



GEF/C.36/Inf.5
October 9, 2009

GEF Council Meeting
November 10 – 12, 2009

GEF COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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Introduction

1. In November 2006, the GEF Council adopted a communications strategy (GEF/C.32/8) to raise the profile of the GEF and increase its visibility among key stakeholders, inform its partners about the GEF's mission and purpose, leverage funding, and build partnerships to foster international consensus action on the global environment. This information note highlights the outcomes produced between 2007 and 2009 as defined by the strategy.

Overview

2. The GEF Communication Strategy outlined 5 major objectives:

- To create a clear GEF corporate identity;
- For GEF partners, to speak with a unified GEF voice;
- For the public, to position the GEF as a leader on the global environment;
- For expanded interest groups, to communicate effectively with GEF; and
- For countries, to embed GEF messages at country and regional levels

3. Over the past two years, the GEF aggressively promoted this framework including a revamping of the external website, the creation of a new brand and logo, the creation and broad dissemination of a record number of new publications targeted to general and specialized audiences. This has contributed to an improved image and reputation of the GEF as a global leader on financing environmental projects around the world.

4. The GEF has also sought to improve internal communications by re-engaging focal areas. Focal area teams have contributed to various communication activities and events and authored several publications. Today, there is heightened awareness of the need to boost communications and synergy in and around GEF projects. The Secretariat also used these materials and activities to close information gaps and educated stakeholders on new GEF policies, including the restructured project cycle.

5. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with its implementing agencies, has expanded its media outreach by planning, coordinating and executing media activities of different kinds and on various occasions.

6. Familiarization seminars were further developed to address the needs of the focal points in charge of environmental conventions as well as to ensure that GEF focal points and partners in agencies were kept informed about GEF policies, procedures and operations. In addition, active participation by the Secretariat and the Agencies in the full range of activities under the Country Support Programme and the National Dialogue Initiative has helped to improve understanding

and appreciation of the GEF as well as to provide knowledge, tools and techniques for GEF counterparts.

7. The visibility of the GEF and its brand has been achieved through different means including a more user-friendly website with social networking tools such as blogs, Twitter, YouTube channel, a whole new set of re-branded publications, outreach during convention COPs, to a better stakeholder relationship management and an increased number of public appearances by the CEO and senior management.

Highlights

Website progress report

8. The GEF website has gone through an in depth review aimed at improving its current set up both in terms of content and services provided. Indeed, a communications officer dedicated to maintaining the website was hired in May 2008 and since then the GEF website content has been revised and expanded. The website now offers many new sections and up-to-date information, access to publications and videos, as well as a blog on Biodiversity issues. It also offers up to date information on projects under the Country Profile pages allowing most information to be viewed by the public and information on projects being processed to be accessed by each country's focal points in a password protected area.

9. Since July 2008, the GEF website has received an average of 23,000 visits a month -- 60% of which are new visitors. Most users are from developed countries. This can perhaps be explained by better and broader internet connectivity in the developed world as well as by the fact that the information provided on the website is only available in English. The GEF has also started to use social media to interact, through different channels, with the web users and with the GEF staff: the GEF Youtube Channel for video-sharing, the Evaluation Office wikis, and a Twitter account that allows immediate alerts to be sent to people interested in GEF news and events. The GEF also has a new Newsletter entitled "The Green Line". Launched in July 2009, "The Green Line" reaches out to an audience of 1,500 stakeholders with articles related to the work of the GEF and its focal areas that are contributed by the Secretariat, GEF Agencies, NGOs, STAP among others. Statistics show that over 23% of recipients actually open and read the content, which is high for a publication of these characteristics.

10. At the same time the Secretariat has been in the process of redesigning the GEF website to make it more modern and user-friendly. The World Bank's SDNIS group is working to develop the website platform and document management system, which has a high level of technical complexity due to the large number and typology of documents that the GEF manages.

11. The website is now in its final phase. Tests are now underway with further testing ongoing this fall, including a Bank-required security check. Once the platform of the website is ready, the migration of the information from the old site into the new one will start and will

include text of more than 100 static pages translated into three languages, a powerful search tool and the possibility to present the information based on the user's preference. We expect this phase of the project to be finalized by mid-November.

12. As part of the project, the GEF also will develop, for the first time in the history of the Secretariat, a fully searchable and user-friendly document database, that will contain about 5000 documents. The official launch of the website is expected in early 2010.

Strengthening Communications in Recipient Countries

13. The GEF Secretariat has strengthened several aspects of its country relations function to provide countries with direct access for programming discussions. Since December 2007, the new Country Profile webpage allows all countries to access detailed information on all approved projects in any country. Country focal points can access data on project concepts under preparation using the password protected webpage. In the near future, the fully upgraded management information system will provide real-time information regarding availability of resources and more data on the status of proposals to recipient countries.

14. In addition, closer coordination in terms of content has been developed with the knowledge facility designed for focal points by the Country Support Programme.

Strengthening Communications with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

15. The skills, experiences, and knowledge of CSOs play a key role in the development of GEF policies and practices, in the formulation and implementation of sustainable GEF projects, and in the maintenance of partnerships with key stakeholders.

16. The GEF has proactively involved CSOs in semi-annual consultations before every council meeting. Civil society organizations are invited to contribute to policy documents presented to the Council on various aspects of global environmental issues. During this reporting period, 9 meetings (7 in Washington DC, one in Berlin, Germany and one in Paris, France) and two inter-sessional meetings were held to discuss operational modalities and future developments of GEF relations with civil society groups. During the inter-sessional meetings, special emphasis was placed on further developing of the GEF NGO Network that comprises 700 accredited NGOs. Participants representing different GEF NGO regions and different civil society groups including those working on GEF-funded Small Grants program in different countries are active in consultative meetings before every Council meeting.

17. CSO representatives have provided substantial feedback on issues related to SGP graduation policy, SGP evaluation, establishment of the adaptation fund, and OPS4 process and CSO community involvement. During civil society consultations advanced and innovative ideas emerged which were incorporated into projects with extended partnership and cooperation between implementing agencies and civil society organizations.

18. In 2008, the Council adopted a new framework for relations with CSOs. The policy document was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and the GEF NGO Network. The Council confirmed that public involvement is essential for strengthening country and local

ownership in GEF projects. The original intent of establishing the Network was to involve constituencies not previously represented within the GEF, similar to the involvement of the UN Major Groups, which include NGOs, indigenous peoples, business and industry, women, children and youth, local authorities, workers and trade unions, scientific and technological communities, and farmers.

19. The NGO Network has also been instrumental in promoting and disseminating the GEF by connecting its own website to that of the GEF and by circulating to its own subscribers GEF news items, documents and newsletters. Its members have also spoken out about the GEF and its achievements at meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of the main environmental conventions.

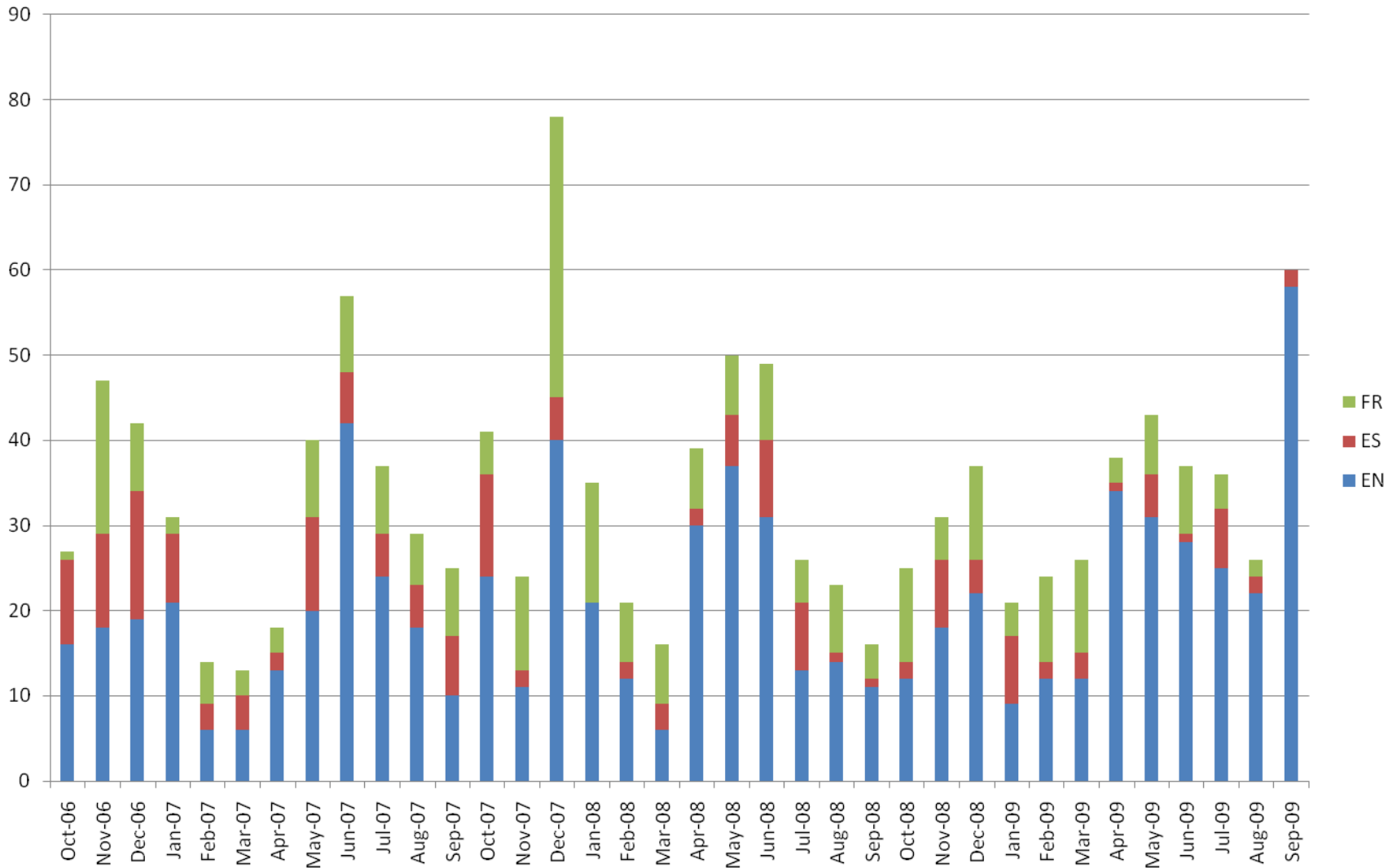
Media Analysis

20. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with its implementing agencies, and other partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors, has dramatically expanded its media outreach. Over the past two years, the GEF has directly planned, coordinated and executed media activities that boosted its image on the international stage and strengthened its relationship with network partners. These activities include:

