



GEF Social Media

#fortheplanet

#GEF8



SCAN ME



GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop for Western Africa Coastal



February 2024

DAY 2

AGENDA

- ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY
- SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM
- CONVERSATION WITH CSOs AND YOUTH
- BREAK
- GEF COMMUNICATIONS
- NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT
- LUNCH
- INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON GENDER:
 - GEFSEC, OFPs, Convention FPs
- EMPOWERING GEF OFPs



GEF AND CIVIL SOCIETY



GEF's Approach, Support and Engagement with Civil Society and other Stakeholders

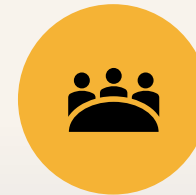
Increasing the scale and scope of GEF's engagement and financing for Civil Society



CSOs ROLES IN THE GEF



Project
executors and
co-executors
through
partnerships



Deliver
national and
local solutions
and promote
policy change

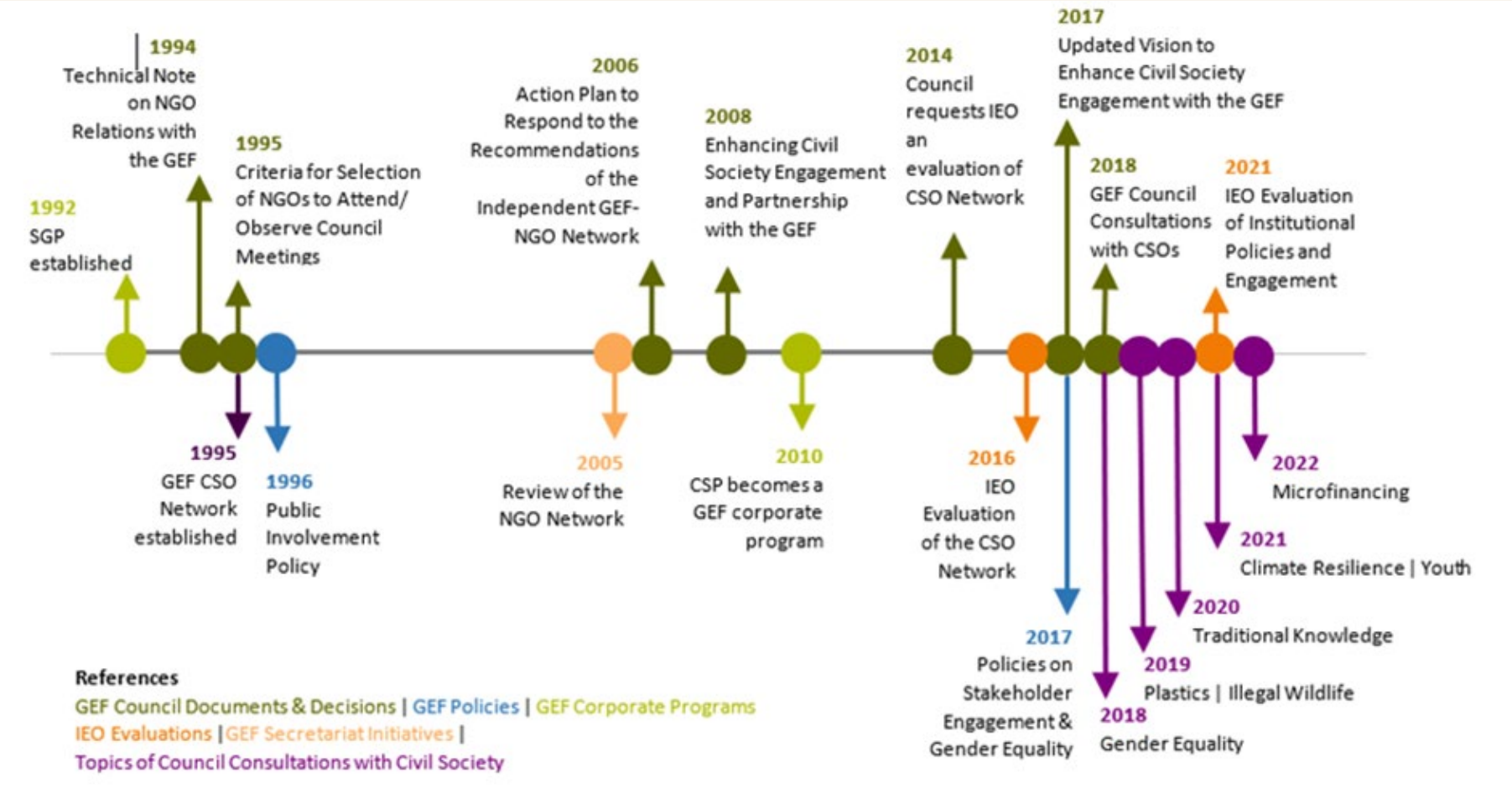


Contribute co-
financing



Influence GEF
policy and
strategies

GEF's EVOLVING ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs





GEF CSO Network

- A voluntary network of civil society organizations established in 1995
- Organized around Regional Focal Points, Chair, Vice Chair and a Network Secretariat
- Evolving mandate in the GEF Governance
- Enhancing the engagement of civil society in the work of the GEF
- Providing feedback to the GEF Council in the development and adoption of policies and guidelines
- Supporting and leading activities such as CSO consultations and workshops, as well as the GEF Assemblies



PATHWAYS FOR INCREASED ENGAGEMENT

GEF-8 PRIORITIES

- Increase financing to civil society organizations
- Leverage and support civil society and youth engaged with the Conventions that the GEF serves
- Improving civil society roles and engagement in project design and implementation
- Facilitate civil society roles, voices and engagement in the GEF Council, Assembly and relevant events

