GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

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GEF CORPORATE SCORECARD
JUNE 2022

GEF Corporate SCORECARD June 2022

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
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ABOUT THE GEF-7 SCORECARD

The GEF-7 Corporate Scorecard is a comprehensive semi-annual report on the performance of the Global Environment Facility. The Scorecard reports on the progress made towards the achievement of the GEF-7 targets. It also looks at how the GEF is utilizing resources made available for its seventh replenishment cycle and making progress in the implementation of key policies. The Scorecard is published twice a year and provides an update covering the ongoing GEF cycle. This is the last report covering the GEF-7 period and includes all projects approved from June 2018 up to and including the June 2022 work program.

HIGHLIGHTS

This Scorecard's edition marks the close of the GEF-7 cycle and comes at a time when countries pledged support to scale up efforts to tackle biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution in GEF-8. This cycle ends on an upbeat note as the just-approved June 2022 work program brings the utilization of GEF-7 resources to 95 percent. Altogether, 144 countries benefit from GEF-7 investments approved in part during a period marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cumulative contribution of all GEF-7 projects and programs led to the full achievement of seven out of ten Core Indicator targets. An eighth indicator reached over 90 percent of its target. It is also worth noting that as projects advance design after Council approval, they often increase their level of ambition. Take, for example, the number of hectares of terrestrial protected area created or under improved management: over two-thirds of the target has been confirmed at the CEO endorsement stage, a higher level than reported in this Scorecard.

In this last Scorecard of GEF-7, the utilization of STAR resources by Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States both stand at 94 percent. These groups account for over half the countries served by the GEF. A large majority of countries, 112 of 144 STAR recipients, have used over 90 percent of their STAR resources. Countries also made effective use of International Waters and Chemicals & Waste focal areas, using over 90 percent of available resources.

Catalyzing co-financing flows from all available sources is vital for countries to achieve the level of Global Environmental Benefits targeted in GEF projects and programs. The indicative portfolio target of seven dollars mobilized for every "GEF dollar" spent has been continuously surpassed, reaching an 8.2:1 ratio at the end of the GEF-7 cycle. The GEF also plays a critical role in helping mobilize additional investments. The 6:1 ratio of investment mobilized in GEF-7 exceeds the targeted 5:1 ratio.

Over the past four years, the demand for blended finance has reached new levels. The last work program of GEF-7 finances one additional project through the Non-Grant Instrument window, which supports bio-economy activities and forest-based products in the Amazon region. The Non-Grant Instrument financed innovative and scalable financing structures for the environment that mobilized a high level of co-financing.

In GEF-7, early engagement with countries proved critical to grow a pipeline of high-quality projects prepared in a timely manner. This occurred through upstream programming support to countries that fostered a shared understanding of strategic programming of GEF-7 resources. In parallel and throughout GEF-7, the Country Support Program has put South-South exchanges at the center of its activities. It pivoted while from face-to-face interactions to online ones, under constraint of the mobility restrictions brought on by the pandemic. The Country Support Program has delivered on a range of capacity building events enhancing the knowledge of countries on what resources the GEF provides, how to access them, and for what results. In addition, this program actively captured constituency feedback through 32 replenishment-related meetings. Moving into GEF-8, the GEF will build on those achievements and engage countries in a more systematic and strategic way. To that end, it will launch by the new Country Engagement Strategy. This will aim to bring upstream programming support, the work of the Country Support Program, and knowledge management efforts under a single approach.

A renewed focus on gender and stakeholders took place in GEF-7 with dedicated policies announced from the start. Since then, each edition of the Scorecard has identified continuous progress. Even with extensive social distancing measures, projects continued to incorporate a gender-responsive approach at design stage and to engage with stakeholders.

Finally, the GEF's digital media presence and outreach continue to grow with a new website and active discussions through social media channels. They feature important publications prepared ahead of global environmental events, as well as more project stories prepared with Agencies and countries. The release of Good Practice Briefs supports this endeavor by promoting tested solutions to reach results.

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1. CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERATION OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Projects and programs delivered high levels of expected results for GEF-7 against the Core Indicator targets. GEF programming will make even further progress as in-depth project design allows the fine-tuning and re-visiting of expected results ahead of implementation start.

CORE INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS	TARGET
1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (million hectares)	58.3% of which **21.2%** from impact programs	200
2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (million hectares)	>100%	8
3 Area of land restored (million hectares)	>100% of which **68.1%** from impact programs	6
4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (million hectares; excluding protected areas)	52.0% of which **23.8%** from impact programs	320
5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million hectares; excluding protected areas)	>100% of which **0.1%** from impact programs	28
6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO_2e)	>100% of which **49.0%** from impact programs	1500
7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	>100%	32
8 Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (thousand metric tons)	>100%	3500
9 Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination, and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials, and products (thousand metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	90.4% of which **3.0%** from impact programs	100
10 Reduction, avoidance of emissions of persistent organic pollutants to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEq)	>100%	1300
11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	**222,068,984** including **113,081,836** women of which **66.9** million beneficiaries from total IP contributions	