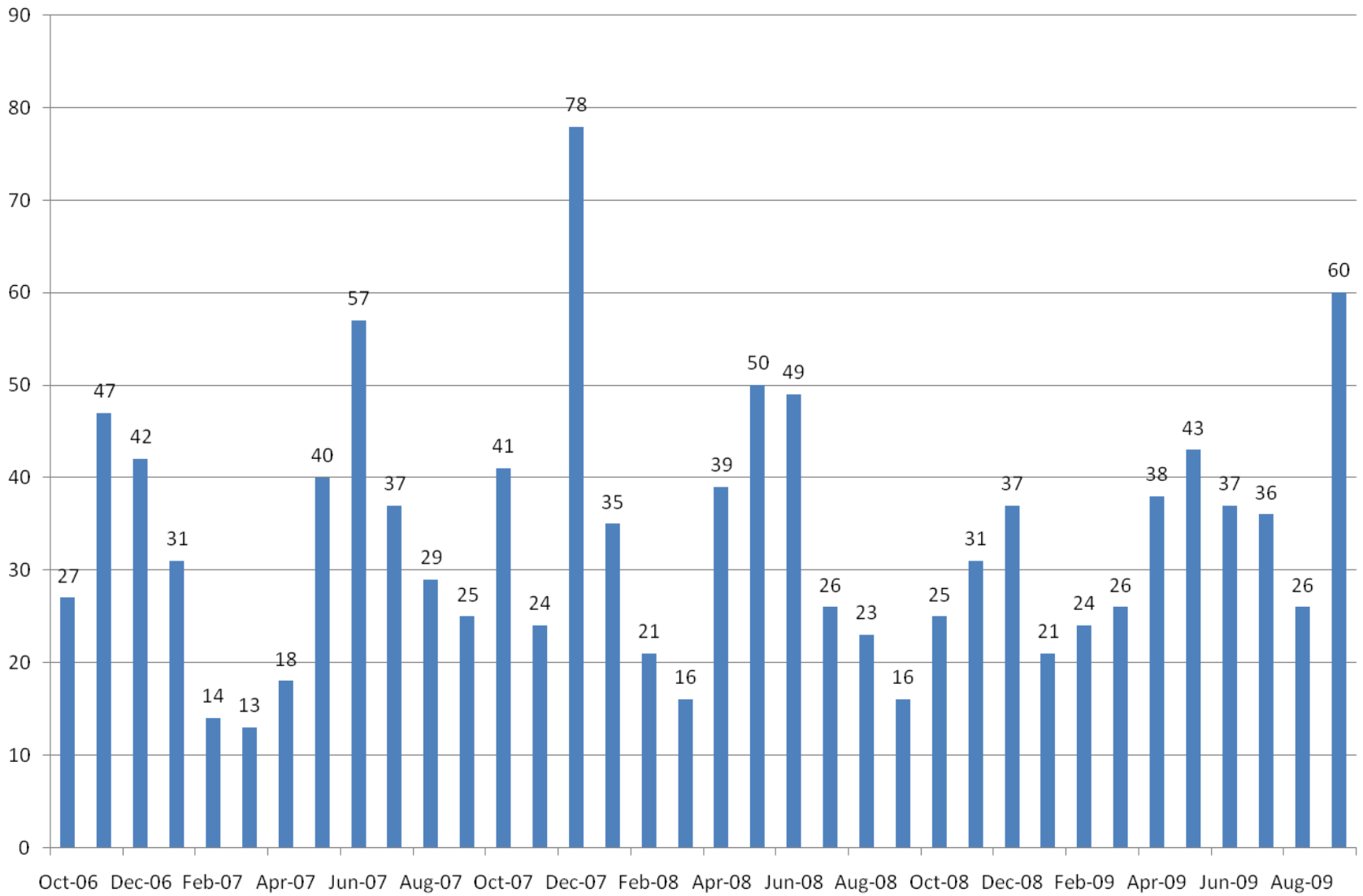
- Creating an “on-call” network of GEF experts across time zones to interested media and external audiences.
- Organizing brown bag events to showcase the GEF to key opinion shapers including major media outlets from print, radio, TV and electronic media.
- Engaging media through informal workshops and organized events to promote success stories and lessons learned about our portfolio and mission.
- Visiting editorial boards with top media in key donor and client countries to improve positive coverage and strengthen relationships with editors.
- Issuing a record number of official GEF publications across focal areas to meet the information needs of both general and technical audiences.
- Expanding the presence of GEF senior officials with major media outlets including CNBC, BBC, Wall Street Journal, Al Jazeera, Reuters, Le Monde, El Pais, The Nation, Radio Sarandi and others.
- Moving GEF into non-traditional multimedia sources to ensure the GEF fully leverages the communications value of new media technology and techniques including blogging, podcasts and social media.

21. To help maintain our improved public image, the GEF also has proactively intervened to mitigate potentially damaging and inaccurate stories about the GEF before publication. Along with these internal efforts, the GEF, through interagency communications collaborations such as Complus (www.complusalliance.org) and *Climatecom* (organized by the World Bank and United Nations respectively) dramatically expanded its engagement with developing country journalists and parliamentarians to give stakeholders and the public a more robust understanding of the GEF and its strategic role in international governance. One way the GEF has measured specific outcomes of this media strategy is by embracing a results-based management criteria that quantitatively measures how the GEF is using traditional and alternative communication channels to measure GEF visibility with external audiences. Results of this analysis are shown on the graphs below.