GEF GENDER PARTNERSHIP



Review of projects



Capacity-building



Assessment of agency compliance



Knowledge and learning



GEF Gender Partnership



Engagement with stakeholders

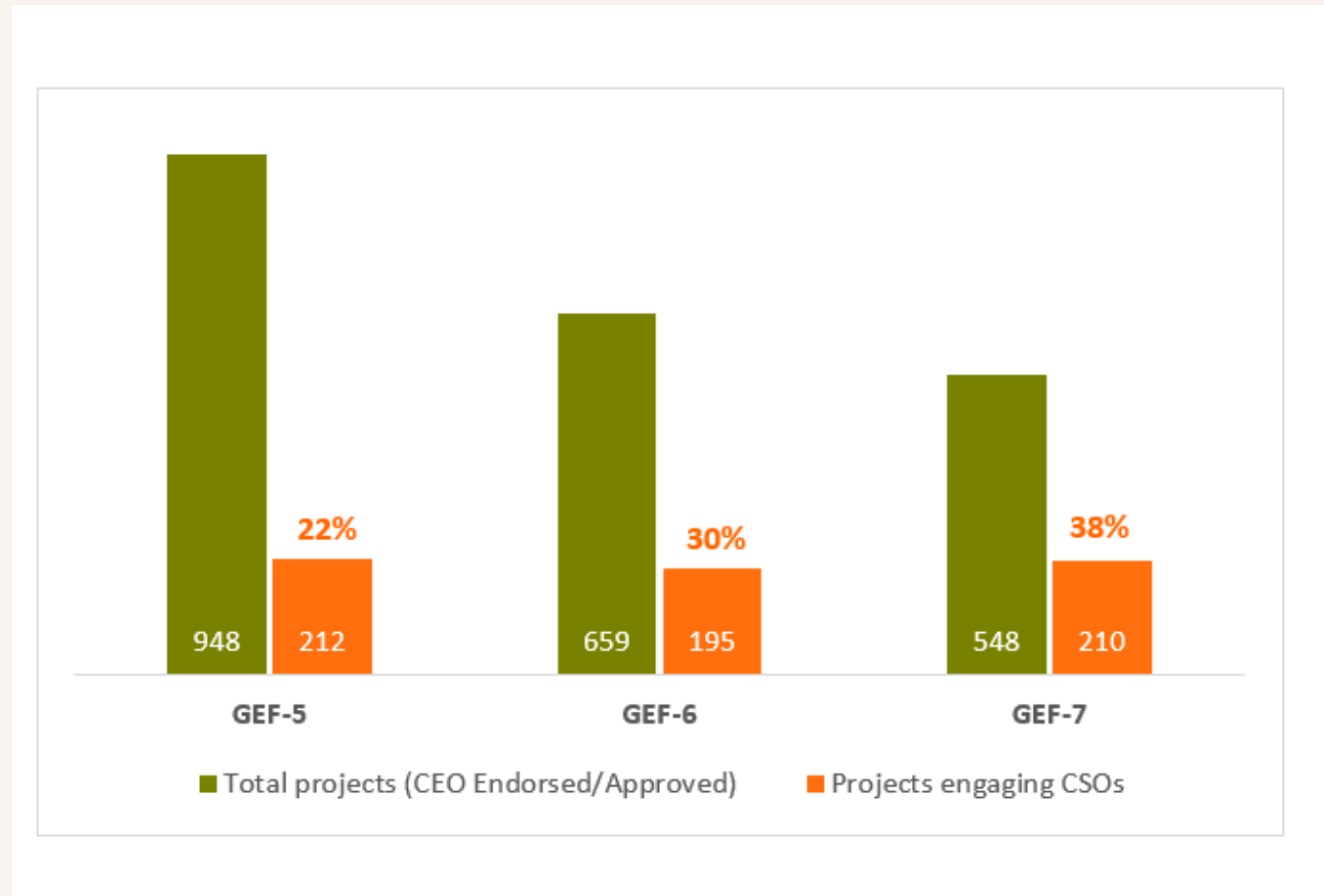


Awareness-raising Communications



CSO ENGAGEMENT IN GEF PROJECTS BY CYCLE

Increasing CSOs involvement in GEF project execution



LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



ECW Western Africa
Coastal

SGP Overview

- Local solutions to global environmental problems
- Supports innovative community-based initiatives and actions
- Since 1992, GEF Corporate Program, implemented by UNDP
- SGP is currently active in 127 countries including 40 LDCs and 37 SIDS

SINCE ITS
INCEPTION
IN 1992,
SGP HAS
IMPLEMENTED



SGP Value Proposition

INCLUSION

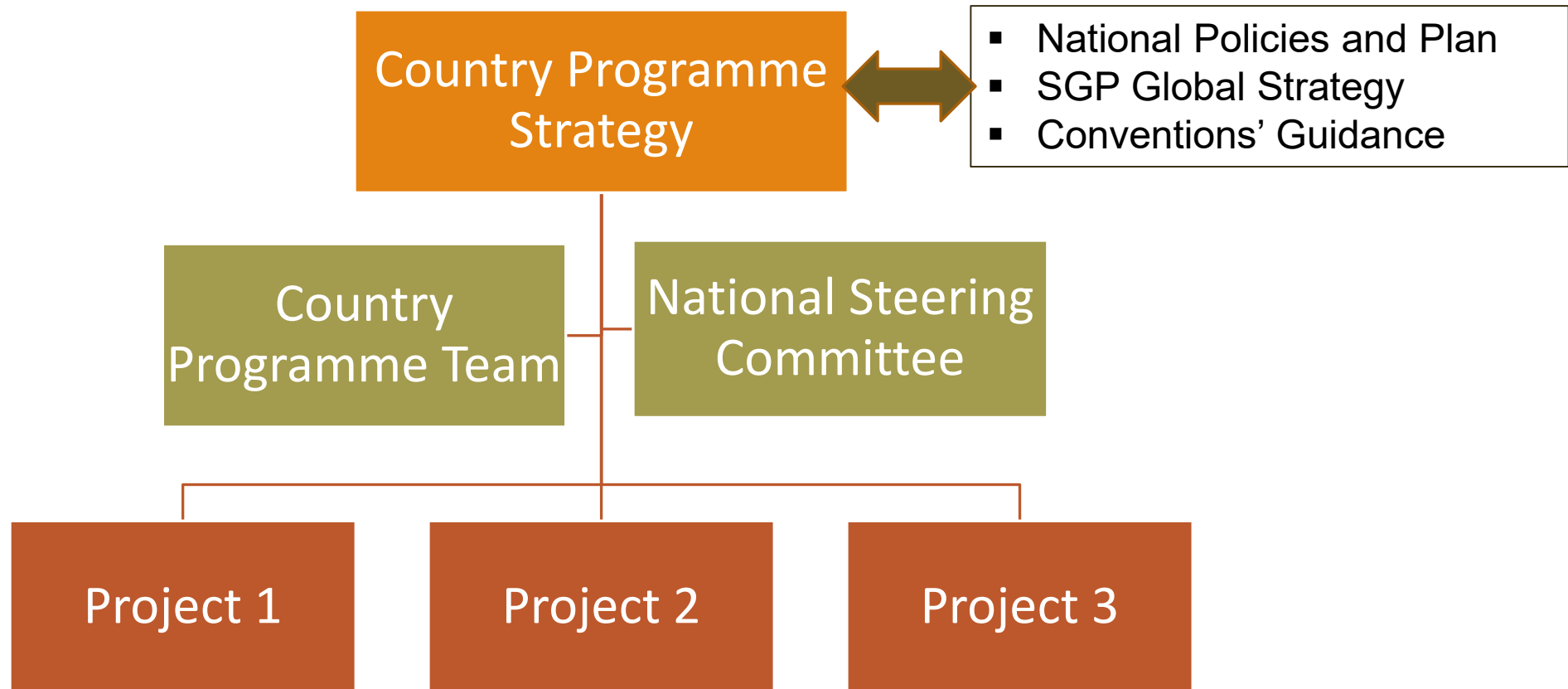
INNOVATION

IMPACT

- Strategic platform for community-based actions for synergy, scaling up, and sustainability;
- Incubator of Innovative solutions and risk taker to safeguard the global environment;
- Focus on critical landscapes and seascapes for larger impacts, upscaling, and knowledge sharing.
- Focus on social inclusion in maximizing global environmental benefits



How we work



SGP Country Management

- National Steering Committees supported by Technical Advisory Groups
- The role of SGP Implementing Agencies
- The role of the GEF OFP
- Key interest groups representation (climate, gender, Women, Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Governments).