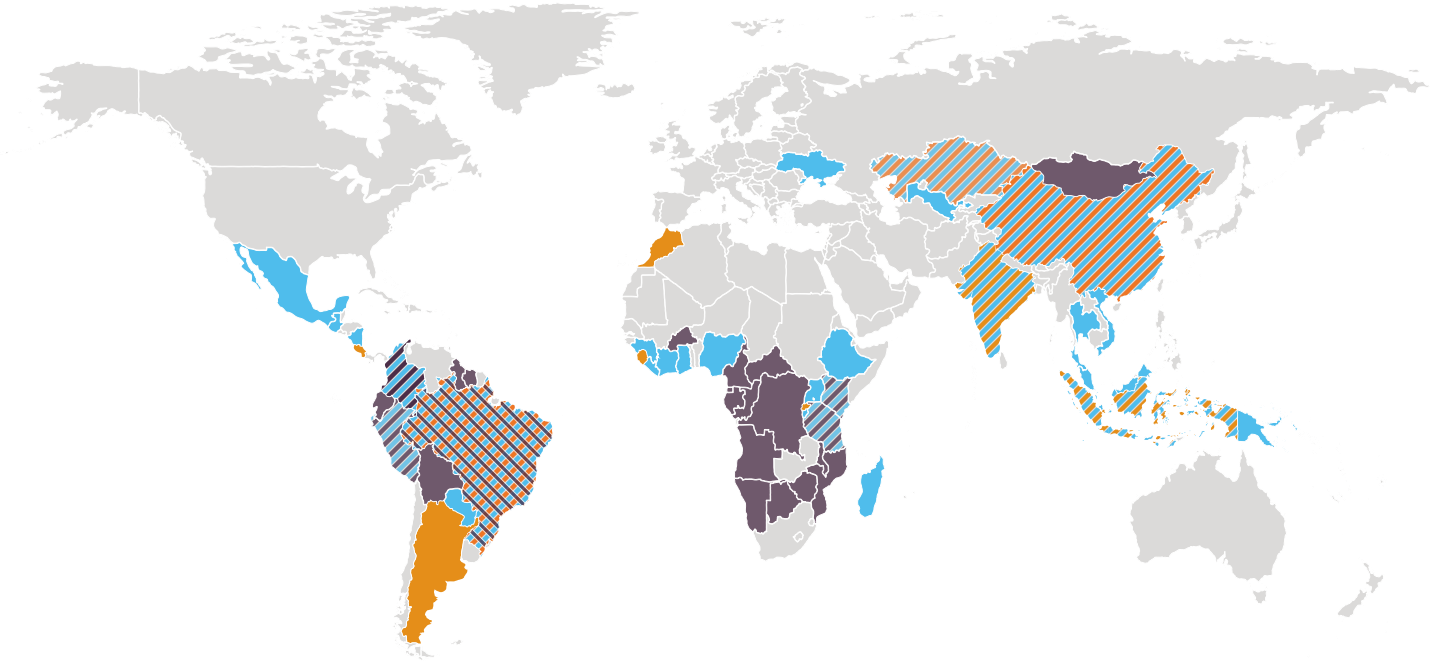
While the GEF's overarching results architecture consists of 11 Core Indicators, a series of sub-associated indicators feed into these main indicators and bring context. In turn, they also provide disaggregated data, aligned to GEF programming directions.

SUB-INDICATORS	VALUE
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (million hectares)	**116.6**
– of which newly created (million hectares)	7.1
– of which under improved management effectiveness (million hectares)	109.5
Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (million hectares)	**1,390.5**
– of which newly created (million hectares)	762.3
– of which under improved management effectiveness (million hectares)	628.2
Area of land restored (million hectares)	**8.2**
– of which degraded agricultural lands restored (million hectares)	4.0
– of which forest and forest land restored (million hectares)	2.7
– of which natural grass and shrublands restored (million hectares)	1.3
– of which wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) restored (million hectares)	0.3
Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (million hectares)	**160.8**
– of which under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million hectares)	86.7
– of which that meets national or international third-party certification (million hectares)	0.4
– of which under sustainable land management in production systems (million hectares)	72.8
– of which of High Conservation Value forest loss avoided (million hectares)	0.9
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas) (million hectares)	**105.3**
Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (numbers)	18.0
Number of Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia (numbers)	8.0
Amount of Marine Litter Avoided (million metric tons)	1.4
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO_2e)	**1,542.0**
– of which carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (million metric tons of CO_2e)	998.2
– of which emissions avoided (million metric tons of CO_2e)	543.7
Energy saved (gigawatt hours)	437,159.7
Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology (mega watts)	5,441.4
Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management (number)	**62.0**
Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program formulation and implementation (average scale, 1 Low – 4 High)	2.4

Level of regional legal agreements and regional management institution(s) to support its implementation (average scale, 1 Low – 4 High)	2.4
Level of national/local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (average scale, 1 Low – 4 High)	1.7
Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products (average scale, 1 Low – 4 High)	1.4
Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (thousand metric tons)	**3,779.9**
Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination, and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials, and products (thousand metric tons)	**90.4**
– of which solid and liquid persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed (POPs type) (thousand metric tons)	88.3
– of which quantity of mercury reduced (thousand metric tons)	2.1
Hydrochlorofluorocarbons reduced/phased out (metric tons)	97.0
Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (number)	81.0
Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing, and cities (number)	74.0
Quantity of POPs/mercury containing materials and products directly avoided (million metric tons)	2.7
Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent)	**2,895.3**
Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air (number)	63.0
Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented (number)	44.1
Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (million)	**222.1**
– of which female beneficiaries (million)	113.1
– of which male beneficiaries (million)	109.0

2. IMPACT PROGRAMS

The GEF-7 Impact Programs are poised to deliver environmental benefits on a large scale in GEF-7. A total of 61 countries are participating in the programs, with some in more than one program.



KEY

- Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration
- Sustainable Cities
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, and Sustainable Forest Management
- Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, and Sustainable Cities
- All Three Impact Programs

CUMULATIVE PROGRAMMING AGAINST NOTIONAL GEF-7 ALLOCATIONS

IMPACT PROGRAMS	PROGRAMMING TO DATE
Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR)	82%
Sustainable Cities	100%
Sustainable Forest Management for Major Biomes	
Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes	100%
The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes	100%
Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program	100%