Number of Mentions of GEF in Media by Language

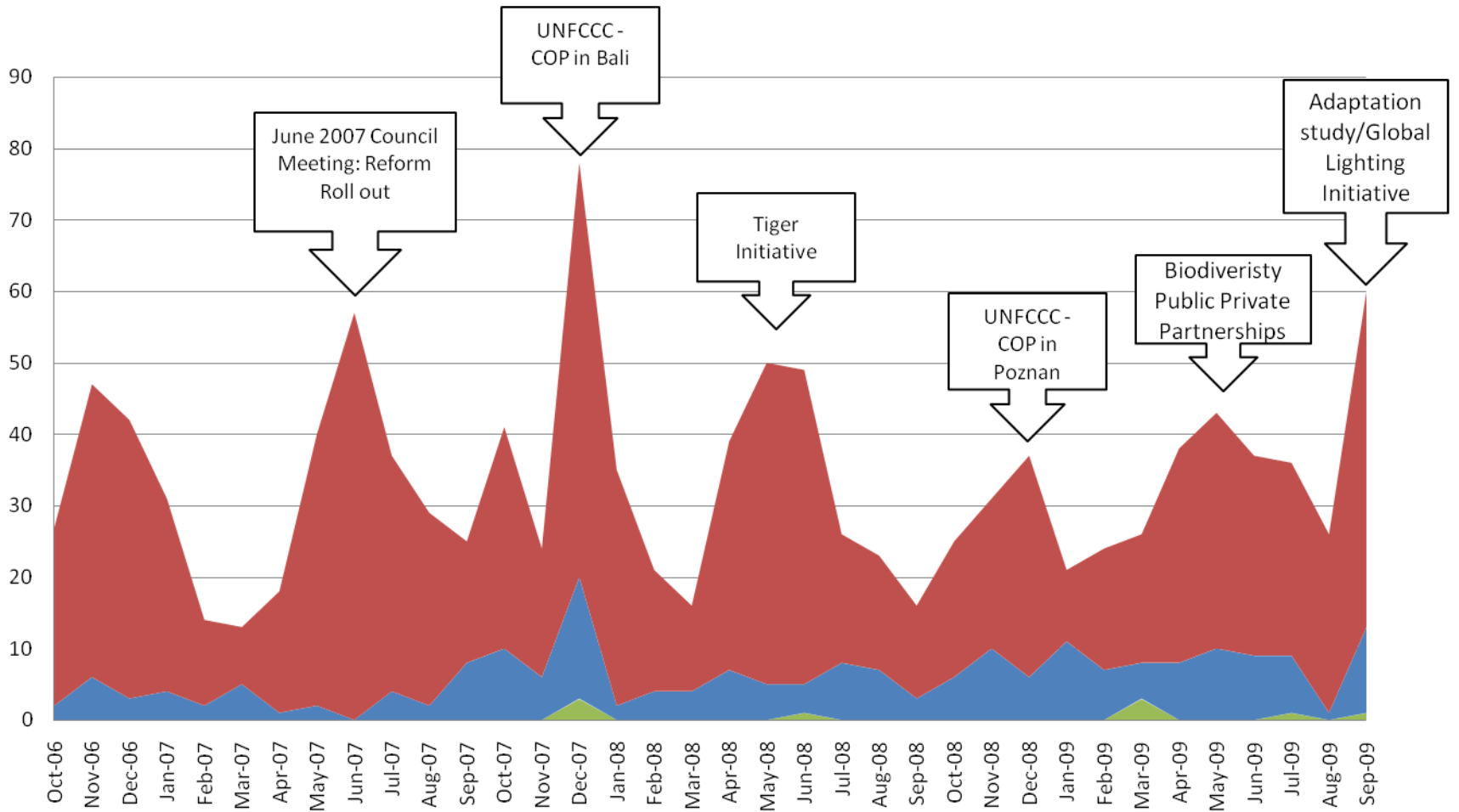


Number of Mentions of GEF in Media

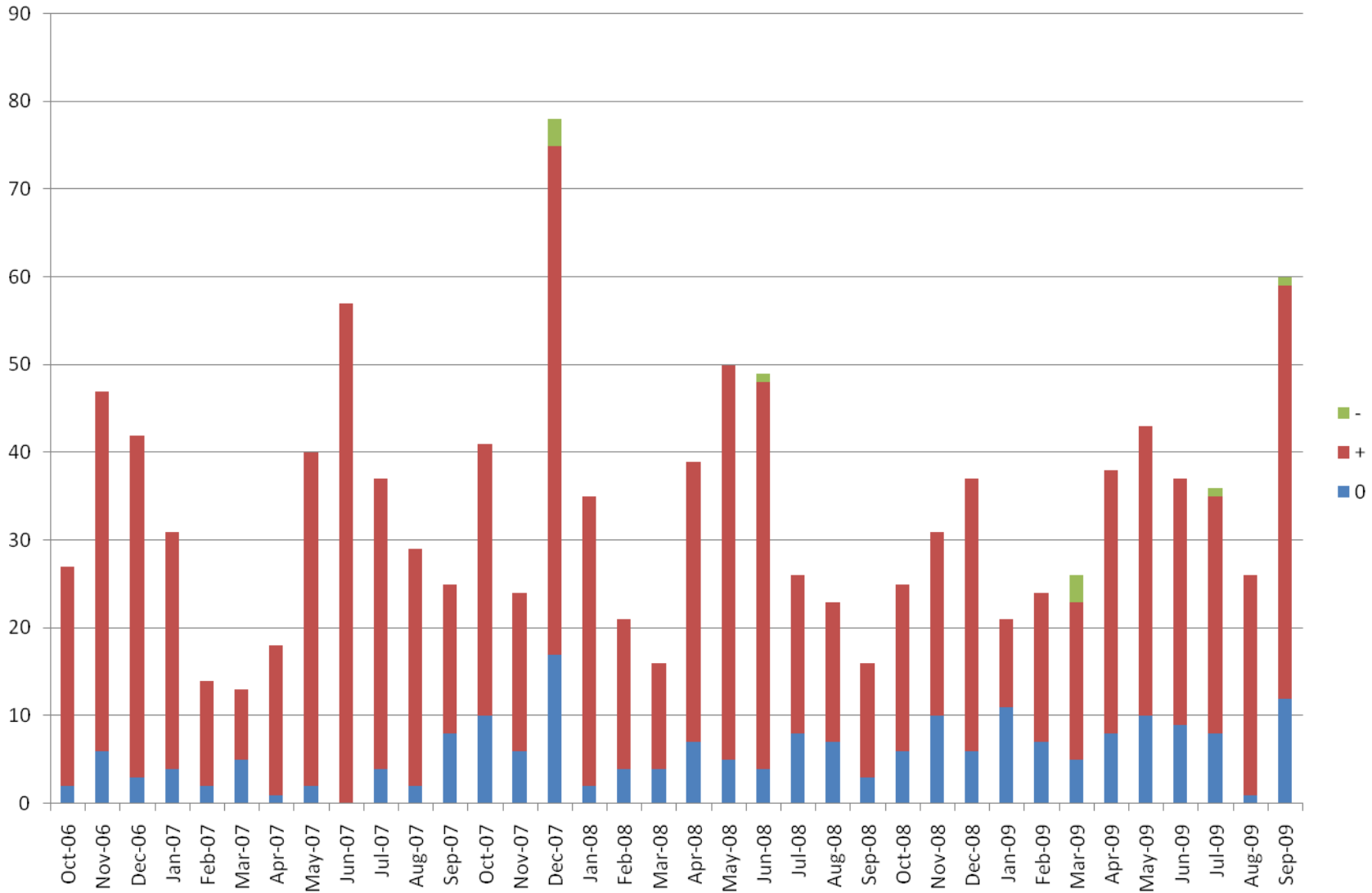


Assessment of GEF Mentions in Media

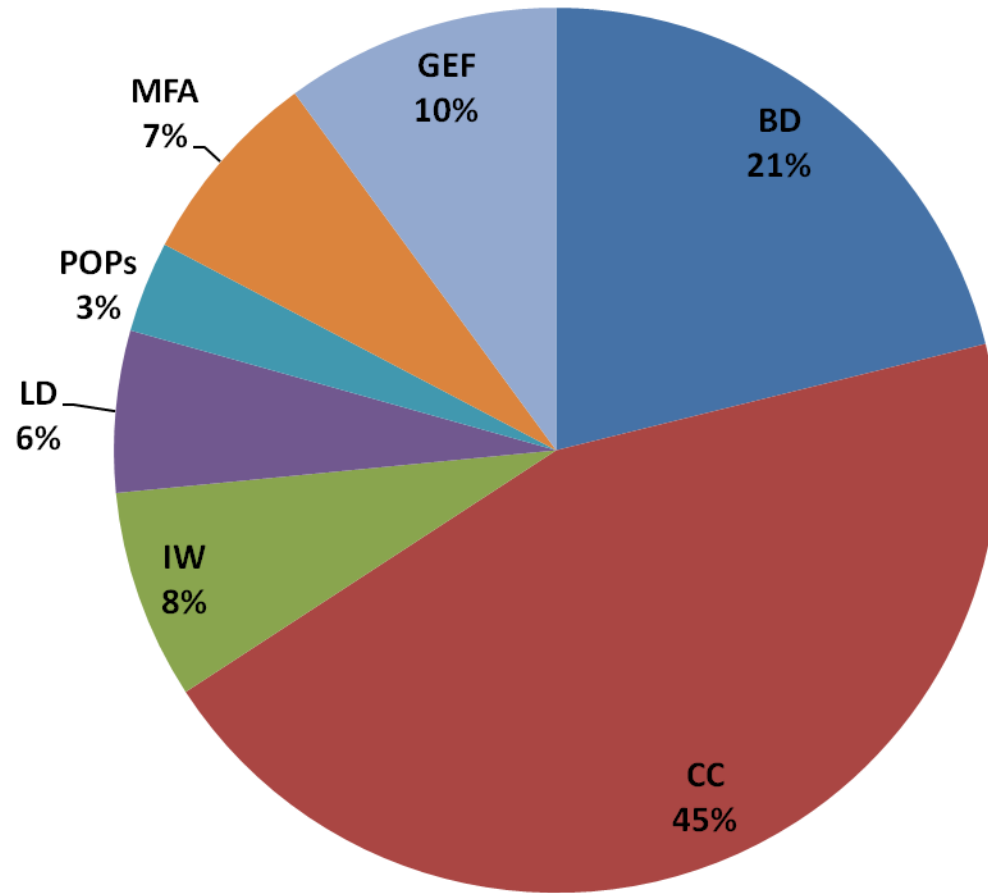
■ Negative ■ Neutral ■ Positive



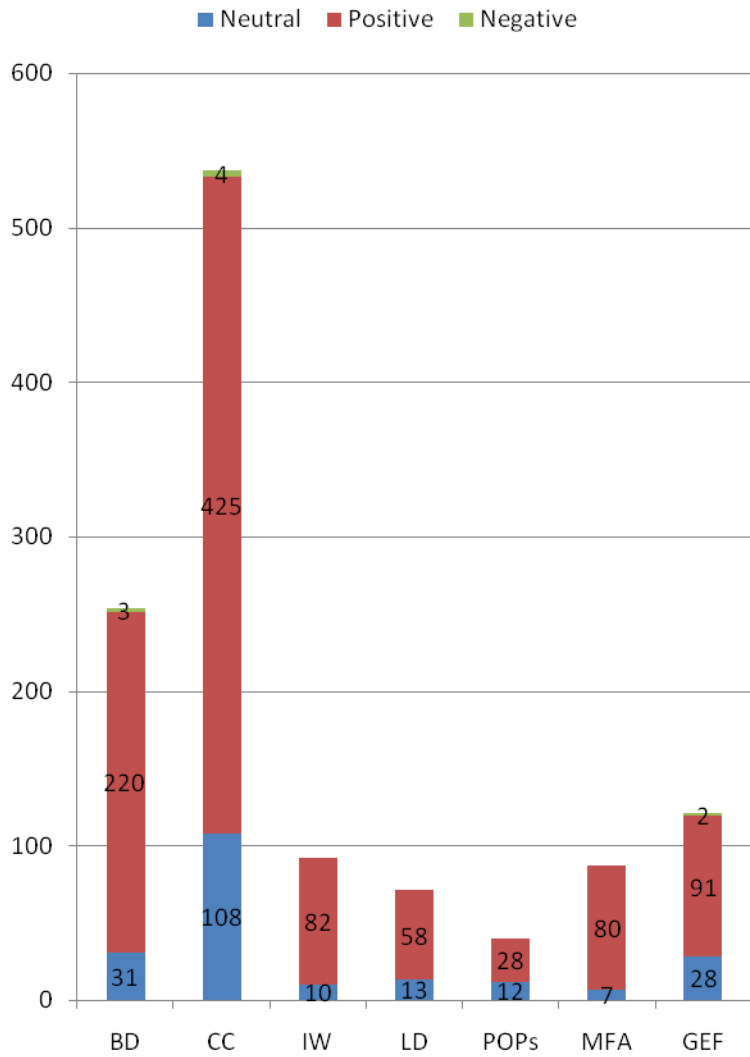
Assessment of GEF Mentions in Media



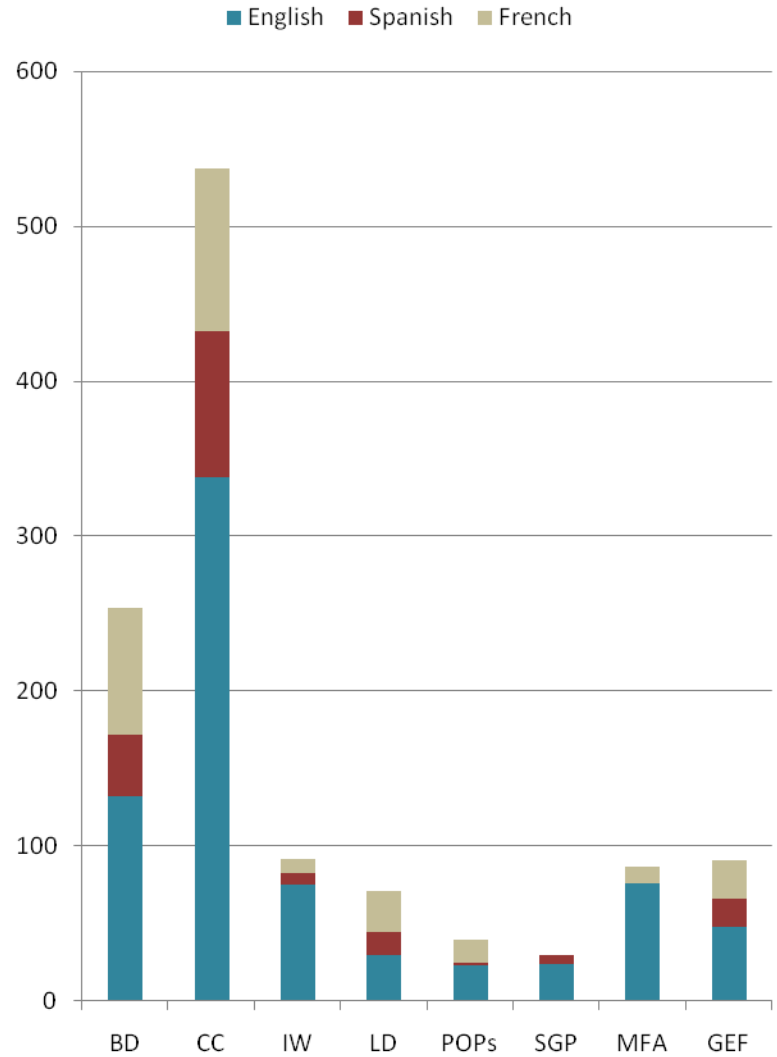
Number of GEF Mentions per Focal Area



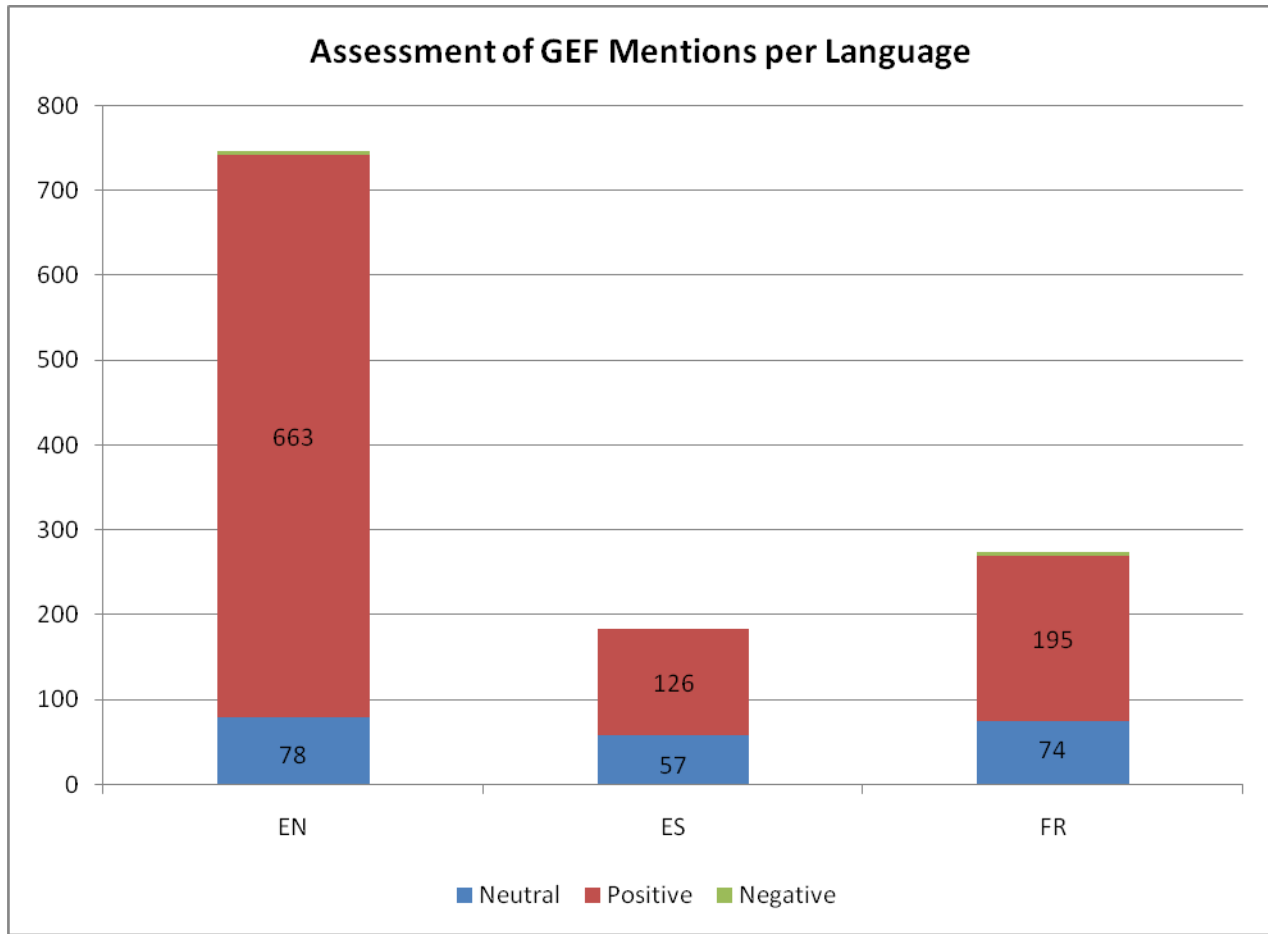
Assessment of GEF Mentions per Focal Area



Number of GEF Mentions per Language per Focal Area



Assessment of GEF Mentions per Language



NOTES

- GEF staff conducted research using media databases Factiva, Lexis/Nexis and internal searches of websites and social media channels including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube from the time period of 10/01/2006 to 09/30/2009.
- Noticeable spikes in number of articles show a response to GEF initiatives (Tiger initiative, UN convention meetings, press events)
- Media occasionally refer to GEF as “the World Bank’s GEF” or “the United Nations’ GEF.”

GEF Publications

Released from 2007-2009

The Secretariat has produced an updated suite of communications products for each focal area aimed at both specialized and general audiences. A list is provided below with a brief summary.



GEF Annual Report 2008

The latest GEF Annual Report covers the 2008 fiscal years (from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008).

The financial statements and audit reports are presented separately and are available [here](#).

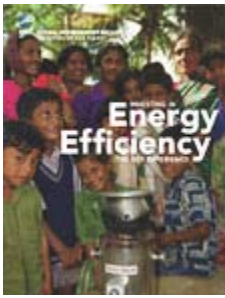
2009 | Pg.116



GEF Least Development Countries Fund (LDCF) Fact Sheets 2009

The LDCF was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session in Marrakech in 2001. The Fund, which is managed by the GEF, addresses the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. This includes preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action, which aim to identify “urgent and immediate needs” of each LDC according to specific guidelines provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. The GEF has, as of August 2009, mobilized voluntary contributions of \$180 million for the LDCF.

2009 | Pg.68



Investing in Energy Efficiency

The GEF Experience

Between now and 2030, world energy demand is projected to grow by 1.6 percent annually, adding up to a dramatic 45 percent increase. Such rapidly growing energy demand is particularly challenging given that most of the world's population still relies on energy from limited fossil fuel sources and traditional biomass. Dependable and affordable energy supplies are crucial to economic growth in both developed and developing countries. Today the GEF is one of the public sector's largest funders for energy efficiency in the world, with direct investments of US\$850 million in more than 90 developing and transition countries and an additional US\$5.9 billion in cofinancing. These investments are expected to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 1.3 billion tonnes by 2020.

2009 | Pg.28



Investing in Land Stewardship

GEF's efforts to combat land degradation and desertification globally

With the human population projected to reach 7 billion, our planet faces an unprecedented challenge in meeting food and fiber production needs in the coming decade. This booklet outlines the GEF's strategic approach to combating land degradation, and embodies many of the fundamental principles that guide our investment in Sustainable Land Management. Land degradation affects more than 33 percent of the planet's surface area, leading to deterioration of ecosystem services and negative consequences for 2.6 billion people in more than 100 countries. An estimated loss of \$40 billion annually worldwide is directly or indirectly attributed to land degradation.

2009 | Pg.44



Cleaning Up

Ridding the world of dangerous chemicals