Nature of Grants

- Full Size Grants - Maximum \$75K – average is \$30K
- Strategic Grants - Maximum \$150K – scaling up, transboundary, regional or international activities



Africa Portfolio Overview

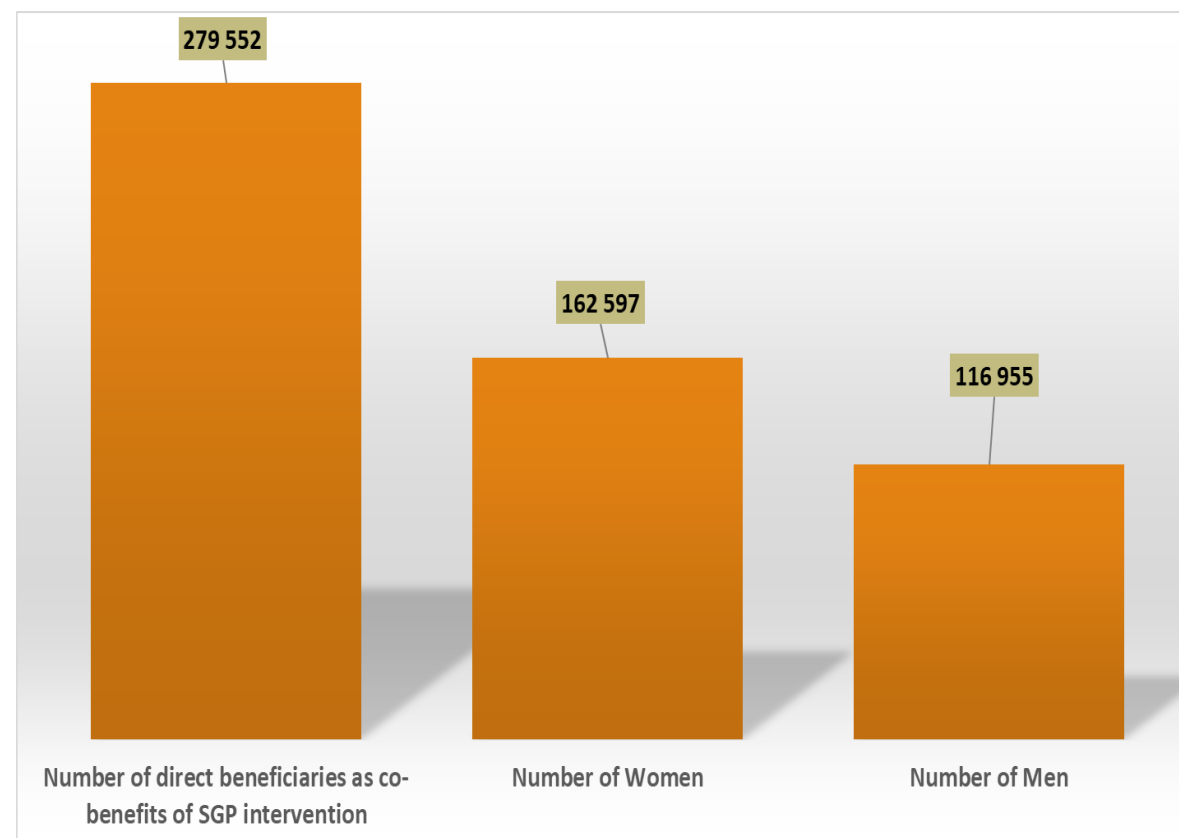
Coverage: SGP Africa Region refers to sub-Saharan Africa with 40 active country programmes

- **SGP Africa overall Finance for GEF-7 : TOTAL \$64.75 million**

- CORE estimate: \$39,458,467
- STAR: \$25,291,924

- **Ongoing Portfolio:** 1 July 2022 – 30 June 20232

- **New Projects:** 552
- **Completed projects:** 216
- **Ongoing Projects:** 905
- **Project Funding:** *USD 27.71 million*
- **Project Level Cofinancing:** *USD 22.90 million*



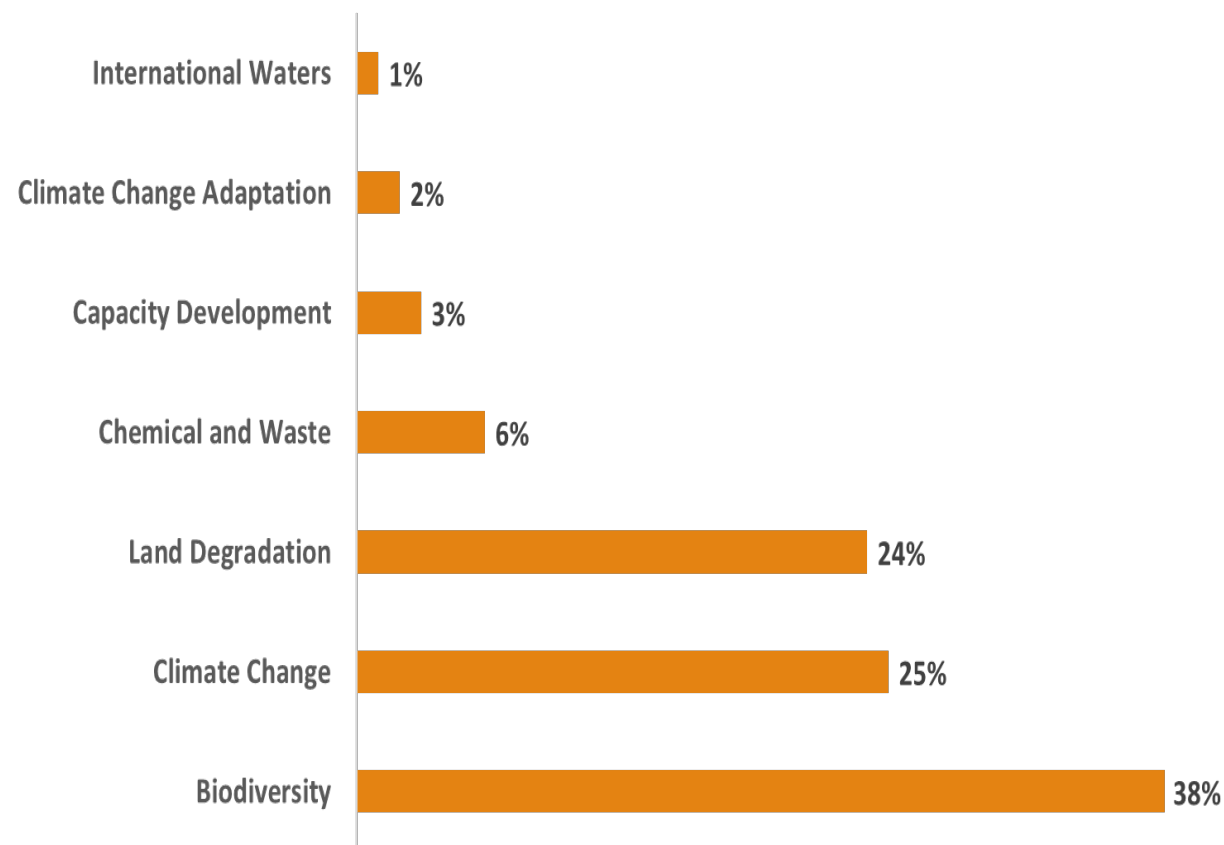
Regional Focus and key results

GLOBAL STRATEGIC & INTEGRATED APPROACH

Relevant strategic initiatives implemented in priority landscapes and seascapes based on SGP Country Programme Strategy:

1. Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries - Food Security
2. Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits
3. Community-based Threatened Ecosystems and Species Conservation: Land and Water
4. Local to Global Coalitions in Chemicals and Waste Management
5. Catalyzing Sustainable Urban Solutions
6. Community-based Adaptation (non-GEF finance)

Key cross cutting issues for consideration: Social inclusion, South-South cooperation, Knowledge Management, policy dialogue, etc.



