



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# Forests and the GEF

A brief look at two decades  
of support for forests.

First GEF forest  
project:  
Iwokrama  
Rain Forest  
Programme  
– *Guyana*

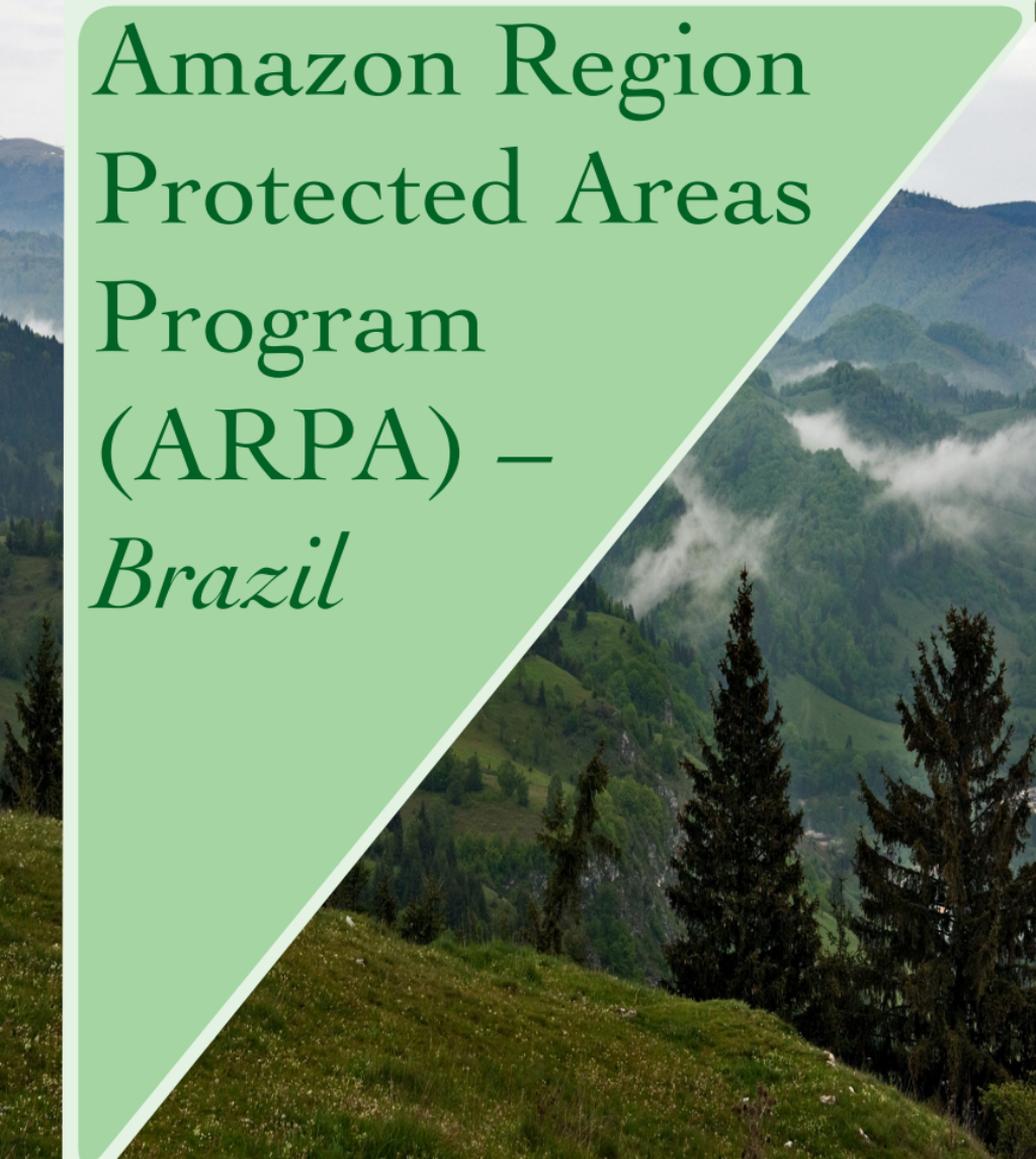
1991





Through ARPA, we have been able to assist Brazil in its efforts to reduce deforestation. The program will cover nearly 70 million ha of rainforest avoiding 1.1 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission through 2050.