3. OTHER PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

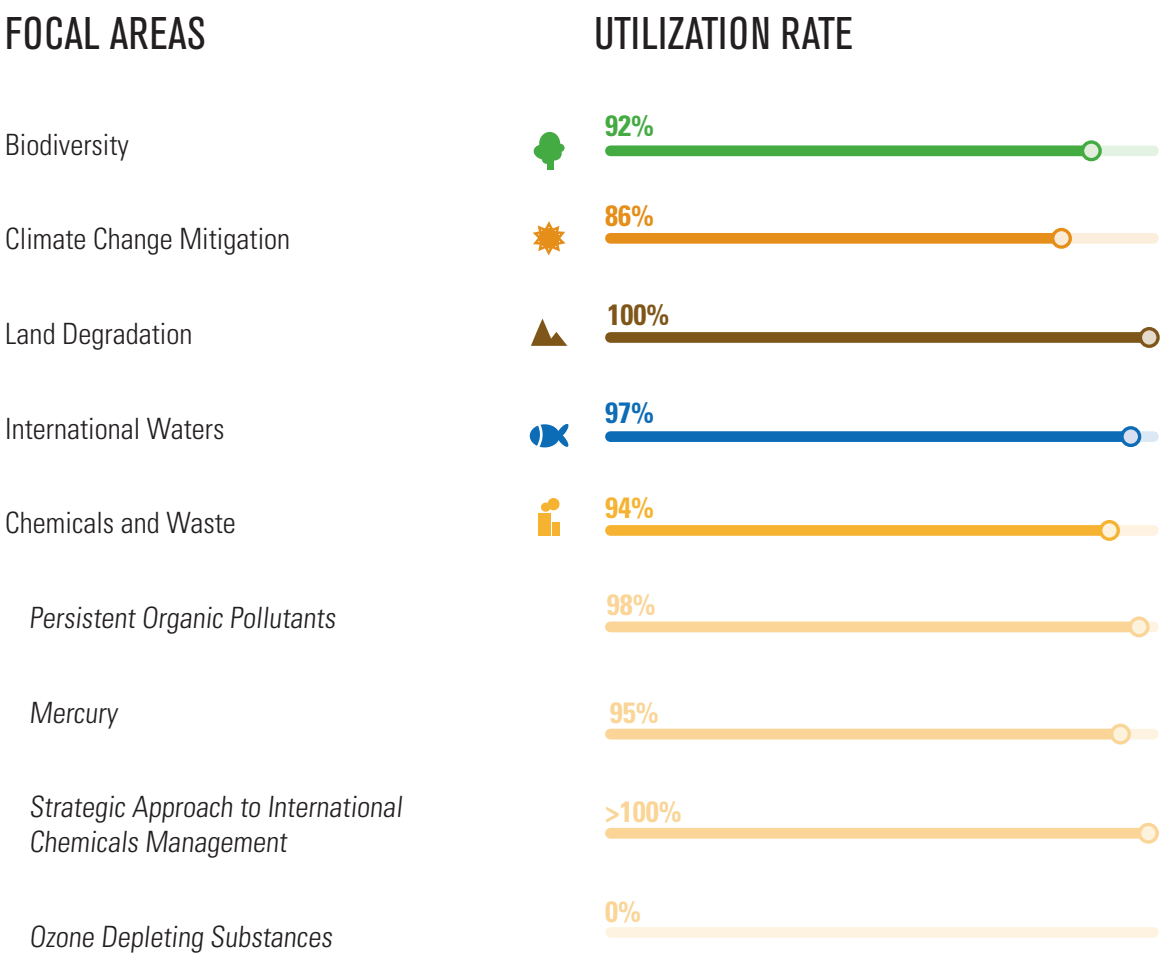
Additional priority GEF-7 programs bring countries together to deliver high impact results and global benefits along key thematic areas. They tackle implementation challenges that require a collaborative approach among several individual projects. This last GEF-7 work program provided additional resources for one program.

Other Programmatic Approaches	Countries (number)	Financing ($m)
GEF Trust Fund		
African Mini-Grids Program	20	36.8
Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM)	7	40.8
Global Cleantech Innovation Program to Accelerate the Uptake and Investments in Innovative Cleantech Solutions	10	20.1
Global Wildlife Program	18	109.8
Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)	31	83.3
Global Program to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility	27	55.7
Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector Plus–GEF GOLD+	15	81.0
Common Oceans – Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	Global	29.1
Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme	1	7.3
Least Developed Countries Fund		
Climate Resilient Urban Development in the Pacific	4	17.5

4. PROGRAMMING BY FOCAL AREA

This section summarizes the progress made in programming GEF-7 resources to date, including the June 2022 work program. It provides a cumulative summary of GEF-7 utilization of funds against the programming envelopes that were established by the Council during the GEF-7 Replenishment.