2019- 2023 Africa Regional key results

BIODIVERSITY

413

PA and ICCAs, positively influenced effective management



CLIMATE CHANGE

117,566

households with energy access benefits



LAND DEGRADATION

219,902

community members demonstrating SLM practices



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

991 CSOs

1737 CBOs

39,489 people with improved capacity



INTERNATIONAL WATERS

122,951 Hectares of seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems



CHEMICALS AND WASTE

40 tons of pesticides properly disposed



SCALING UP

13% of projects scaled up

12% of projects influenced policy

SOCIAL INCLUSION

25% women-led projects

22% youth participation

14.7% indigenous peoples

370 organizations of persons with disability

COUNTRY	Year started	Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	SGP in OP7	Included in UNDP T1 PIF	
Benin	2007	97	\$3,249,872	Yes	Yes	
Cote d'Ivoire	1993	396	\$6,885,157	Yes	Yes	
Ghana	1993	292	\$7,081,317	Yes	Yes	
Guinea	2010	160	\$4,305,587	Yes	Yes	
Liberia	2009	141	\$4,300,900	Yes	Yes	
Nigeria	2009	178	\$6,724,997	Yes	Yes	
Sierra Leone	2013	168	\$3,843,593	Yes	Yes	
Togo	2010	144	\$3,923,015	Yes	Yes	

West
Africa
portfolio
status



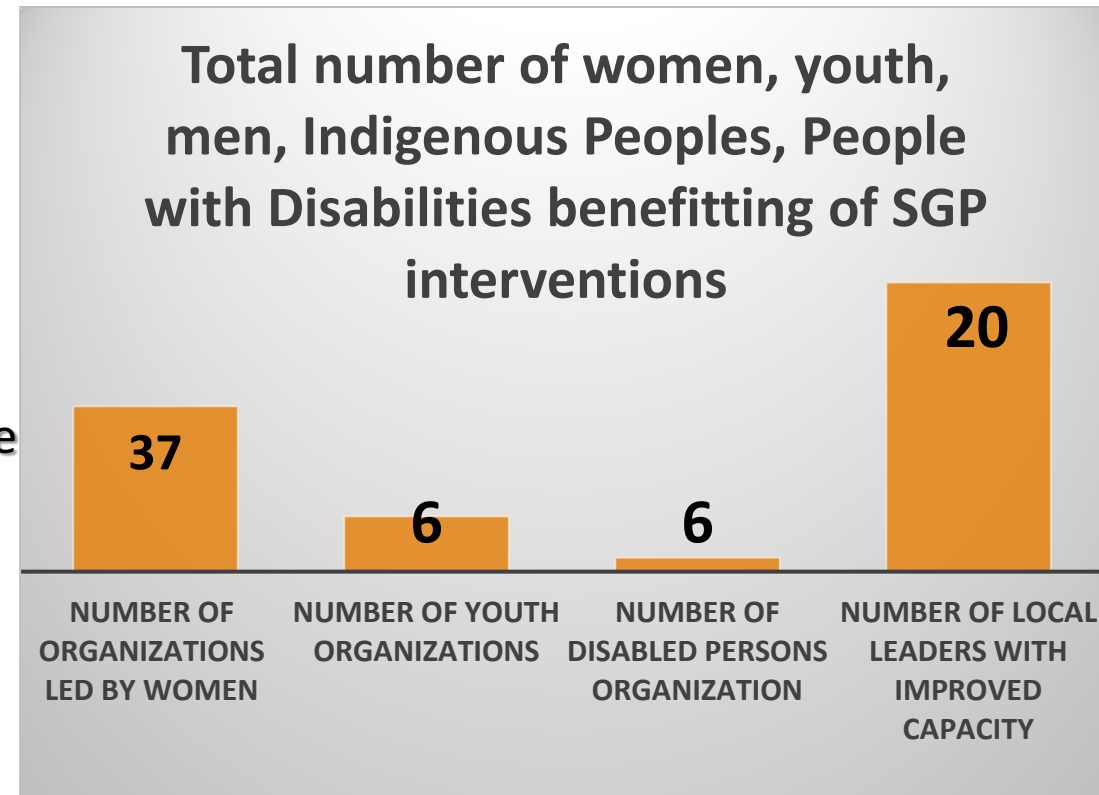
Country case: Liberia

Small Grant Programme (SGP)

- Start year: 2009
- Supported more than 142 projects

Grants

- Total grants provided since the start: 4,315,900 USD
- Cofinancing: 2,770,180 USD
 - ✓ In kind: 2,596,180 USD
 - ✓ Cash: 159,000 USD
- Grant source: CORE, STAR Funds.



Awards and recognition and key partnerships



LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

Awards:

Locals in Liberia hold SGP in high regard due to its exceptional achievements in its operational domains, which have resulted in over 20 Best Environmental Awards from both national and local establishments.

Partnerships:

Over 829 partnerships have been formed by SGP with donors, governmental organizations, UN agencies, the private sector, civil societies, and other important local stakeholders since the programme inception in 2009.

SGP Liberia key results and achievements

Focal areas	Quantity in hectares or tons
Biodiversity	Hectares of Protected Areas (383,574 Ha)
Climate Change (mitigation or adaptation)	Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects (39,237 Ha)
Land degradation	Hectares of land brought under improved management practices (108,703 Ha)
International waters	Hectares of marine/coastal areas of fishing grounds brought under sustainable management (13,500 Ha)
Chemical and waste	Pesticides properly disposed (0.123 tons) Solid Waste avoided from open burning (0.984 tons) Harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release (0.098 tons) E-waste collected or recycled (0.123 tons)

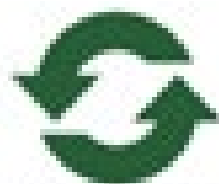
GEF Small Grants Program (SGP)



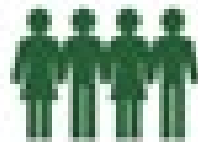
- A flagship corporate program of the GEF
- Demand-driven grants to local communities
- Direct financing and capacity development to CSOs and CBOs
- Local conservation, development, and livelihoods results
- Global Environmental Benefits

Launch of SGP 2.0 in GEF-8

Enhancing GEF's engagement and support to non-state actors



Build on over
30 years SGP
implementation

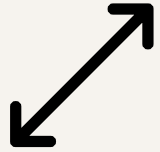


Respond to
civil society
needs and
requests



Pilot new
models and
approaches

Small Grants Program 2.0



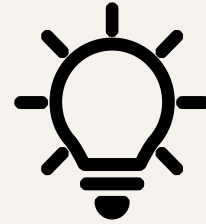
EXPAND

- Increase financial resources to civil society actors
- Enable greater scope and reach of SGP
- Ensure access to SGP core financing for all eligible GEF countries



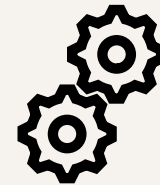
DIVERSIFY

- Open implementation roles for other existing GEF Agencies



INNOVATE

- Pilot a micro-finance model
- Launch a CSO Challenge Program to offer competitive access to civil society actors



OPTIMIZE

- Codify management protocols and operational oversight
- Strengthen SGP alignment with GEF-8 strategy



NEW FEATURES SGP IN GEF-8

- Open up SGP implementing roles of SGP Core
- Eliminate the SGP upgrading country policy
- Recalibrate cost efficiency measures and reporting
- Launch novel two new CSO Initiatives, focused on youth, women and IPLCs

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM (SGP)

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

US\$155 Million



Resources are operationalized through two tranches split 50/50

- 1st tranche opened to UNDP only (PIF submitted in 2023)
- 2nd tranche open to UNDP, FAO and CI (PIF's expected to be submitted before December Council 2024)

1

All countries can access SGP Core Resources

2

SGP Core Resources are allocated **equally**
\$937,500

3

Countries are encouraged to utilize **STAR**

SMALL GRANTS CORE PROGRAM

Landscape and Seascape Approach

Thematic Priorities

- Community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species
- Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries and Food Security
- Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-Benefits
- Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management
- Catalyzing Sustainable Urban Solutions

Aligned with
GEF-8
Strategy
and
Impact
programs

Cross-cutting priorities

- Enhance social inclusion and engagement of IPLC, women and youth
- Facilitate Government-CSO-Private Sector collaboration
- Support capacity building
- Advance knowledge management and learning

SGP 2.0 CSO INITIATIVES

MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE

Support Microfinancing Institutions to facilitate microenterprises' access to finance for climate and environmental solutions

CSO CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Support competitive opportunities for local civil society organizations to access financial and technical resources to scale up innovative environmental solutions

- **Pilot new GEF models** to engage and support civil society actors to catalyze environmental actions and solutions
- **Support innovation** of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in LDCs and SIDS
- **Capitalize on expertise** of the GEF expanded Agency network and specialized organizations

OPERATIONALIZATION AND TIMELINES

CSO Initiatives

GEF SEC circulate a first call for proposals during 2023

Agency Selection

GEF SEC circulate an Expression of Interest in 2023





Questions?