Many chemicals are dangerous to human and ecosystem health. Among the worst is a range of synthetic organic compounds that persist in the environment for long periods of time. GEF's involvement in tackling the threats posed by these Persistent Organic Pollutants dates back to 1995. In the ensuing years, the GEF has committed US\$ 360 million to projects in the POPs focal area and leveraged some US\$ 440 million in co-financing to bring the total value of the GEF POPs portfolio to US\$ 800 million. The GEF is investing these funds in a range of programs and activities outlined in this publication to rid the world of dangerous chemicals now and forever.

2009 | Pg.24 - [Spanish](#) | [French](#)



GEF Fact Sheets - June 2009

These new fact sheets offer brief descriptions and data on the activities undertaken in each focal area and provide an handy resource to know GEF work at glance. This publication is available also in **Spanish** and **French**.

2009 | Pg.40

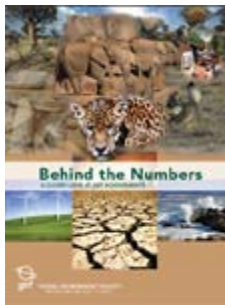


Investing in Sustainable Urban Transport

The GEF Experience

Investing in sustainable transport reduces carbon dioxide emissions and helps mitigate the potential impacts of climate change. But making these investments also pays off at the local level: we work with stakeholders to expand clean public transportation choices that also have the added benefits of lowering air pollution and reducing traffic congestion. This publication details our efforts in the field toward realizing sustainable urban transport all over the world.

2009 | Pg. 28 - [Spanish](#) | [French](#)



Behind the Numbers

A closer look at GEF achievements

The numbers tell a story: 18 years, \$8 billion invested directly, \$33 billion in cofinancing, and 2,000 projects in more than 165 countries. Together, these numbers make us the world's leading public financial fund investing in the joint management, care, and restoration of our planet.

Yet behind those numbers is a bigger story that comes from the positive impact GEF investments have on the two billion still waiting for access to electricity, clean water, and other services others easily enjoy.

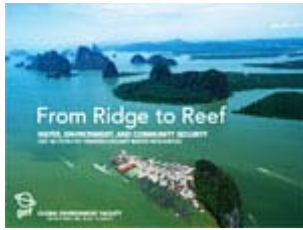
2009 | Pg. 20 - [Chinese](#) | [Japanese](#) | [French](#)



A New Climate For Forests

GEF Action on Sustainable Forest Management

This publication is intended to shed light on GEF experience in Sustainable Forestry Management, perhaps the best-kept secret in the forest financing arena worldwide. It also puts forward guiding ideas on how to build on GEF comparative advantages in financing forests in the coming years, as these invaluable, threatened resources occupy center stage in multiple international agendas.



[From Ridge to Reef](#)

Water, Environment and, Community Security: GEF Action on transboundary water resources

The world's oceans, rivers, lakes, and groundwater systems do not respect political borders. These large water systems cover most of our planet, but they continue to be managed in a national and fragmented way that is endangering the food supply and livelihoods of billions of people. In this publication we explore just a handful of the GEF International Waters projects that have enabled countries to work collectively and, in many cases, to establish adaptive management institutions.

2009 | Pg. 92 - [Spanish](#) | [French](#)



[GEF Annual Report 2006 - 2007](#)

This GEF Annual Report covers two fiscal years (from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007).

The financial statements and audit reports are presented separately and are available [here](#).

2008 | Pg.76



[GEF Least Development Countries Fund \(LDCF\) Fact Sheets](#)

The LDCF was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session in Marrakech and is managed by GEF. The fund addresses the special needs of the 48 Least Developed Countries which are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. This includes preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) to identify urgent and immediate needs to adapt to climate change. This publications contains a collection of fact sheets on the LDCF and on each completed NAPA.

2008 | Pg.39



GEF Engagement in the Mediterranean Region

In the Mediterranean the human footprint driven by economic growth and, to a lesser extent, subsistence requirements has drastically increased. Protecting the environment of the Mediterranean Region—a biodiversity “hotspot”—is a priority for the beneficiary countries, the Global Environment Facility, and its partners, as evidenced in this report.