GEF TRUST FUND

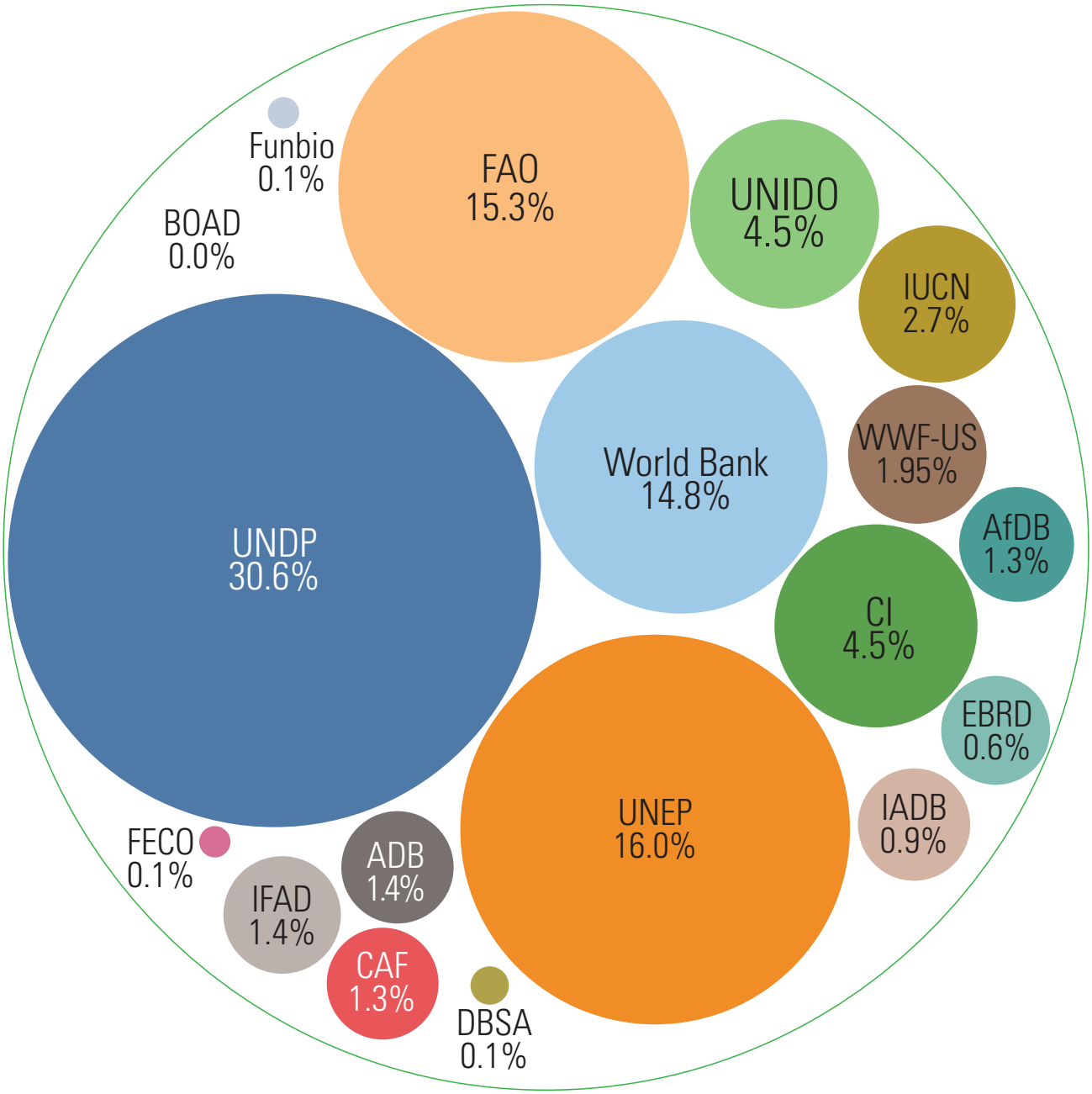


NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT PROGRAM

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

5. PROGRAMMING BY GEF AGENCY

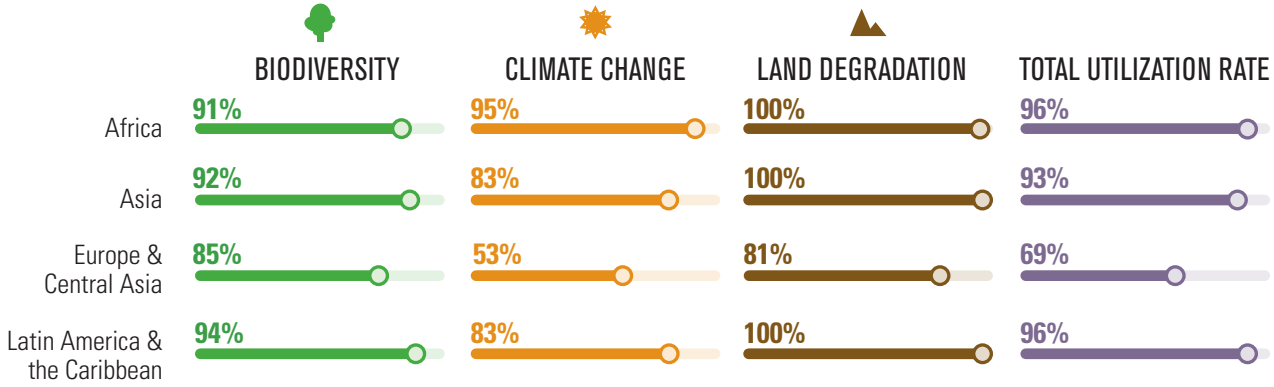
GEF agencies have submitted new projects and programs throughout GEF-7, in response to country demand. The data shown here reflect the respective Agency share of cumulative programming across GEF-7 work programs.



6. SYSTEM FOR TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

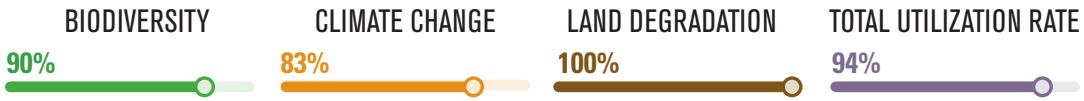
Utilization of resources allocated to countries under the System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) has reached high levels across the three focal areas it covers—biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation—and in every region. Over 90 percent of STAR resources allocated for the GEF-7 cycle have been utilized.

UTILIZATION BY GEF GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS



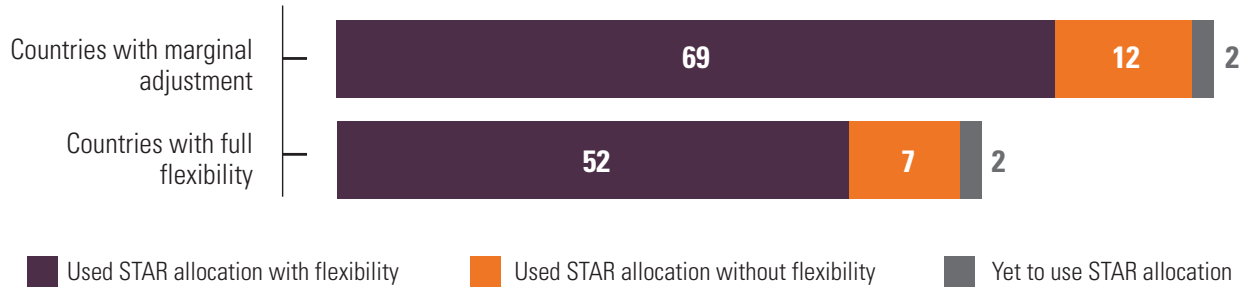
UTILIZATION BY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

UTILIZATION BY SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES



USE OF STAR FLEXIBILITY

Countries are increasingly using the flexibility offered by the STAR framework in re-allocating resources across focal areas. When using STAR resources, countries can take advantage of the flexibility offered by the system to tailor it to their specific needs and context. Countries with a STAR allocation below $7 million are fully flexible in reallocating across the three STAR focal areas. Meanwhile, countries with an allocation greater than $7 million can conduct a marginal adjustment of up to $2 million, or 13% of their full allocation—whichever is higher—across focal areas.



7. CO-FINANCING

The Policy on Co-Financing sets out a goal for the overall GEF portfolio to reach a ratio of co-financing to GEF project financing of at least 7.1. It seeks to reach a 5:1 ratio in co-financing, for the portfolio of projects and programs approved in Upper-Middle Income Countries and High-Income Countries that are not Small Island Developing States or Least Developed Countries. Co-Financing means financing that is additional to GEF Project Financing, and which supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project or program and the achievement of its objectives. Investment Mobilized means Co-Financing that excludes recurrent expenditures. Enabling Activities qualify for full agreed costs funding from the GEF; there is no co-finance requirement for Enabling Activities.