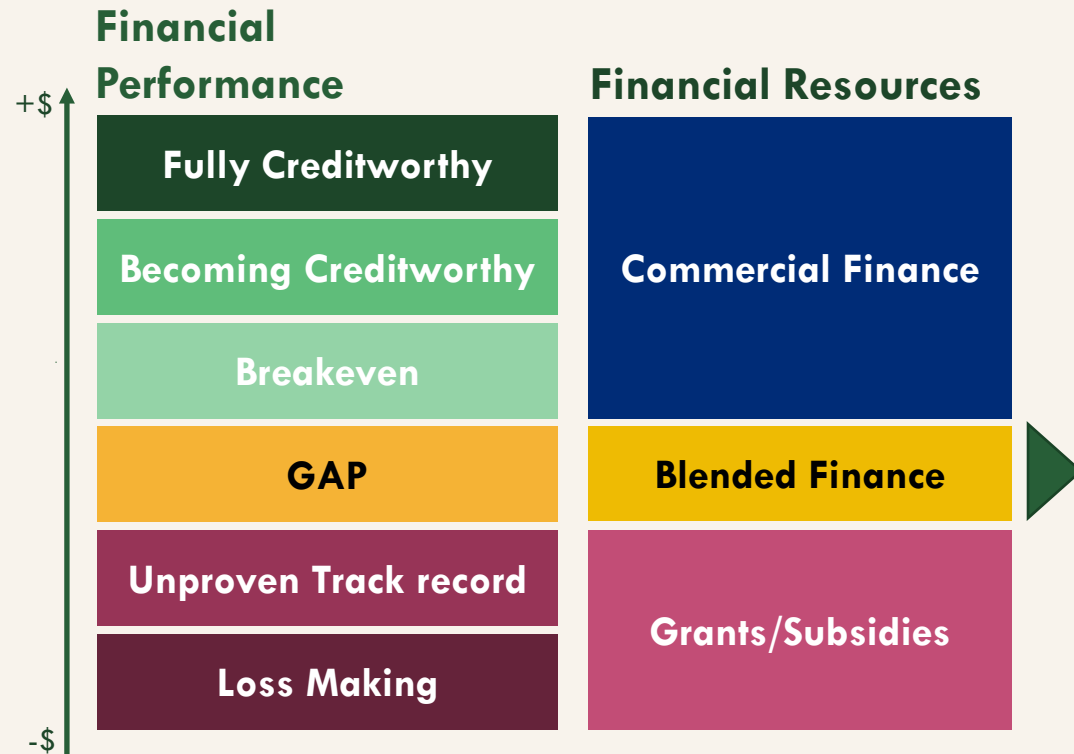
**GEF-8
Blended Finance
Program
(Non-Grant
Instrument)**



GEF Blended Finance Program (Non-Grant Instrument)

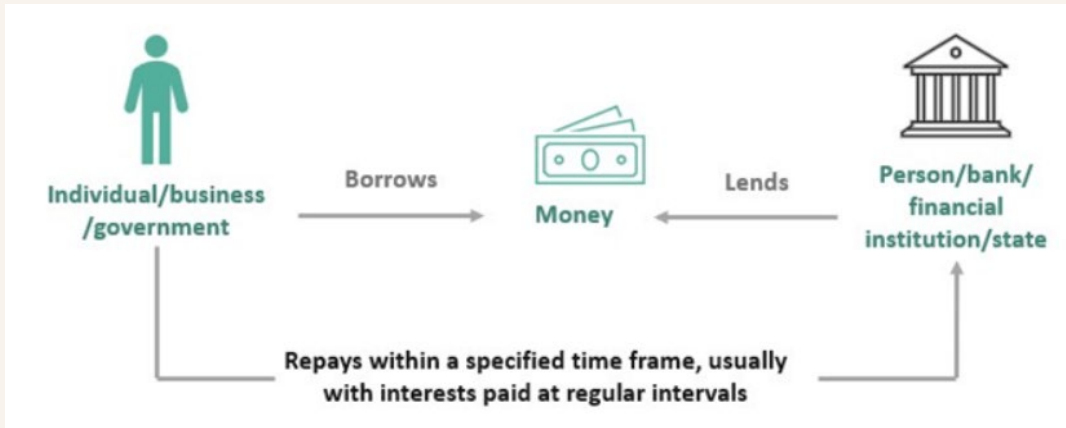
- What is Blended Finance?
- Two entry points
- Terms and conditions

What is Blended Finance?



Blended Finance is an investment mechanism filling the gap between *grants* and *commercial finance*. It is used in projects which commercial banks cannot finance due to *high risk*.

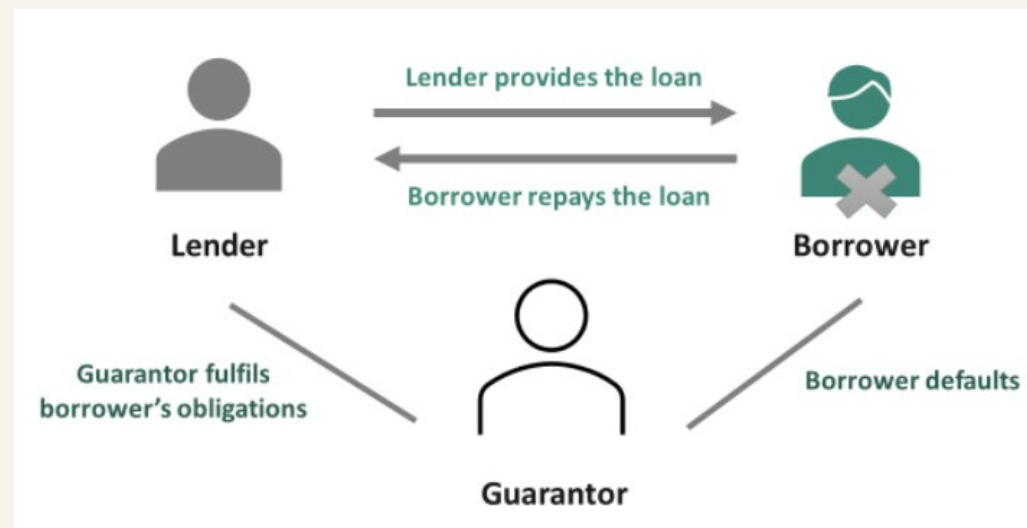
Debt: Money lent for repayment later, usually with interest. Concessional debt has favorable terms (longer payback period, lower priority for payback) or lower interest rates relative to market conditions