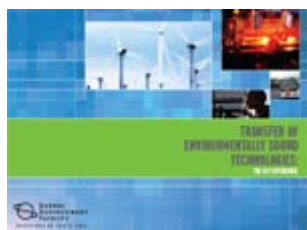
2008 | Pg.40 - [French](#) | [Arabic](#)



Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF

Gender relations, between women and men, and girls and boys play a key role in the access to and control over environmental resources and the goods and services that they provide. Accounting for gender dimensions is an important consideration when running projects that address global environmental issues. This publication highlights the GEF’s efforts and renewed commitment to link gender equality and environmental sustainability.

2008 | Pg. 56 - [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies: The GEF Experience

The GEF, over its 17-year history, has extensive experience in the transfer of climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies. A total of around \$2.5 billion has been allocated to support climate change projects in over 100 countries. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies is playing a crucial role in the global response to climate change. Lessons learned at the GEF will help improve the efficiency and efficacy of future efforts to transfer ESTs to developing countries.

2008 | Pg.40 | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Arabic](#)



Financing the Stewardship of Global Biodiversity

The financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), operated by the GEF, has assisted eligible countries to implement their commitments for achieving the objectives of this unique international legal instrument. Considering that most of the biological diversity is located in developing countries, the importance of the GEF to the CBD remains fundamental. This publication highlights the achievements of the GEF since its inception, summarizes its current investment strategy, and begins to map the way forward for the next phase of the GEF.

2008 | Pg.78 - [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



Indigenous Communities and Biodiversity

Many indigenous and local communities live in territories that are biologically outstanding on a global scale. Recognizing the important role they play in biodiversity conservation, and responding to the Convention on Biological Diversity guidance, the GEF biodiversity focal area identifies indigenous communities as key partners in achieving its strategic objectives. This publication provides an account and a first analysis of the scope, content and depth of indigenous communities' involvement with GEF projects.

2008 | Pg.40 - [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



Financing Adaptation Action

The GEF received the mandate from the Climate Convention in 2001 to finance adaptation projects on the ground. This publication illustrates the types of adaptation projects financed by the GEF and the lesson learned from the first experiences on the ground.

2007 | Pg.12 - [French](#)



Programmatic Approach

A growing number of multilateral development organizations and international agencies are now using programmatic approaches to more effectively support developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Yet the programmatic approach is not a new modality for the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). At its meeting in December 1999, the GEF Council supported the evolution of GEF support to emphasize synergistic programs that transcend national borders. Since then, we have been dedicated to the principle that our focus should be on programs rather than just simply individual projects.

2009 | Pg.64



Financing Adaptation Action

Climate change is here, and its impacts on our planet are becoming more serious at an ever increasing pace. As a financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, the GEF has a unique mandate to deliver on-the-ground benefits to countries needing to adapt to climate change. In recent years, consistent with the increasing recognition of the impact climate change has on development, the GEF established a Strategic Pilot on Adaptation, a pioneering step in climate change financing. The GEF was also entrusted with managing the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, both established by the Climate Convention.

2009 | Pg.36

Press releases and web news features 2007 - 2009

[e8, GEF, UNDESA and UNESCAP Collaborate in Capacity Building Initiative on Financing Sustainable Electrification](#)

BANGKOK, Thailand, September 18, 2009 - The e8 group of electric utility companies, in partnership with the GEF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), started a partnership, in the fall of 2008, as a joint human capacity building programme aimed at the transfer of business-oriented expertise for the financing of sustainable electrification projects and the deployment of low-emitting power technologies in developing and emerging countries.

[GEF BBL: UNIDO and the GEF: Cooperation on Energy and Climate Change](#)

WASHINGTON DC, September 18, 2009 - The GEF invites you to participate at this BBL. Speaker Morgan Bazilian, Ph.D., Special Advisor to the Director-General on Energy and Climate Change, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

[GEF BBL: IUCN: Finding Pragmatic Solutions to Environment and Development Challenges](#)

WASHINGTON DC, September 17, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next GEF BBL presented by Thomas Laughlin, Acting Head of IUCN U.S. and Deputy Head of the Global Marine Programme.

[Climate Change Risks could cost Developing countries up to 19% of GDP by 2030](#)

WASHINGTON DC, September 14, 2009 A report from the Economics of Climate Adaptation Working Group released today indicates that climate risks could cost nations up to 19% of their GDP by 2030, with developing countries most vulnerable. The report concludes, however, that cost effective adaptation measures already exist that can prevent between 40 and 68 percent of the expected economic loss with even higher levels of prevention possible in highly target geographies.

[Seventh Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board](#)

BONN, Germany, September 14 – 16, 2009 - Follow the meeting by watching the video webcast or listening at the audio only webcast. The webcast starts everyday at 3:00 AM EST time, GMT -4.

[Biodiversity In Action, GEF photo exhibit at the U.S. Senate](#)

WASHINGTON DC, September 10, 2009 – On September 9, 2009 a congressional reception opened the photo exhibit “Biodiversity In Action” organized by the GEF and the

ICCF at the US Senate Russell Building, in Washington DC. The event featured US Senator Sam Brownback, David Barron, President of ICCF (International Conservation Caucus Foundation) and Monique Barbut, GEF CEO, all of them standing by the common goal of protecting biodiversity.

[USD4.8 million grant to support Senegal to reduce Land Degradation](#)

WASHINGTON DC, August 27, 2009 – The World Bank approved today a three-year GEF Trust Fund grant of USD4.8 million, to support Senegal for a Sustainable Land Management Project.

[Integrated silvo-pastoral approaches to ecosystem management](#)

WASHINGTON DC, August 13, 2009 - The project aimed to improve ecosystem functioning of degraded pasture lands through the development of more intensive silvo-pastoral systems that generate global environmental benefits while providing socio-economic benefits. Silvopastoral systems (SPS) were successfully introduced in the three participating countries.

[National and Sectoral Strategies and Programs for Climate Change:](#)

WASHINGTON DC, August 5, 2009 - The use of economic evaluation of natural resources as an instrument in the political process has been discussed and analyzed at the meeting of the Environment Network that took place the on July 28-29 in Mexico City, Mexico.

[The Green Line](#)

WASHINGTON DC, August 4, 2009 - The GEF is launching "The Green Line", its new newsletter that will substitute the Talking Points. With more information and a fresh new look the Green Line will be the new communication channel of the GEF.

[Modernizing old, polluting coal-fired power plants in India to lower carbon emissions](#)

WASHINGTON DC, July 23, 2009 - The World Bank approved a US\$180 million loan to the Government of India, designed to renovate and modernize old, inefficient and polluting coal-fired power plants. The project, which is expected to lower carbon emissions and boost power production at these plants, is co-financed with a US\$45.4 million grant from the GEF.

[Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat Announces Winner of Logo](#)

WASHINGTON DC, July 20, 2009 - The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat is pleased to announce that Andrew M. Wee, a resident of Cebu City, Philippines, has won the contest to create a new logo for the Fund.

[GEF Secretariat Takes Its Best Foot Forward in World Bank Charity Soccer Tournament](#)

WASHINGTON DC, July 17, 2009 - Members of the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office made their inaugural appearance at the 7th annual World Bank Soccer Club's Charity Soccer Tournament held July 11, 2009 at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center in Germantown Maryland.

[Russian Federation sets ambitious targets for environmental protection in the Arctic](#)

ARKHANGELSK, RUSSIA, July 16, 2009 - The Maritime Board at the Government of the Russian Federation, the highest-level body of the government in charge of coordinated efforts of federal enforcement authorities in the field of maritime activities, investigation and exploration of the World Ocean, Arctic and Antarctic, approved the Strategic Action Program for Protection of the Environment of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (SAP-Arctic).

[Transport, Urban Systems, and UN-HABITAT](#)

WASHINGTON DC, July 9, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series. Guest Speaker: Chris Williams from UN HABITAT.

[GEF Funds Benin Energy Efficiency Project](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 26, 2009 - The World Bank's Board of Directors approved a program which will help reduce greenhouse gases and promote clean energy use in Benin. The program, supported by a US \$1.82 million GEF grant, seeks to improve energy services in urban areas for customers that already have access to electricity in Benin.

[GEF and CBD join forces to raise awareness for the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 24, 2009 - The GEF will join forces with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to spur binding action by decision-makers to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, stop species loss, and maintain vital ecosystem goods and services.

[GEF 35th Council Meeting](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 22, 2009 - The GEF Council meeting is held from Monday, June 22 to Wednesday, June 24, 2009. The meetings will take place at the World Bank, Eugene R. Black Auditorium (H Auditorium), 600 19th Street N.W., Washington D.C.

[GEF- NGO Consultation June 2009](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 21, 2009 - The GEF NGO Consultation is being held in immediately prior to the GEF Council Meeting and the Second meeting on the 5th GEF Replenishment. The objective of the meeting is to facilitate a dialogue on critical issues

related to the replenishment and future implementation - especially on governance, focal area strategies and allocation of resources and partnership with civil society.

[GEF - UNCCD on the World Day to Combat Desertification](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 17, 2009 - Joint Statement of the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the Occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification

[Mexico seeking a low-carbon growth path](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 15, 2009 - Mexico boosted its image as a global leader in climate change in December 2008, when it announced it had set the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 50% below 2002 levels by 2050. Now Mexico is embarking on a comprehensive strategy to cut emissions and reduce energy use while also potentially putting the Mexican economy on a low carbon growth path.

[Sixth Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board](#)

BONN, GERMANY, June 15, 2009 - The Sixth Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board is taking place at the UNCCD premises in Bonn (Langer Eugen, room LEU 1916) from June 15 to 17, 2009. Watch the LIVE WEBCASTING!

[GEF BBL: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity & Green Economy Initiative](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 3, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series. Guest Speaker: Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader – TEEB & Project Leader - Green Economy - UNEP-WCMC

[Emergency Infrastructure and Electricity Rehabilitation Project in TOGO](#)

WASHINGTON DC, June 2, 2009 - The Emergency Infrastructure and Electricity Rehabilitation Project (PURISE) for the Republic of Togo has been approved. PURISE is funded by a grant totaling US\$26.82 million of which US\$1.82 million provided by GEF. The project will support the Togolese Government with the rehabilitation, restoration, improvement of urban infrastructure, and expansion of access to infrastructure services by the population of the city of Lomé.

[GEF grant for efficient lighting in the city of Lome, Togo](#)

WASHINGTON DC, May 28, 2009 - The World Bank's Board of Directors today approved an Efficient Lighting Project for the City of Lome for the Republic of Togo.