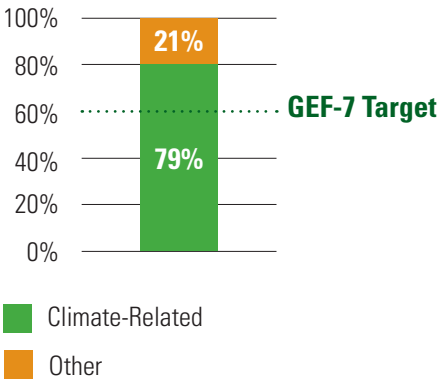
GEF FINANCING VS. CO-FINANCING

	LATEST (based on approvals)		AMBITION
INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING	8.2	Ratio of Indicative Co-Financing to GEF Project Financing	7.0
INVESTMENT MOBILIZED	6.0	Ratio of Indicative Investment Mobilized to GEF Project Financing in UMICs and HICs that are not LDCs or SIDS	5.0
INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING OF NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT PROJECTS[1]	21.5	Ratio of Indicative Co-Financing to GEF Project Financing	

8. CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCING IN GEF-7

In line with the GEF-7 Programming Directions, the Secretariat monitors the share of climate-related financing in GEF-7. For this purpose, climate-related financing is defined as GEF financing that contributes towards climate change mitigation (CCM) or climate change adaptation (CCA) as a principal or a significant objective, consistent with the OECD DAC Rio Marker methodology.

A. CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCING IN GEF-7



B. BREAKDOWN OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY RIO MARKER ($m)

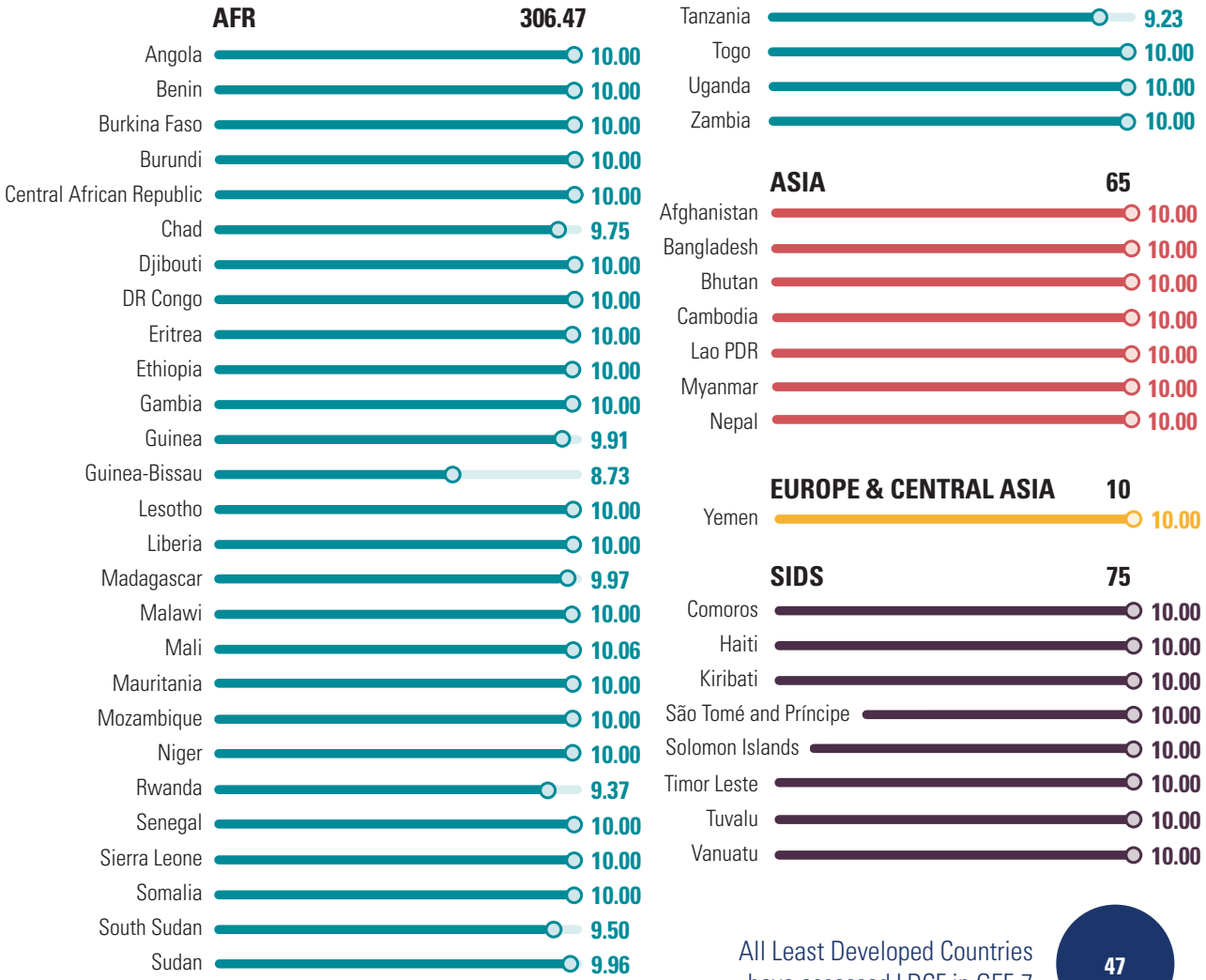
	No Contribution to CCA ("0")	CCA a Significant Objective ("1")	CCA the Principal Objective ("2")
No Contribution to CCM ("0")	762	444	81
CCM a Significant Objective ("1")	791	696	134
CCA the Principal Objective ("2")	351	350	8

1 One fund project (GEFID: 10322) has leveraged an indicative co-financing ratio of 57:1.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The GEF-7 Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) results framework is linked to the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Four Core Indicators track the progress in Adaptation Benefits, including beneficiaries disaggregated by gender. The expected results from the approved projects and programs in GEF-7 are depicted in this section.

