management of Below Ground Biodiversity, Tranche 2	GEF - 2
Assessment of Soil Organic Carbon Stocks and Change at National Scales	GEF - 2
Building Wider Public and Private Constituences for the GEF in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Promotion of Global Environment Protection through the Electronic Media	GEF - 2
Parana Biodiversity Project	GEF - 2
Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment	GEF - 2
Conservation and Sustainable Management of Below Ground Biodiversity, Phase I	GEF - 2
Removal of Barriers to the Introduction of Cleaner Artisanal Gold Mining and Extraction Technologies	GEF - 2
Environmental Protection and Sustainable Integrated Management of the Guarani Aquifer	GEF - 2
Establishment of Private Natural Heritage Reserves in the Brazilian Cerrado	GEF - 2
Promoting Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainble Use in the Frontier Forests of Northwestern Mato Grosso	GEF - 2
Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA)	GEF - 2
Integrated Management of Land-Based Activities in the Sao Francisco Basin	GEF - 2
Integrated Watershed Management Program for the Pantanal and Upper Paraguay River Basin	GEF - 2
An Indicator Model for Dryland Ecosystems in Latin America	GEF - 2

Promoting Best Practices for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-arid Zones	GEF - 2
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses for Urban Transport	GEF - 2
National Biodiversity Strategy and National Report	GEF - 1
Biomass Power Generation: Sugar Cane Bagasse and Trash	GEF - 1
Climate Change Enabling Activity	GEF - 1
Global Alternatives to Slash and Burn Agriculture Phase II	GEF - 1
A Participatory Approach to Managing the Environment: An Input to the Inter-American Strategy for Participation (ISP)	GEF - 1
People, Land Management, and Environmental Change (PLEC)	GEF - 1
Energy Efficiency Project	GEF - 1
Preserving Biodiversity and Socio-Economic Value of Mangrove Ecosystems in Tropical America	Pilot Phase
Alternatives to Slash and Burn	Pilot Phase
Monitoring of Greenhouse Gases Including Ozone	Pilot Phase
Biomass Integrated Gasification/Gas Turbine Project	Pilot Phase
Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Amazon	Pilot Phase
Brazilian Biodiversity Fund	Pilot Phase
National Biodiversity Project (PROBIO)	Pilot Phase

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support help developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than $22 billion and mobilized $120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national and regional projects.

MORE INFORMATION

GEF Secretariat
1818 H Street, NW, Mail Stop N8-800
Washington, DC 20433 USA
TEL: (202) 473–0508
FAX: (202) 522–3240/3245
EMAIL: secretariat@thegef.org

June 2023

www.thegef.org

global environment facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Photo by Christian Hofer/GEF