[New 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership website](#)

WASHINGTON DC, May 27, 2009 - The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP) is a global initiative funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) that brings together over 40 international organizations to develop biodiversity indicators and assess

biodiversity loss. A new website (www.twentyten.net) has been launched recently.

[GEF BBL: UNIDO-ICHET support to Hydrogen Energy Implementation in Developing Countries](#)

May 21, 2009 - GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series presented by N. Lymberopoulos, Director, Projects and Programmes International Center for Hydrogen Energy Technologies

[Renewables global status report: Energy transformation continues despite economic slowdown](#)

WASHINGTON DC, May 20, 2009 - The REN21 Renewables Global Status Report released last week in Paris shows that the fundamental transition of the world's energy markets continues (www.ren21.net). "This report offers strong evidence that renewable energy expansion is policy driven, with stable and predictable government strategies key to ensuring environmentally sustainable economic growth. We are very encouraged that a number of governments have set ambitious targets to expand the reach of renewable energy programs that are a necessary step toward building sustainable development, especially in some of the world's most vulnerable countries," said Monique Barbut.

[GEF BBL: Establishing an Intergovernmental Science - Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Change](#)

WASHINGTON DC, May 18, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series. Guest Speaker: Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, Chief of Ecosystem Services Economics at the Division of Policy Implementation, UNEP.

[GEF BBL: Scaling Up: Some lessons on Sustaining Impact in Sustainable Transport Sector](#)

May 12, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series, presented by Nancy Kete, PhD, Director EMBARQ - The WRI Center for Sustainable Transport World Resources Institute.

[Lake Victoria Communities Could Be Key to Millions of 'Climate' Dollars For Poor Around the World](#)

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 9, 2009 – Village communities in Western Kenya alongside ones in Niger, Nigeria and China could become the key to unlocking the multi-billion dollar carbon markets for millions of farmers, foresters and conservationists across the developing world. Catchments in and around Lake Victoria have been chosen as a test-bed for calculating how much carbon can be stored in trees and soils when the land is managed in a sustainable, climate-friendly ways.

[Countries move toward more sustainable ways to roll back malaria](#)

GENEVA/NAIROBI/WASHINGTON DC, May 06, 2009 -- The United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, in partnership with the Global

Environment Facility, today announced a rejuvenated international effort to combat malaria.

[Official launch of the GEF Small Grants Programme](#)

WASHINGTON DC, May 5, 2009 - GEF SGP Zambia is happy to report a very successful launch of the Small Grants Programme. The launch took place on the 24th April 2009 at one of the projects that benefited from the SGP funding. This project aims at enhancing adaptation to climate change by families considered vulnerable through the promotion of agriculture to improve household food security, increase income which will result in the reduction in economic pressure on the environment.

[4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention](#)

For the first time in the history of the COP, new chemicals will be considered for listing in the annexes of the Convention. A lively discussion is anticipated with nine new substances slated for scrutiny at the meeting. Other key issues are also high on the agenda. Delegates will review measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use of POPs, as well as from unintentional production. As part of the conference the Global Environment Facility organized the event " A review of GEF processes and programs in support of Stockholm" on Sunday May 3, 2009.

[USAID's New Forest Carbon Calculator](#)

On Monday, April 27, 2009, the GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series, presented by Patrick Smith (USAID), Sandra Brown & Nancy Harris (Winrock International).

[Logo contest for the Adaptation Fund](#)

WASHINGTON DC, April 14, 2009 - The Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) has launched a speedy, open to all, logo competition for the Adaptation Fund (AF). The aim is to proceed giving this innovative and uttermost required Fund own outlook, evolve its identity and increase public consciousness about its existence and on-going operationalization.

[5th meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board](#)

WASHINGTON DC, April 15, 2009 - The 5th meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) successfully concluded on March 27 2009 in Bonn. During the 5th Meeting, the Board has been able to complete its deliberations on the operational policies and guidelines for parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. It will take a final decision on these operational policies and guidelines before calling for funding proposal in the near future.

[GEF Earth Fund Board Holds Inaugural Meeting](#)

WASHINGTON DC, April 8, 2009 – The GEF Earth Fund Board, a private sector advisory group to the GEF Council designed to help international financial institutions strengthen the engagement of business in delivering global environmental benefits to the world's most

vulnerable, met today for the first time.

[World Bank Board approves \\$70 million grant to support Forest Conservation in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

WASHINGTON DC, April 2, 2009 - The World Bank today approved \$70 million in grants to increase the capacity of the government and other stakeholders to manage forests sustainably and equitably for multiple uses in pilot areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The International Development Association (IDA) is providing a \$64 million grant and a further \$6 million is being provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

[World Bank Board approves GEF Grant to Support Rehabilitation of Protected Areas in Congo](#)

WASHINGTON DC, April 2, 2009 - The World Bank's Executive Board of Directors today approved a \$7 million grant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to support ongoing efforts to rehabilitate protected areas.

[Meeting the challenge of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer](#)

WASHINGTON DC, April 2, 2009 - Monique Barbut's article, appeared today on <http://climate-1.org/>, outlines GEF's effort and engagement to fulfill the mandate of providing financial resources to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how to developing countries.

[GEF Carbon Benefit Project offer innovative climate change solutions across complex landscapes](#)

WASHINGTON D.C., March 23, 2009 – The GEF has announced an innovative way to help mitigate climate change through a path breaking monitoring process designed to work in a variety of landscape settings—desert and forest, farmland and village. The Carbon Benefits Project (CBP), implemented by the UNEP, is a new solution to a persistent problem: how to measure terrestrial carbon, particularly on complex landscapes.

[Development Marketplace Grant Competition Launched for Innovative Climate Adaptation Solutions](#)

WASHINGTON DC - The 2009 Global Development Marketplace today launched its annual global search for innovative local projects and project ideas, with the focus this year on how to help poor and vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by current and predicted climate threats. Innovating organizations from civil society, governments, and the private sector are invited to submit project proposals online from today to May 18, to enter the competition for grants provided by the World Bank Group, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other partners.

[Message from the GEF CEO: A Time for Action on Water](#)

WORLD WATER DAY, March 22, 2009 - Every three years in March, some 20,000 people gather at the World Water Forum hoping that talk will turn to results. This year is no exception except for the fact that perhaps there never has been a more urgent time to commit ourselves to action.

[Financing the Climate Agenda: The Development Perspective](#)

BERLIN, Germany, 19 March 2009 - In a keynote speech the Federal Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul has expressed her strong support to the GEF. "The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the key financing mechanism for the Climate Framework Convention (UNFCCC) and should remain so. It has many years of experience with climate protection projects and works hand in hand with development policy institutions.."

[The Coming US Agenda on Clean Energy Production, Distribution, and Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

WASHINGTON DC, March 17, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series
Presented by Dr. Joe Romm, Dr. Jake Caldwell, and Dr. Andrew Light from The Center for American Progress.

[GEF SGP Project Finalists for Kyoto World Water Grand Prize](#)

ISTANBUL, Turkey, March 16, 2009 - Two Community Water Initiative projects (implemented by GEF-SGP with UNDP and SIDA co-financing) entered the top 10 finalists for the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize. The two projects will defend the projects in front of a panel of international judges and compete for the Kyoto Prize on 21 March 2009 in Istanbul...

[Works on renaturalisation of Morochno mire hydrological regime completed in the Stolin District, Brest Region of Belarus](#)

MINSK, Belarus, 16 March 2009 - Construction works on renaturalisation of Morochno raised bog degraded hydrological regime were completed at the beginning of March 2009 in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project "Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation, Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate Change".

[The GEF NGO Network has a new interim Central Focal Point](#)

SELANGOR, Malaysia, March 13, 2009 - On February 2009, the GEF NGO Network has elected the Global Environment Centre NGO as Interim Central Focal Point to coordinate Network activities before the new statute will be adopted. The outgoing Central Focal Point is ZERO Regional a NGO from Zimbabwe.

[What is the smart grid and how does it impact global climate efforts through the electric system?](#)

WASHINGTON DC, March 12, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the next event of the GEF Brown Bag Lunch Series, presented by Katherine Hamilton, President of GridWise Alliance.

[GEF CEO visits Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Read the report on Monique Barbut's visit to the two West African countries on March 7 - 13, 2009

[Financial Mechanisms for Sustainable Management of Ecosystems Providing Environmental Services: The Trifinio Region, Central America](#)

WASHINGTON DC, March 5, 2009 - The GEF invites you to attend at the GEF Series of Brown Bag Lunch presented by Miguel Gomez, Director of the Regional Unit of Technical Assistance, RUTA

[Alliance goes into battle on biosecurity](#)

WASHINGTON DC, March 4, 2009 - An innovative public-private partnership was officially launched this week as the International Maritime Organization and other agencies joined forces with leading shipping corporations in the fight to eliminate bio-invasions in ballast water, writes Sandra Speares on the Lloyd List website.

[UN agencies, shipping corporations to tackle environmental threats](#)

LONDON, United Kingdom, March 2, 2009 - A Global Industry Alliance (GIA) was launched today at the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, to tackle the threats of marine bio-invasions caused by the transfer of alien plants and animals in ships' ballast tanks. Ballast water is carried in cargo ships to provide needed stability. It is taken onboard at the start of every trip an unladen ship makes and then pumped out on arrival.

[GEF supports Armenia's geothermal energy development](#)

WASHINGTON DC, Feb. 26 - The World Bank's Vice President for Europe and Central Asia approved the Armenia Geothermal Energy Development project. The project, funded by a grant of US\$ 1.5 million from the GEF, is the second operation financed under the Geothermal Energy Development Program (GeoFund), a US\$ 25 million regional program funded by the GEF and implemented by the World Bank jointly with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

[Tigers get a stimulus plan](#)

NEW YORK, February 26, 2009 - The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), together with the World Bank and GEF, announced today a commitment of \$2.8 million toward tiger conservation across its range. WCS will lead a new project, Tiger Futures, in partnership with other conservation organizations with long-term field experience in tiger conservation

throughout countries spanning the big cat's geographical range in Asia.

[Ivory trade and other controversies](#)

WASHINGTON DC, February 25 - The GEF Natural Resources Team invites you to the 18th GEF Brown Bag Lunch presented by Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary-General of CITES

[The iSimangaliso Wetland Park](#)

WASHINGTON DC, February 4, 2009 - iSimangaliso has signed a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) agreement with the World Bank for a GEF project which aims to include addressing the hydrology and ecosystem functioning of the Lake St Lucia system.

[Best Practice Networks for Industrial Energy Efficiency](#)

WASHINGTON DC, January 2, 2009 - The Global Environment Facility invites you to the Brown Bag Lunch on February 4, 2009, presented by Dr. Julia Reinaud from the Industrial Energy Efficiency Best Practice Network ClimateWorks Foundation.