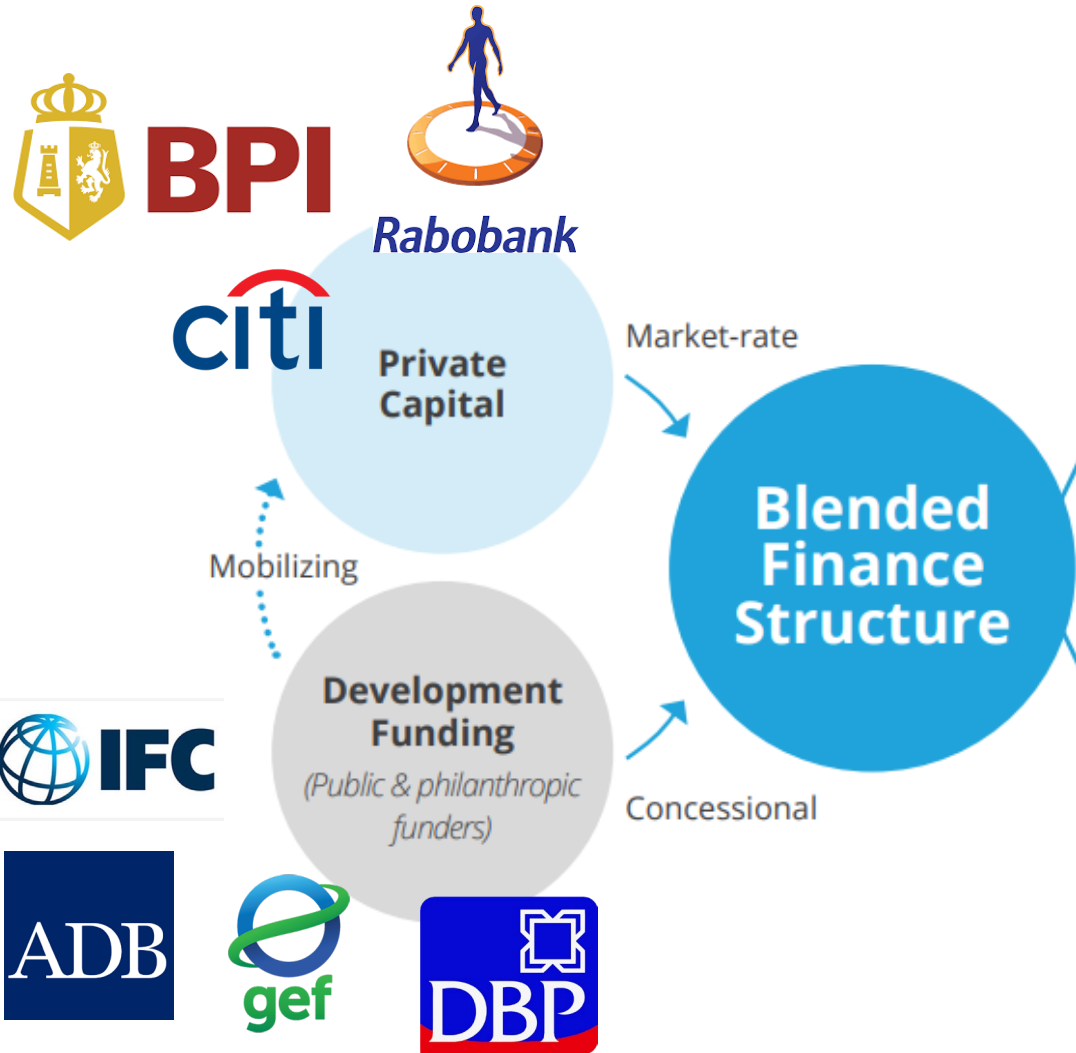


Equity: Instrument providing ownership in a company. GEF would accept higher risk for lower financial returns in exchange for environmental impact.



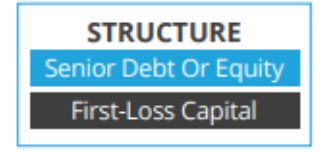
Guarantee: Instrument protecting investor's losses from various forms of risk (credit/performance).



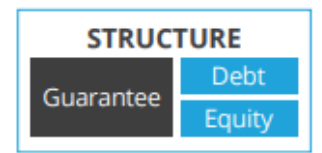


EXAMPLE STRUCTURES

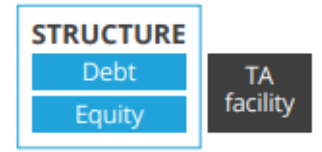
Private equity or debt funds with concessional public or philanthropic funding attracting institutional investment



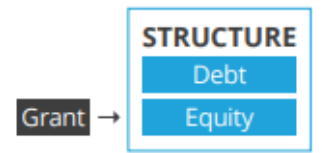
Bond or note issuances with concessionally priced guarantees or insurance from public or philanthropic funders



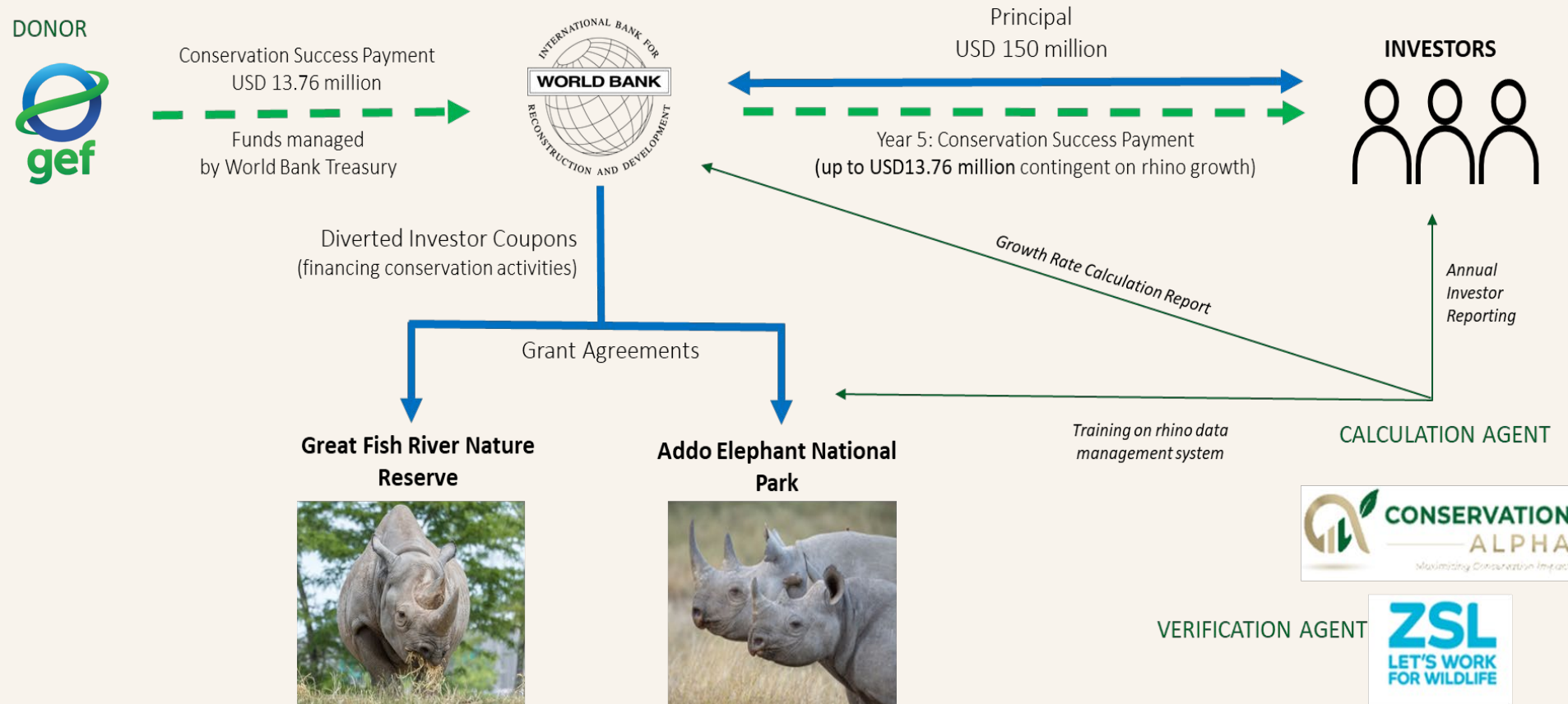
Grant funding from public or philanthropic funders to build capacity of investments to achieve expected financial and social return