2000



Amazon Region  
Protected Areas  
Program  
(ARPA) –  
*Brazil*



Forest  
Sector  
Development  
Project –  
*Vietnam*

2003

- 
- 76,500 hectares of forest established for 43,000+ households
  - 35,000 households land use right certificates issued
  - Forest sector capacity for SFM improved



Paving  
the way  
for multiple  
focal area  
investments that  
yield benefits in  
REDD+ knowledge  
and capacity on REDD  
issues in six countries

2008



Tropical Forest  
Account in  
GEF-4 –  
*Amazonia, Congo  
Basin, SE-Asia*



GEF-5  
SFM/REDD+  
Incentive  
Mechanism

2010

Greater Mekong  
Subregion  
Forest &  
Biodiversity  
Program

GEF-6 SFM

program:

“Strengthened  
Support for  
Forests”

2014



# GEF Support for Forests

Over its 24-year history, the GEF has recognized the multiple functions of forests and promoted appropriate management systems to develop long-term, sustainable approaches to maintaining forests, the goods and services they provide, and the livelihoods they support.

This drive for multiple benefits is reinforced by GEF's unique position to respond to the combined guidance of the three Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) all of which emphasize the importance of conservation, sustainable use and management of forests.

Responding to UNFFF, GEF has focused on supporting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), including through the 2008 Tropical Forest Account, the GEF-5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive, and the GEF-6 SFM Strategy, which also simplifies access and provides additional support to LFCCs and SIDS.

GEF supports the drive to strengthen political commitment to SFM by making forests part of sustainable development, and anchoring them in the post- 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

GEF is also an active partner of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to support the work of the Forum. We work closely with CPF partners, and build on existing efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues.

## Key numbers:

- 380+ forest-related projects
- 2.1 million in GEF grants
- \$9.5 billion in co-financing
- GEF-5: \$700 M forest-related projects, 69 projects, 80 countries
- GEF-6: \$250 M SFM incentive envelope, \$45 M Commodities IAP, aiming for over \$750 million total investment

# Early Initiatives

## 1991

### Programme for Sustainable Forestry: Iwokrama Rainforest (Guyana)

The program put 360,000 hectares of Guyana's tropical rain forest in an international program to preserve its unique biodiversity and develop techniques for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest resources in innovative ways.

Among its major outcomes were the establishment of Iwokrama as an international center for rain forest conservation; a long-term plan for Iwokrama's institutional development, sustainable forestry and biodiversity conservation programmes; construction of an operational field station and setup of a geographic information system; completion of baseline surveys of Iwokrama's flora, fauna, timber, and non-timber resources; and the development of an ecotourism strategy and business plan for long-term self-sufficiency.

## 2000

### Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA) – Brazil

The ARPA GEF/World Bank project is a three phased program designed to conserve biodiversity of global importance in Brazil's Amazon Region.

As an innovative public-private partnership back in 2000 bringing together government, civil society and financing partners ARPA's 1st phase created 13 "strict protection" PAs totaling 13.2 million hectares, and 30 "sustainable use" PAs totaling 10.8 million hectares. ARPA has expanded forest protection by some 25 million hectares, surpassing its original goal of 18 million. WWF has been a key partner in ARPA, providing technical support and attracting additional donors.

GEF invested \$30 million in ARPA's 1st phase for Biodiversity and SLM considerations, but its impacts on forests have been substantial, reducing deforestation in the Amazon by 80% over the past 10 years. ARPA is a key example of GEF's approach to generate multiple environmental benefits from forests in areas of very high biodiversity and significant carbon stocks, while preserving the key functions of forests for local communities.

