The GEF at a Glance

The GEF is the world's family of funds for the environment. As the financial mechanism for six multilateral conventions, the GEF supports countries' efforts to tackle the root causes of environmental degradation—advancing global goals for nature, climate, and pollution.

186
participant countries

$14B
in GEF financing for initiatives currently underway

is expected to unlock
$89B
in co-financing

More than 1/3 of active projects and programs support Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries

Three Decades of Investing in the Planet

Overall since 1991:

$28B
in financing provided

$157B
in capital mobilized

Support for protected areas larger than the size of Australia

Family of Funds

The GEF was established in 1991, ahead of the Rio Earth Summit, as a single entity to address global environmental challenges including biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution. Today, it includes six funds that work together to propel country-driven initiatives that advance progress related to multilateral environmental agreements.

Serve the Convention on Biological Diversity

GEF Trust Fund: Focus on biodiversity, chemicals and waste, climate change, international waters, and land health, plus integrated programming for systems change.

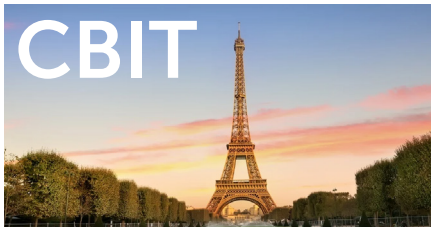
Global Biodiversity Framework Fund: Launched in 2023 to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 2030 nature-positive goals.

Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund: Supports action on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Serve the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Least Developed Countries Fund: The only dedicated source of multilateral funding to support the climate adaptation needs of Least Developed Countries.

Special Climate Change Fund: Climate adaptation fund focused on technology and innovation, with a dedicated window of support to Small Island Developing States.



Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Trust Fund: Support for climate change data and reporting, in support of the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

Scan the QR code to access the strategies and programming directions for each fund

Connecting Multiple Conventions

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Governance

GEF ASSEMBLY
186 participants
Meets every 4 years

GEF COUNCIL
32 members • Meets twice a year

18 constituencies of recipient countries

14 constituencies of non-recipient countries

TRUSTEE

CEO & CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARIAT

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
18 designated partners

The LDCF, SCCF and GBFF have their own Council and governance arrangements in response to COP decisions. The GBFF, for example, has an expanded governance with tailored roles for non-sovereign contributors, experts from developing countries, and observers representing IPLCs, women, youth, the private sector and philanthropies.

The World Bank is the GEF's Trustee and provides administrative services.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

ADB

AfDB

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

FAO

IDB

IFAD

UNDP

UN environment programme

UNIDO

WORLD BANK GROUP

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

CAF DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

DBSA DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

FECO

FUNBIO

IUCN

BOAD

WWF

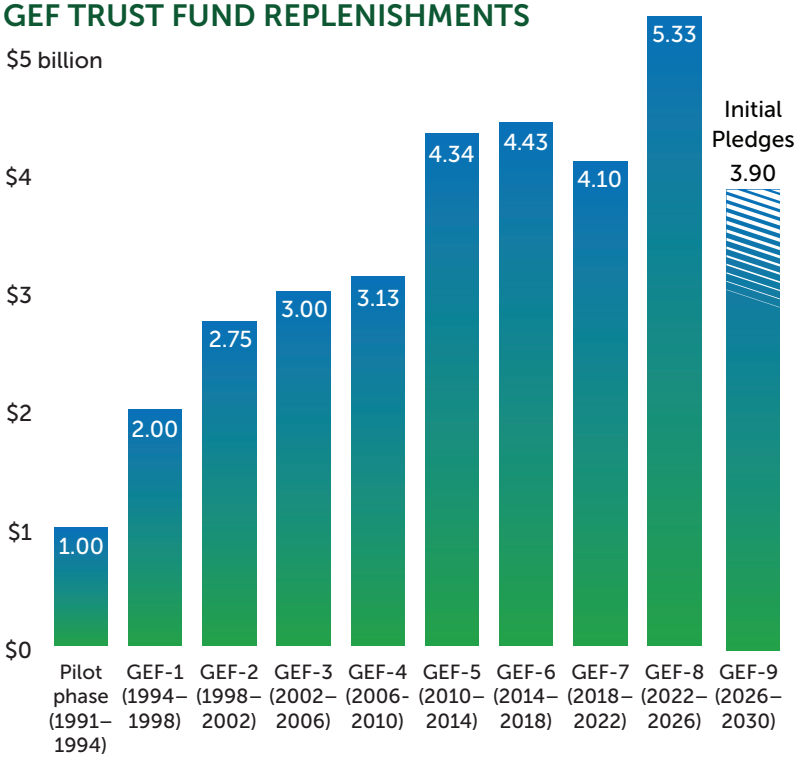
Agency factsheets:

Country profiles:

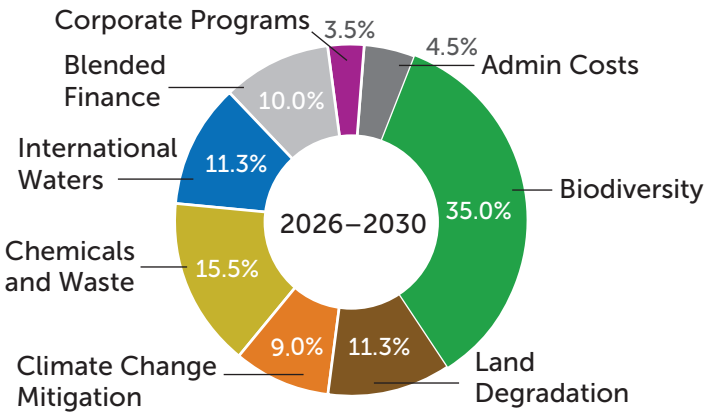
Funding

The GEF Trust Fund is replenished every four years. In a unique feature, some recipient countries are also donors to the GEF. Funding is primarily provided as grants, and the GEF also provides non-grant instruments to mobilize private capital in blended finance structures.

GEF TRUST FUND REPLENISHMENTS



GEF-9 RESOURCE ALLOCATION



PRIORITIES FOR THE GEF-9 SPRINT TO 2030

- Advancing integrated solutions at scale
- Mainstreaming blended finance
- Fostering whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches
- Securing robust funding for LDCs and SIDS
- Scaling up support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Increasing efficiency and effectiveness

KEY TARGETS FOR GEF-9

- 20% of financing for projects that directly benefit Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- 25% of GEF financing to mobilize private capital through blended finance and grants
- 25% of financing through multilateral development banks
- 35% of financing to Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries
- No single implementing agency to exceed 25% of GEF-9 resources.