Grant funding from public or philanthropic funders to design or structure projects to attract institutional investment



Wildlife Conservation Bond (GEF-7, 10330)



USE OF NON-GRANT INSTRUMENTS: 2 ENTRY POINTS

	GOAL	FEATURES	PROJECTS
<p>“BLENDED FINANCE PROGRAM” (NGI SET-ASIDE)</p>	<p>Mobilize private sector investment</p>	<p>Investment has potential for generating reflows back to the GEFTF</p> <p>Separate Call for Proposals (CfP) and rules for selection of projects</p>	<p>NGI window GEF-7 supported projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GEFID 9370 Meloy Fund (CI)</i> • <i>GEFID 10330 Wildlife Conservation Bond (WB)</i>
<p>STAR OR IW/CW ALLOCATION</p>	<p>Mobilize public/private sector investment</p>	<p>Investment reflows stay in the country</p> <p>Selection and allocation depend on Country priorities.</p>	<p>GEF-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GEFID 2108 Philippines Sustainable Energy Finance Program (WB)</i>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS NGI (GEF/C.63/12, FI/PL/02)

Financial products

Risk mitigation products, Equity, Debt,
Convertible and contingent instruments,
Grant for Technical Assistance

Minimum Concessionality*

Should be justified and documented

* Means recipients of concessional finance would not fully self-finance the initiative without GEF support, to avoid crowd-out other sources of financing

Financing Amount

< \$15M

(exception for global/regional project
with high impact)

Maximum maturity

< 20 years

Currency

Local currencies are acceptable
with risk and hedging strategy
disclosed and quantified

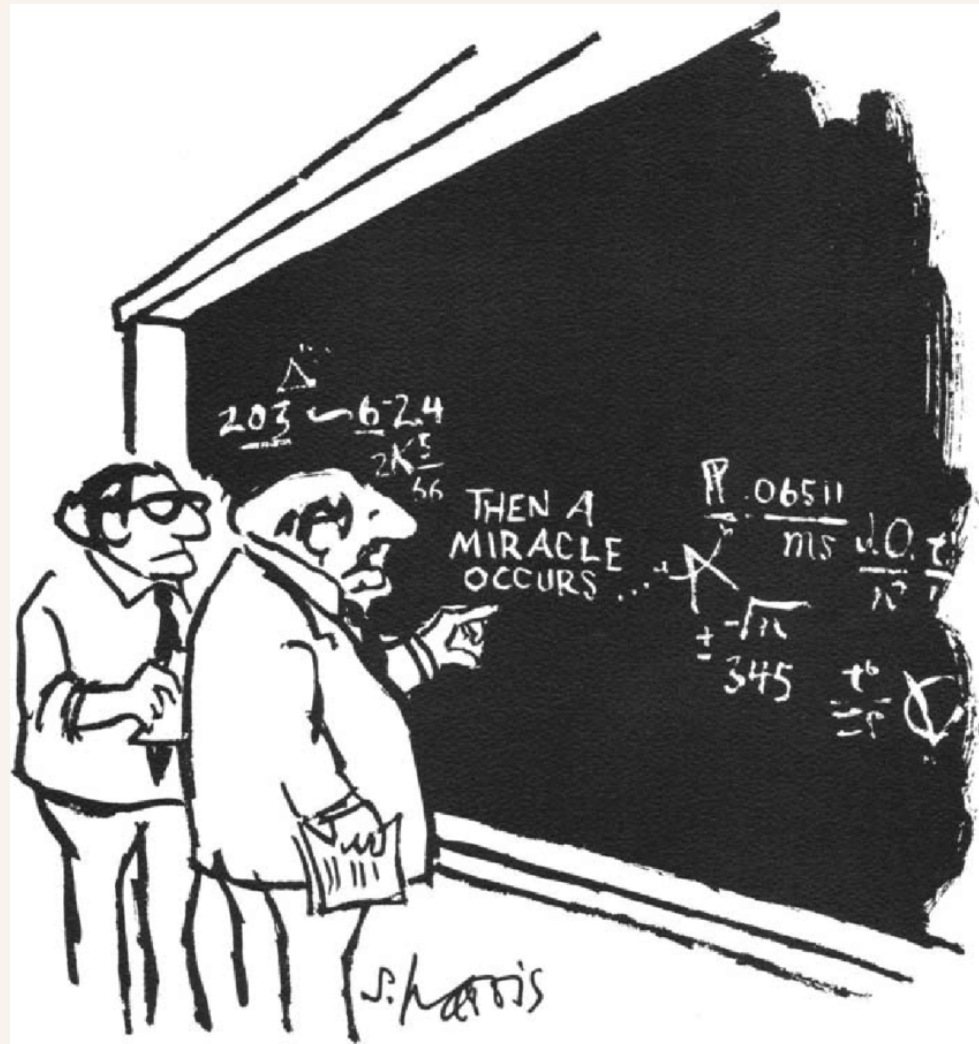


Questions?



POLICY COHERENCE IN GEF OPERATIONS





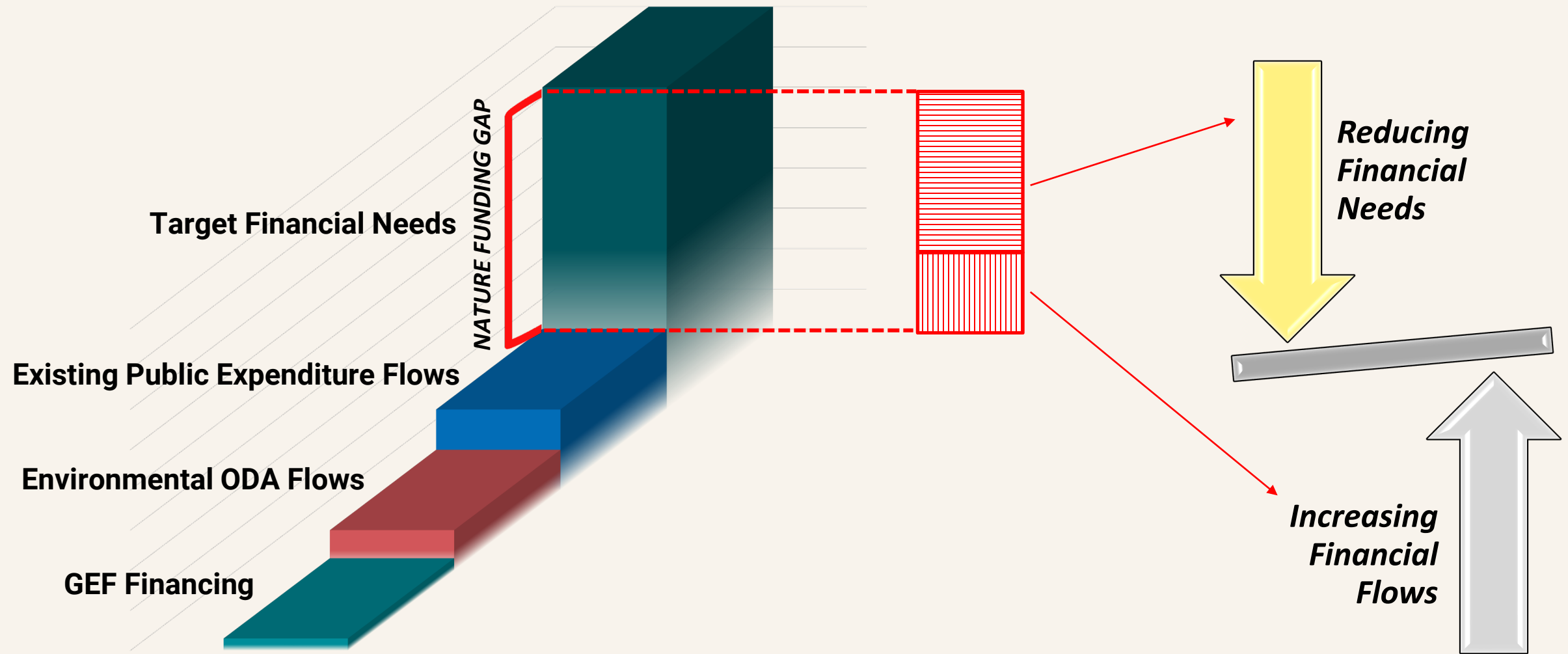
"I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE EXPLICIT HERE IN STEP TWO."