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND PROGRAMMING UTILIZED GRANT AMOUNT ($m)



All Least Developed Countries have accessed LDCF in GEF-7 **47**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CORE INDICATORS

Inclusive of both LDCF and SCCF projects

Number of direct beneficiaries

21,036,008
of which
10,618,292
were female

Hectares of land under climate-resilient management

3,225,226

Number of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience

869

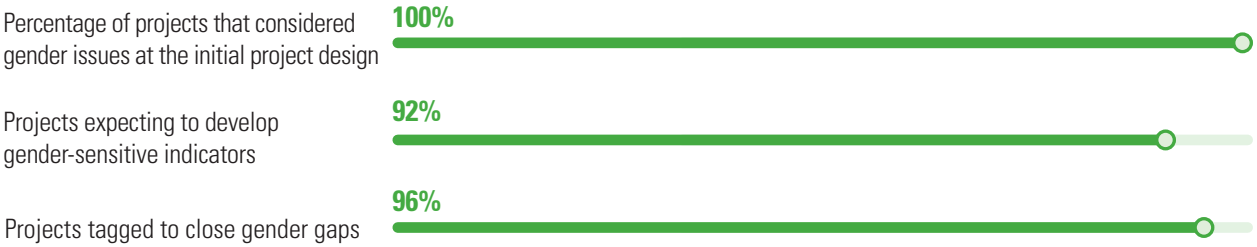
Number of people trained

687,623
of which
327,521
were female

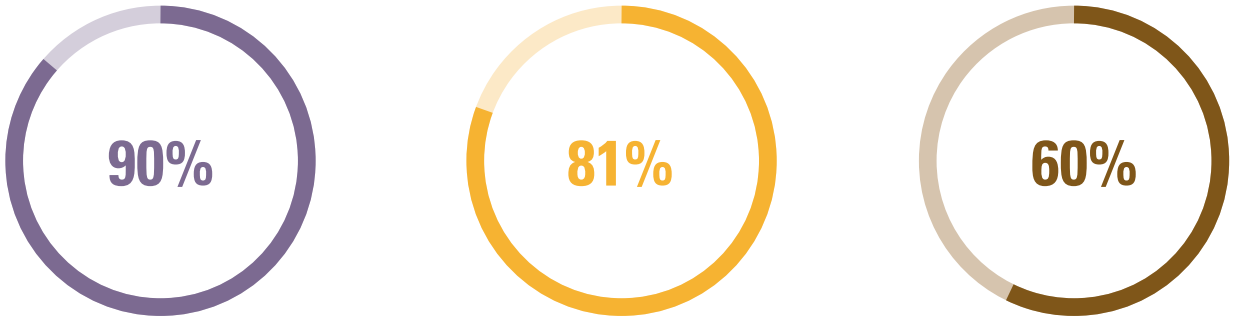
10. GENDER EQUALITY

Without greater equality between men and women, the world will not meet its environment objectives. That's why the GEF is making sure that projects are gender informed, giving women and men equal opportunities to contribute and benefit from them. The GEF is ramping up its ability to track these elements during project preparation, as shown in each work program during the GEF-7 cycle.

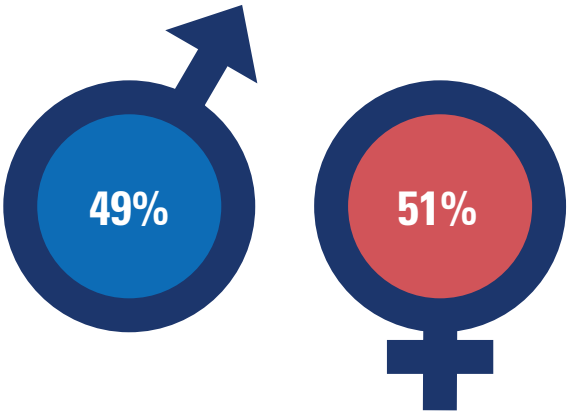
QUALITY AT ENTRY OF GEF-7 PROJECT CONCEPTS



EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT BY CATEGORY



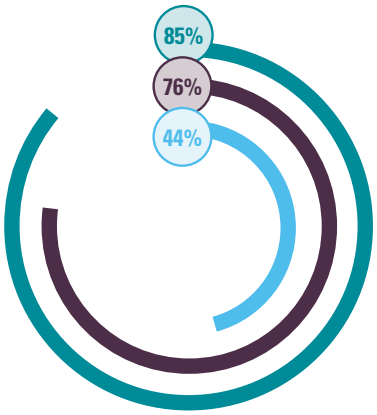
PERCENTAGE OF ANTICIPATED GEF BENEFICIARIES THAT ARE FEMALE AND MALE



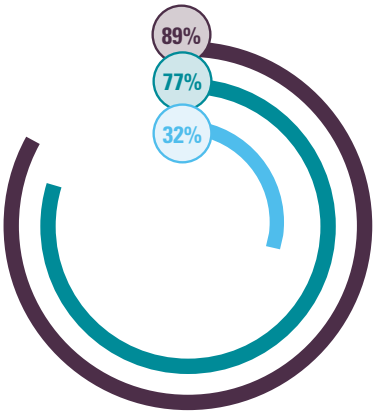
11. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Including stakeholders—civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and the private sector—in preparing projects and defining their expected roles during implementation is key in strengthening the overall impact of a project. The data show that over three-quarters of projects consulted and took into account civil society and the private sector in their design. Not all projects have Indigenous Peoples or private sector as stakeholders. Therefore, the percentages are expected to be lower than those reported for civil society.

CONSULTATION IN PROJECT IDENTIFICATION



FUTURE ENGAGEMENT AND DESCRIBED ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN PROJECTS



Civil Society Organizations | Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities | Private Sector

12. COMMUNICATIONS

Since July 2018, the growing number of GEF stories, partner content, and mentions in online media has helped to raise the GEF's profile, build awareness, and support action on the global environment. An emphasis on digital communication and strategic partnerships has resulted in the steady growth, and increased engagement, of visitors to the GEF website and followers of the GEF social media accounts.

25,471
MEDIA MENTIONS

Number of times the GEF is mentioned in English, Spanish, and French language online media.

972
CONTENT PRODUCED

Number of original news and feature stories, blogs, and agency stories about GEF projects posted on the GEF website. Also includes GEF videos and publications.