[Implementation of Renewable Energy in the Emerging Markets of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean 2009](#)

This three days conference will take place on April 27 – 29, 2009 in San Francisco. It is the first event of its kind and it will unite a variety of stakeholders with the objective of connecting the emerging markets with US companies' experiences, policies, goods and services for implementing sustainable renewable energy environments in their countries.

[Pakistan GEF National Dialogue](#)

LAHORE, Pakistan, 27-28 January - The Pakistan GEF National Dialogue is now finalized. Approximately 80 national GEF stakeholders convened for two days of intensive consultations and discussions about the country's GEF priorities and portfolio.

[GEF publication wins Creativity Award Competition](#)

WASHINGTON DC, January 16, 2009 - "Financing the Stewardship of Global Biodiversity", one of the latest GEF publications on Biodiversity has received two awards at the 38th competition of the Creativity Annual Awards. The publication, designed by Design Nut in close cooperation with GEF Natural Resources and External Affairs teams, won a silver award for the cover of the book and received a second award for interior book design.

[2009 is for the Birds](#)

WASHINGTON DC, January 12, 2009 - Argentina's penguins rang in 2009 with a new

marine park that will protect their nesting grounds onshore as well as their feeding grounds at sea. The park is home to half a million Magellanic Penguins, along with several species of rare seabirds and the region's only population of South American fur seals.

[More GEF projects aim at a common objective](#)

WASHINGTON, DC - January 09, 2009 - The 34th Council approved \$201.17 million for funding 37 new GEF projects, that were included in the work program. Fifteen of the projects proposals approved are in Biodiversity, eight in Climate Change, five in International Water, one in Land Degradation, while eight proposals are multifocal.

[Grant competition on Climate Adaptation: open for submission](#)

The 2009 Development Marketplace grant competition is seeking innovative solutions addressing Climate Adaptation in three sub-themes. The call for proposals will be open from February 5, 2009 through April 9, 2009. Winning projects will receive a US\$ 200,000 grant for implementation over two years.

[GEF 2009 Photo Contest](#)

The Global Environment Facility invites you to participate in the 2009 Photo Contest. In its effort to create awareness on all the different ways in which we can help to protect our planet, the GEF is looking for photos that portray human effort to protect our environment and mitigate and adapt to the changing climate. All entries must be received by June 15, 2009.

[GEF's Walter Lusigi senior environment specialist retires](#)

Walter Lusigi, PhD and senior environment specialist, recently retired after a well-respected tenure at the Global Environment Facility. A native of Kenya, Walter has country work experience in every part of the world and he has been the focal point for Land Degradation activities at the GEF over the last ten years.

[VIDEO: Africa's Climate Change Challenge](#)

This 9 minutes video clip by Ibrahima Fall, a well known Senegalese filmmaker, is a striking documentation of the work of the Global Environment Facility GEF in climate change projects in selected African countries. Watch it now: available in English and French.

[100 Innovative Ideas To Make Sustainable Agriculture Work For Development](#)

WASHINGTON, June 23, 2008 – The World Bank's Development Marketplace today announced the selection of 100 innovative ideas to promote sustainable agriculture to compete for grant funding at the Marketplace to be held September 24-25 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. This year's global competition has been supported by the GEF and other partners.

[GEF Eco Tourism Project Wins National Award of Excellence in Panama: A Successful Small Grants Program Outcome](#)

The project developed by Grupo Ecologico Las Macanas (GEMA), a community NGO that is implementing one of the Community Based Rural Tourism initiatives supported by the Small Grant Program Panama, received an award of excellence in the national competition “A good tourism business idea” from the Panamanian Ministry of Tourism and the Medium, Small & Micro Business Authority of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

[VIDEO: Africa's Climate Change Challenge](#)

This 9 minutes video clip by Ibrahima Fall, a well known Senegalese filmmaker, is a striking documentation of the work of the Global Environment Facility GEF in climate change projects in selected African countries. Watch it now: available in English and French.

[The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - COP14](#)

The 14th Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the UNFCCC, along with the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, is taking place in Poznan, Poland. Watch the live webcast!

[GEF staff recognized for joint efforts connected with IPCC's Nobel Peace Prize](#)

The GEF is proud to announce that Sekou Toure, GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner and Claudio Volonté, Chief Evaluation Officer at the GEF Evaluation Office, recently received recognition for their contribution to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

[Costa Rica gets \\$4.8 million infusion to upgrade its world-class national parks system](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 15 June 2007 – The GEF Council today approved a landmark grant of \$4.8 million to strengthen Costa Rica's famed but threatened national parks system. The system, for many years a world-class standard of environmental excellence, is threatened by deforestation, illegal harvesting of resources, and management inefficiencies.

[Launch of The Official MPA Blog](#)

The Marine Plan of Action (MPA) launches its official blog, a joint IUCN and WCPA initiative.

[Mainstreaming gender in sustainable oyster farming projects](#)

The Fédération Régionale des Groupements de Promotion Féminine (FRGPF) launched a

campaign, with GEF SGP support, to train local women in more sustainable management and harvesting techniques, in response to the widespread destruction of mangroves due to unsustainable oyster farming in the Ziguinchor region.

[The GEF in charge of supporting the transfer of technologies programme](#)

WASHINGTON DC, December 15, 2008 - The Conference of the Parties has welcomed the GEF strategic programme on technology transfer as a step towards scaling up the level of investment in technology transfer and has requested the GEF to consider the long-term implementation of the strategic programme.

[The World Bank and GEF to Help Improve the Quality of Croatia's Coastal Waters](#)

WASHINGTON, December 11, 2008 – The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved a EUR60 million loan and a US\$6.4 million Global Environment Facility Grant to the Republic of Croatia to help combat pollution along the country's coast.

[Hot Prospect - Geothermal Electricity Set for Rift Valley Lift-Off in 2009](#)

POZNAN, Poland, December 9, 2008 - A century-old energy technology that taps steam from hot underground rocks is poised for a massive expansion up East Africa's Rift Valley in the 21st century. The news comes as countries across the world, from Guatemala to Papua New Guinea, are beginning to plug into geothermal energy as a new and promising alternative to coal and oil-fired power generation.

[Least Developed Countries Fund Featured in Samoa News Media](#)

POZNAN, Poland, December 6, 2008 - Samoa has been praised as one of the leaders in climate change adaptation by the GEF. Both Samoa and Eritrea were featured at a press event at the Conference of the Parties Climate Change meeting in Poznan Poland (COP14).

[Living with climate change: Eritrea and Samoa officials share experience with Least Developed Countries Fund](#)

POZNAN, Poland, December 3, 2008—Two of the least developed countries on the front lines of climate change shared their experiences Wednesday on a unique fund designed to help some of the world's most vulnerable identify urgent and immediate adaptation needs.

[GEF-5 Replenishment Press Briefing](#)

POZNAN, Poland, December 4, 2008 - Press Briefing on Monique Barbut statements on the GEF-5 replenishment.

[GEF SGP Project in Pakistan receives \\$2.8 million of co-financing](#)

On November 24, 2008, the GEF SGP Pakistan signed a cost-sharing agreement with the Government of Sindh for co-financing of \$2.8 million. This partnership is to replicate GEF SGP Pakistan's energy efficient earth-quake resistant low-cost model house "Benazir".

[GEF Council endorses new program to scale up investment of transfer of environmentally sound technology](#)

WASHINGTON, DC - November 14, 2008 – A leading global environmental financial institution this week embraced new efforts to dramatically scale up technology transfer to developing countries looking to mitigate and adapt to climate change challenges.

[34th GEF Council and Climate Funds Meetings](#)

WASHINGTON DC, November 6, 2008 - The GEF Council will convene again from Tuesday, November 11, in Washington DC. The GEF Council Meeting will be preceded by an NGO consultation on Monday, November 10 and followed by a meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

[2008 COM+ Alliance Award for Communicating the Food Crisis - Call for Nominations](#)

In 2008, soaring food prices spread throughout the world, resulting in crisis in many developing countries. The 2008 COM+ Communication Award will be granted to a campaign related to the food price crisis. Issued by COM+ which includes the GEF, the award recognizes the role of communications in attaining sustainable development goals. The Award carries a prize of US\$10,000 and will be presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain, in October 2008.

[Save your logo!](#)

OCTOBER 25, 2008 - The French newspaper "Le Monde" published an article on the "Save Your Logo" initiative. The campaign, launched by the GEF at the World Conservation Congress 2008, encourages multinational companies to protect the signature animal on which they have partially based their brand.

[PARIS RE, Marsh and the UNEP-GEF develop innovative renewable energy insurance solutions](#)

ZUG, Switzerland, October 9, 2008 - PARIS RE and MARSH have jointly developed a new index-based cover that will encourage the development of wind farm projects.

[GEF, World Bank and IUCN Launch Partnership to Protect Globally Threatened Species](#)

BARCELONA/WASHINGTON DC, October 7, 2008-- Businesses that have built their brands on the back of threatened species should invest more in the preservation of their

natural habitats according to a new conservation campaign launched here today.

[GEF Small Grants Programme in Honduras Wins Tourism Innovation Award](#)

TEGUCIGALPA/WASHINGTON, October 6,2008 – Five indigenous communities recently won a distinguished international business award for an ecotourism rainforest project funded through the Global Environment Facility.

[GEF, World Bank and Partners Award \\$4 Million to Innovative Agriculture, Sustainable Development Projects](#)

WASHINGTON, September 26, 2008 — More than \$4 million was awarded in seed money to 22 innovative agricultural projects today at the end of the 2008 Development Marketplace, a competitive grant program that aims to spur sustainable development. The 2008 global competition was co-sponsored by the GEF, World Bank Group, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and GTZ. Winners represented 16 countries.

[Global Development Marketplace 2008](#)

WASHINGTON DC, September 24-26 -One hundred finalists from 42 countries are in Washington DC to present their innovative projects and competing for small grants for projects on sustainable agriculture for development. Watch the event live and make you heard through the DM08 Blog.

[Third Adaptation Fund Board Meeting](#)

BONN, Germany, September 15-18 - The Adaptation Fund Board met for the third time to discuss the full range of issues on its agenda and take all the decisions required of it for approval by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its 4th session.

[GEF National Dialogue in Ecuador](#)

QUITO, Ecuador, September 10 – 12. Ecuador developed its second National Dialogue Initiative with the participation of 160 stakeholders representing national and local governmental institutions, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academy, implementing and executing agency country-based staff.