# Consolidated Support

## 2005

### Forest Sector Development Project (Vietnam)

The GEF/World Bank project achieved the sustainable management of (plantation) forests and the conservation of biodiversity in special use forests to enhance the contribution of forestry to rural poverty reduction and global environmental protection. It provided attractive packages to mainly poor farming households to plant trees on a sustainable basis, generating additional income and employment. It provided small competitive grants to effectively manage priority special use forests of international importance, and enhanced capacity at the regional, provincial, district and site levels.

## 2008

### The GEF-4 Tropical Forest Account & the Congo Basin Program

The GEF Council approved the GEF Program on Sustainable Forest Management with the goal to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.

With climate change mitigation as a central component, GEF created a special program focusing on the three largest blocks of tropical forest through the Tropical Forest Account, complementing the resources available to countries in biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. With the SFM program, a range of REDD-related activities became eligible for funding, anticipating future needs.

The GEF approved a \$50 million program on SFM in the Congo Basin that leveraged \$150 million in co-financing, designed through a participatory process that built countries' sense of ownership. Its objective was to improve African countries' knowledge and capacity for REDD issues, and help them articulate this new concept within the broader agenda of SFM. The project built capacities for measurement and monitoring of carbon stocks through technical assistance, and included a South-South Exchange on community forestry and REDD+ in Brazil with six African countries.

# Multiple Benefits through SFM

2011

## GEF-5 SFM/REDD Incentive Mechanism & Greater Mekong Subregion Forests & Biodiversity Program

This GEF-5 partnership between the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries, the GEF, ADB, the World Bank, UNDP and other stakeholders provides opportunities to address trans-boundary forest and biodiversity issues in a strategic manner. It offers larger scale approaches, cross-border landscape conservation through international cooperation, and joint capacity development and knowledge exchanges between GMS countries.

The program supports protected areas, forests, land and watershed management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable livelihoods development. It assists in harmonizing conservation policies and across borders, promoting cooperation on reducing illegal trade in wildlife and forest products, developing capacities for maintaining protected areas and conservation landscapes, and mobilizing sustainable finance for conservation.

2014

## GEF-6 SFM Program: Strengthened Support for Forests

The GEF-6 SFM Strategy advocates an integrated approach at the landscape level, embracing ecosystem principles and including livelihood objectives in the management of forest ecosystems. GEF aims to achieve multiple benefits through the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and combating land degradation, while mainstreaming gender equality.

**The Belarus Forestry Development Project (GEF/WB)** was the first full-size project approved in GEF-6. This project will enhance the management of biodiversity and forest carbon resources, increase the use of felling residues and improve the public goods contribution from forests in Belarus. The project will also improve forest fire prevention, detection and management, improve possible responses to pest outbreaks, species dieback and ecological change, and improve inventory and measuring capacity for national level forest data.

# ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility is a partnership for international cooperation where 183 countries work together with international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, to address global environmental issues.

Since 1991, the GEF has provided \$13.5 billion in grants and leveraged \$65 billion in co-financing for 3,900 projects in more than 165 developing countries. For 23 years, developed and developing countries alike have provided these funds to support activities related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programs.

Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP) the GEF has made more than 20,000 grants to civil society and community based organizations for a total of \$1 billion.

Among the major results of these investments, the GEF has set up protected areas around the world equal roughly to the area of Brazil; reduced carbon emissions by 2.3 billion tonnes; eliminated the use of ozone depleting substances in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia; transformed the management of 33 major river basins and one-third of the world's large marine ecosystems; slowed the advance of desertification in Africa by improving agricultural practices — and all this while contributing to better the livelihood and food security of millions of people.

## GEF PARTNER AGENCIES

Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
African Development Bank (AfDB)  
Conservation International (CI)  
Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)  
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)  
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
The World Bank Group  
World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)

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