2,547,775
WEB / CONTENT TRAFFIC

Number of visitors to the GEF websites, GEF Telegraph Hub, and YouTube videos.

8,436,108
WEB / CONTENT ENGAGEMENT

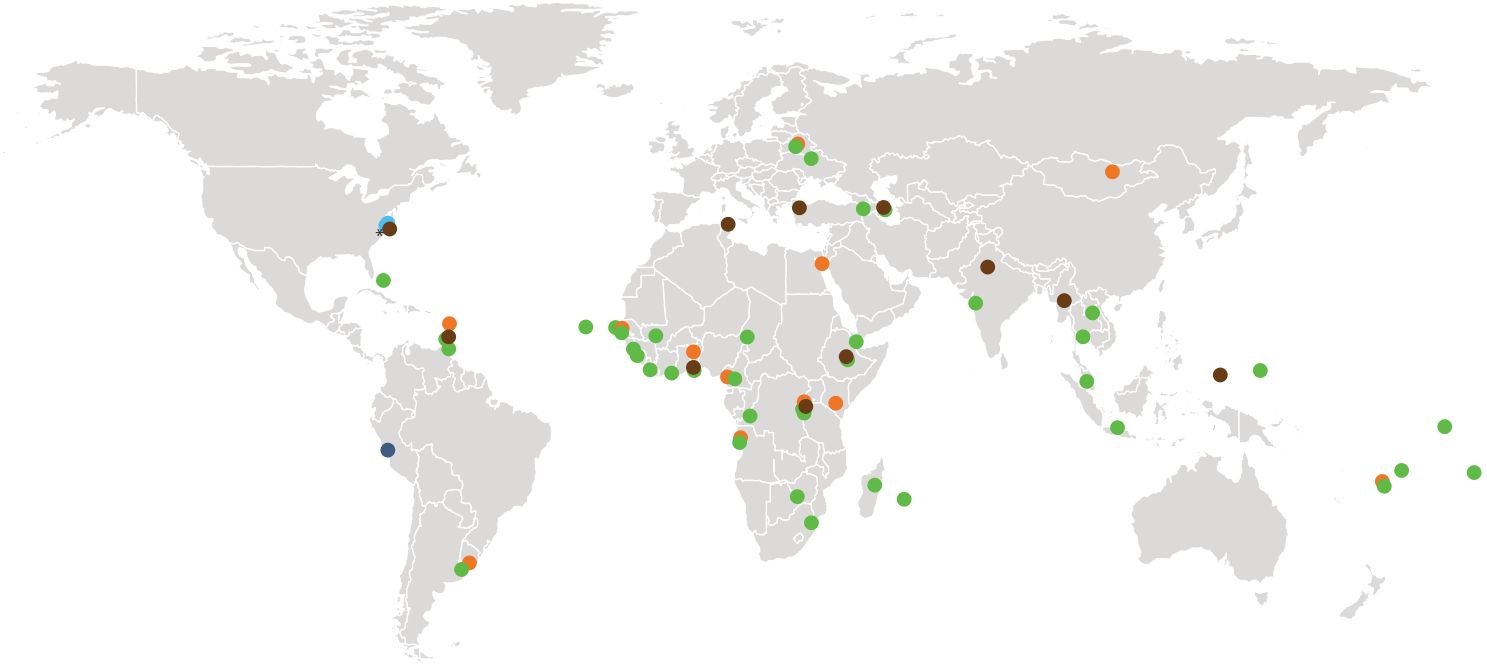
Number of times visitors viewed pages of the GEF website, GEF Telegraph Hub, and YouTube videos.

285,070 **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Total number of followers of GEF social media accounts and subscribers to the GEF newsletter.

13. COUNTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Country Support Program (CSP) continued to support and strengthen country capacity and leadership in utilizing GEF resources by continuing to adapt its delivery model to online events. In addition to key events, the CSP held a series of meetings with countries to brief and seek feedback on the eighth GEF replenishment from representatives of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and SIDS. The online GEF calendar provides information on CSP events. A total of 169 events were delivered in GEF-7.



DURING SEPTEMBER 2018 – JUNE 2022 REPORTING PERIOD, CSP CONDUCTED:

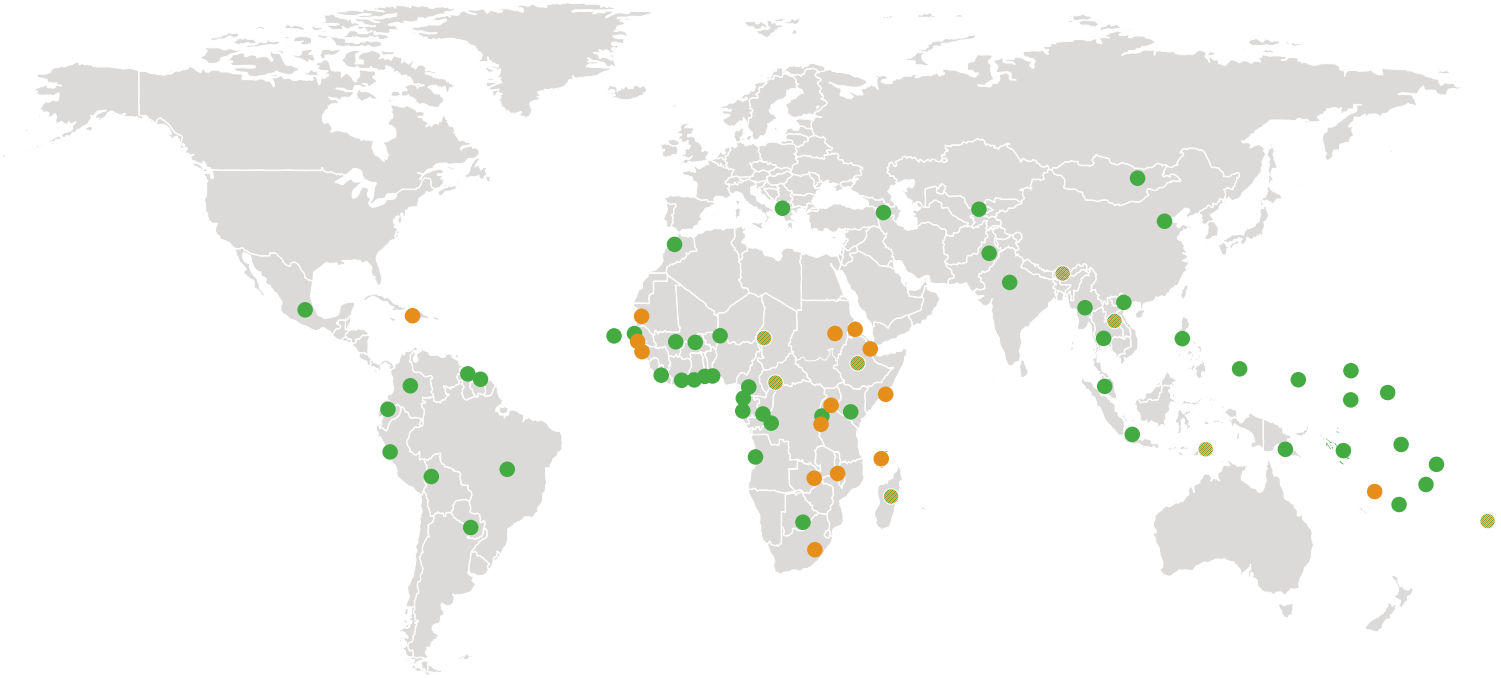
- 63 Constituency Meetings
- 43 Replenishment-related Meetings
- 12 Expanded Constituency Workshops
- 5 Stakeholder Empowerment Webinar Series
- 4 Other Thematic Workshops
- 39 National Dialogues
- 3 Introduction Seminars