[International Meetings for the protection of the marine environment and the wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region](#)

SAINT JOHN, Antigua and Barbuda - September 8-12, 2008 – The GEF has participated as an Observer, along with a number of NGOs and bilateral agencies, in a series of meeting events working towards an Action Plan for protection of the Marine Environment and the

wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region.

[French Minister calls for climate agreement between EU and Africa at GEF meeting in Benin](#)

AUGUST 26, 2008 - Jean-Louis Borloo, the head of France's Ministry of Ecology, Development and Sustainable Management made his remarks to 14 environment ministers of West Africa attending a meeting held with the CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Mrs. Monique Barbut. Following the meeting the ministers lauded the GEF's programmatic approach toward addressing global environmental challenges the region faces such as climate change.

[GEF Programmatic Approach within Biodiversity and Climate Change Focal Areas in West Africa](#)

COTONOU, Benin, August 25-26 - The Global Environment Facility GEF has invited Ministers from West African countries to meet in the capital of Benin for consultations on the GEF Regional Cooperation Programme. Monique Barbut, GEF CEO and Chairperson is leading the consultations to take stock of the program development status.

[GEF funds first Biodiversity Emergency Project in Post- Earthquake China](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, July 17, 2008 – The GEF has approved a unique \$1.5 million initiative that is the first biodiversity emergency project after a natural disaster in China. It represents an innovative approach to address threats to pandas and other endangered species. The support will also help ensure the sustainability of future development initiatives, according to the United Nations Development Programme, which will implement the program in the field.

[Sub-Regional Workshop in the Caribbean](#)

HAVANA, Cuba, 8-10 July, 2008 - Focal Points from sixteen Caribbean countries attended the fifth Sub-Regional Workshop of the National Dialogue Initiative.

[G-8 Leaders Highlight GEF's Pivotal Role at Summit](#)

TOYAKO, Japan, July 9, 2008 - G8 nations meeting this week showcased the Global Environmental Facility's unique role in helping bring meet the urgent challenges of mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy in developing countries.

[GEF: New \\$27 million project launched to protect bees, bats and birds](#)

WASHINGTON/Nairobi, 8 August 2008 – A new project worth \$26.45 million has been launched by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to better protect bees, bats and birds that are essential to the world's crop production.

[GEF National Dialogue in Colombia](#)

BOGOTA, Colombia, 16-18 July, 2008 - Colombia is holding the GEF National Dialogue, to provide a forum for consultations on global environmental management and national sustainable development issues in the country.

[Sub-Regional Workshop in Namibia](#)

WINDHOEK, Namibia, 25-27 June, 2008 - The fourth Sub-Regional Workshop of the National Dialogue Initiative gather East and Southern Africa Focal Points.

[Malawi's Agriculture Sector Gets a Boost from the World Bank, Norway and GEF](#)

WASHINGTON, June 24, 2008 – The World Bank Board today approved US\$37.80 million to the Malawi Government to support investments aimed at improving food security and sustainable agricultural growth. The approved amount consists of a US\$32 million International Development Association (IDA) credit, and a US\$5.8 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant provided by the regional GEF investment program for sustainable land management linked to TerrAfrica.

[GEF projects win the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy](#)

LONDON, June 19, 2008 - Grameen Shakti of Bangladesh, a participating company in the GEF-IDA assisted Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Project and China Renewable Energy Development Project were among the Ashden Award winners.

[GEF Joins Forces to Save Endangered Tigers](#)

WASHINGTON, June 9, 2008 — A worldwide alliance of tiger conservationists, scientists and celebrities have joined forces with the World Bank Group and the GEF to help save wild tigers.

[Groundbreaking Conservation Commitments Secure a Future for Islands](#)

BONN, Germany, 27 May 2008 — Leaders from island nations and nations with islands around the world joined together today at an event held during a UN conference on biodiversity to announce significant conservation commitments to protect the future of islands, backed by pledges of more than \$20 million in support...

[JBIC and GEF Tackling Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss](#)

KOBE, Japan, May 24, 2008 – The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for strengthening cooperative efforts toward addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, and other global environmental issues.

[GEF reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity COP9 in Bonn](#)

BONN, Germany, May 27, 2008 – The GEF delegation to the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-9) last week presented its report on its biodiversity program to over 7000 delegates and participants. Investment over the 2006-2007 reached a total of US\$306 million...

[GEF Sub-Regional Meeting South Asia](#)

MANILA, Philippines, May 15-16, 2008 - The GEF held a sub-regional workshop for national focal points from Asia. This workshops are an annual opportunity for GEF Focal Points to meet with their counterparts from other countries in the region and GEF Partners. During the event they discussed and reviewed policies and procedures and shared experiences and lessons learned from development and implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks.

[GEF Commits \\$63 Million To Help Preserve Coral Triangle](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, April 25, 2008 – The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are joining together to support the preservation of Asia's Coral Triangle, with the GEF committing \$63 million to fund conservation of this area known as "the Amazon of the seas."

[GEF Approves New Funds Toward Pacific Island Sustainability](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, April 25, 2008 – The Global Environment Facility has approved a new series of grants to a coalition of Pacific island states, a region considered among the world's most vulnerable to climate change and other environmental challenges such as shrinking biodiversity.

[GEF: Improving Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings and Urban Housing in the Russian Federation](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, April 25, 2008. – This week, the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved two new climate change related projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency in urban housing as well as public buildings in the Russian Federation.

[Meeting the Climate Change Challenge](#)

In this article, published on the G8 Summit Magazine, Monique Barbut reflects on the

challenges and opportunities we have to face to adapt and mitigate the Climate Change.

[Development Marketplace 2007](#)

The Global Environment Facility in coordination with the World Bank Group and its partners last month announced the Lighting Africa Development Marketplace Grant Competition. Entitled "Innovations in Off-Grid Lighting Products and Services for Africa," the competition seeks innovative Project ideas that address the various off-grid lighting needs of Sub-Saharan Africa, including alternative distribution models, new clean lighting technology, stronger production chains, and improvement of the policy environment.

[GEF and IFC Launch the Earth Fund: New Partnership to Support Market-Based Environmental Innovation in Developing Countries](#)

BALI, December 10, 2007 – The Global Environmental Facility and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, are launching today the Earth Fund, a new partnership open to the private sector, foundations, and other partners that will support innovative and market-based solutions for the most pressing environmental challenges in developing countries.

[GEF to Launch Tropical Forest Account for the World's Last Tropical Forest](#)

BALI, December 8, 2007 –The world's largest environmental funding body, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), said it plans to launch the Tropical Forest Account Initiative which will help safeguard forest ecosystems while strengthening sustainable financing for protected areas and for sustainable forest management.

[World Environment Body Looks to Finance Adaptation Now and for Future](#)

BALI, November 30, 2007 - The world's largest environmental funding body, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), stands ready to build on its past experience working with the most vulnerable countries that seek market-driven sustainable ways to adjust to climate change today.

[India Leveraging GEF Land Development Plan](#)

WASHINGTON DC, November 16, 2007 - A groundbreaking environmentally-friendly land development program will soon allow thousands of farmers to adapt their farming practices to adjust to the impacts of climate change on agriculture.

[New Funds Targeted To Help Pacific Islands Protect its "Amazon of the Sea"](#)

Real Solutions for Real Climate Change Problems

Apia, Samoa, September 11, 2007 – The world's largest international environmental funding body, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) took steps to finalize a nearly six-fold increase to support Pacific islands create real solutions for real climate change problems.

[GEF Working to Build Momentum From Montreal Protocol For Future Global Environment Success Stories](#)

MONTREAL, September 17, 2007— There is still work to be done before anyone can say the ozone layer has fully recovered. And to help reach that goal, the Global Environment Facility remains

committed as a key multilateral financial institution to help countries work on concrete ways to protect the ozone layer, particularly in conjunction with measures to reduce releases of greenhouse gases.

[Convention's Working Group Fostering Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Concerns\(2\)](#)

PARIS, 13 July, 2007--Over 500 delegates representing 190 Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from July 9–13, 2007 to look at ways to enhance tools for implementing the Convention and to integrate biodiversity concerns across all economic sectors through national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

[Adapting to Climate Change: New GEF Projects Show New Ways to Beat the Heat\(2\)](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 15 June 2007 – The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council today approved a grant of \$9.9 million to finance two climate adaptation projects designed to help communities in Ecuador and Peru combat problems associated with glacial retreat in the tropical Andes and improve water management in Ecuador.

[Developing Countries Win Environmental Ally:](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 15, June 2007 –Developing countries won a new partner in their fight to stem environmental degradation today as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) governing Council gave a \$50 million green light to a new pilot Public Private Partnership (PPP).

[Going to Market:New GEF Project Takes Aim at Barriers Impeding Energy Efficiency in Brazil](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 15 June 2007 – A new, \$13.5 million project approved today by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council will help Brazil to consolidate hard-won gains in energy efficiency, and eliminate technical, financial, and policy-related barriers that are impeding the use of energy-efficient (EE) technologies in buildings.

[Funding Boost for Fight against Land Degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa:](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 15 June 2007 – Over 28 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa will launch activities to fight land degradation, thanks to an innovative \$150 million program approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council in Washington today.

[Boost in Environmental Funding for Pacific Ocean Island States: New Strategy Takes National and Regional Approach](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 9 May 2007 – A new environment strategy, backed by a proposed \$100 million grant package from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was agreed to by Heads of State and top government leaders representing 15 small island developing states (SIDS) and territories of the Pacific Ocean region today. The funding, representing a six-fold increase over previous GEF financing for the region, will be used to fight climate change, protect island species and shared waters, and conserve the fragile environment of the islands.

[Turning Up the Heat: A Call for More Concerted Global Action on Climate Change](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, 13 April, 2007 - One of the hottest items on the world's virtual newsstands since April 6 has been the newest report launched by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report estimates with greater than 90% confidence that climate change over recent years is human-induced. This and other such reports are heating up the public discourse on climate change impacts around the world. Are we, as a global society, finally waking up to these urgent threats for dire changes to the planet? And what should we do about it?

[Winning the Water Wars? New Models for Post-Conflict Cooperation on Water\(2\)](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, March 22, 2007 (Winning the Water Wars? New Models for Post-Conflict Cooperation on Water) - On World Water Day 2007, we stand face-to-face with the frightening specter of increasingly scarce and poor-quality water around the globe. In the public glare of this urgent problem, there are success stories which identify real solutions. They deserve to be aired and understood.

[Tackling Climate Change Now](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, January 30, 2007. The just-concluded World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland may well have succeeded in casting the spotlight on climate change, but practical solutions are already being developed. Monique Barbut, GEF CEO saw a pioneering project during a recent visit to Koratgere village, a two-hour drive from teeming Bangalore city, deep in the heart of Karnataka state dubbed India's Silicon valley.