Introduction Seminars | National Dialogues | Expanded Constituency Workshops | Constituency Meetings | Special Initiatives | Stakeholder Empowerment Webinar Series

* This represents seven constituency meetings held for the Latin America and Caribbean region, which took place in Washington, DC.

14. UPSTREAM COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS

At the request of countries, upstream consultation missions provided opportunities for Government Agencies and GEF Operational Focal Point teams to engage with technical staff from the Secretariat prior to making important decisions on GEF-7 programming using the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF/SCCF Adaptation Funds. These consultations which have taken place through virtual engagement since the onset of the pandemic had several objectives. They aimed to provide strategic guidance on the GEF-7 programming elements for recipient countries; to enable GEF agencies to gain an in-depth understanding of the Impact Programs and Focal Area strategies of GEF-7; and to enable GEF agencies understand the need to focus on impact as a major criterion for GEF-7 programming and use of resources.



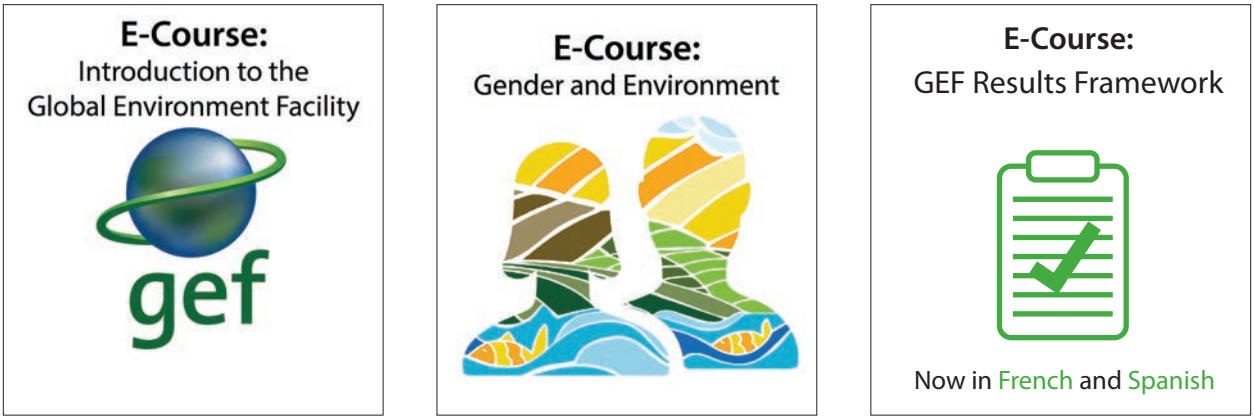
GEF Trust Fund

Least Developed Countries Fund

GEF Trust Fund & Least Developed Countries Fund

15. KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING

In the COVID-19 context, the GEF promotes online learning to strengthen the quality and impact of its investments.A comprehensive Knowledge Management and Learning Strategy is under preparation to consolidate ongoing activities and feedback received from stakeholders and technical experts. The GEF has further increased its reach by making classes available in different languages. Over 12,000 participants received a certificate upon completion of any of the e-courses. Both the Gender and the Introduction to the GEF e-courses are now also available in Spanish and French. In addition, the GEF has made available the e-course on the GEF Results Framework in French, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Developed with the Small Grants Programme

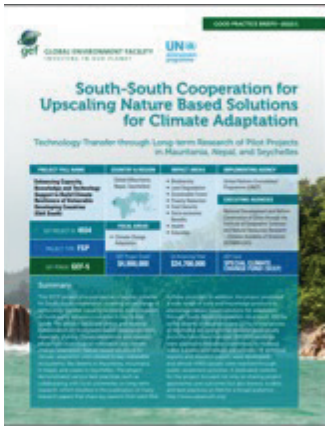
In addition, two new Good Practice Briefs on South-South Cooperation for Upscaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation and Enhancing Engagement of Private Sector and Local Communities on Peatland Management have been produced. An online seminar on Good Practice Briefs also took place to introduce good practice examples on community participation and governance for environmental sustainability in Paraguay and Indonesia.

VIDEO

Learning from Good Practices: Community Participation and Governance for Environmental Sustainability

PUBLICATION

Good Practice Brief: South-South Cooperation for Upscaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation



GEF Good Practice Brief: Enhancing Engagement of Private Sector and Local Communities on Peatland Management

Printed on Environmentally Friendly Paper

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The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the Rio Earth Summit to tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, it has provided more than $22 billion in grants and blended finance and mobilized an additional $120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,200 projects and programs. The GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature and supports the implementation of major international environmental conventions including on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, and desertification. It brings together 184 member governments in addition to civil society, international organizations, and private sector partners. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to more than 27,000 civil society and community initiatives in 136 countries.

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