Policy Coherence

“the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies, creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives”



Closing the Nature Funding Gap

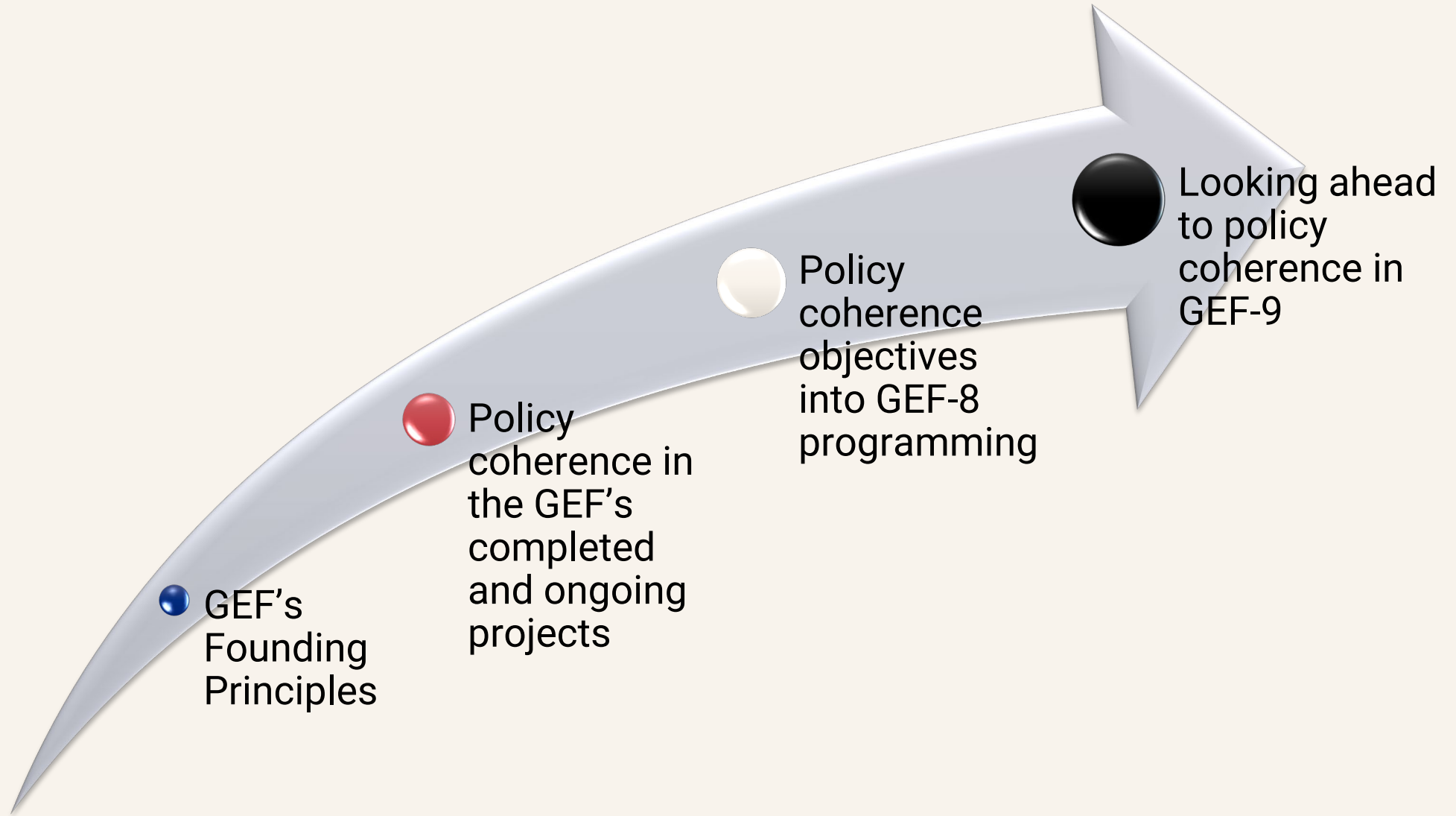


The Critical Role of Policy Coherence in GEF's Work

- “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach
- Cross-sectoral, cross-ministerial, and cross-institutional collaboration
- Align, catalyze and mobilize resources from different sources
- Enabling environment and eliminate perverse incentives that conflict with nature conservation efforts
- Narrow the nature funding gap

Policy coherence is an essential component of maximizing the benefits of nature investments and the sustainability of those benefits.

GEF has an Advancing Agenda on Policy Coherence

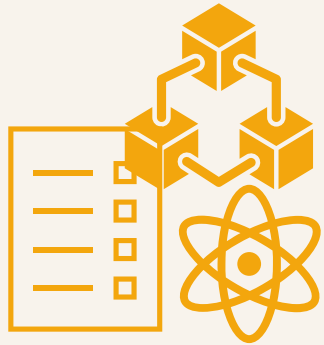


Policy Coherence in GEF Operations

Mandate from GEF Council (October 2023)



Policy Coherence in GEF Operations



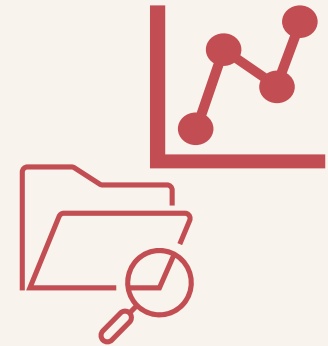
Mainstreaming into
GEF-8 design and
implementation
Dedicated
financing activities



National and
agency dialogues
National Steering
Committees



Knowledge
activities and
products



Assessing GEF
portfolio
Tools and indicators

EMPOWERING GEF OFPs

Best Practice & Information Sharing

Introducing Philippines National Steering Committee

Coordination with Convention Focal Points

Group Exercise & Discussion



AGENDA

PAST CHALLENGES
ON PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT

1

Proposals were endorsed on a *first come, first served* basis

2

Submission of project proposals are donor-driven

3

Lack of long-term strategic direction in programming



INITIATIVES

1

Government interagency mechanism headed by the GEF OFF & PFP with Convention focal points

2

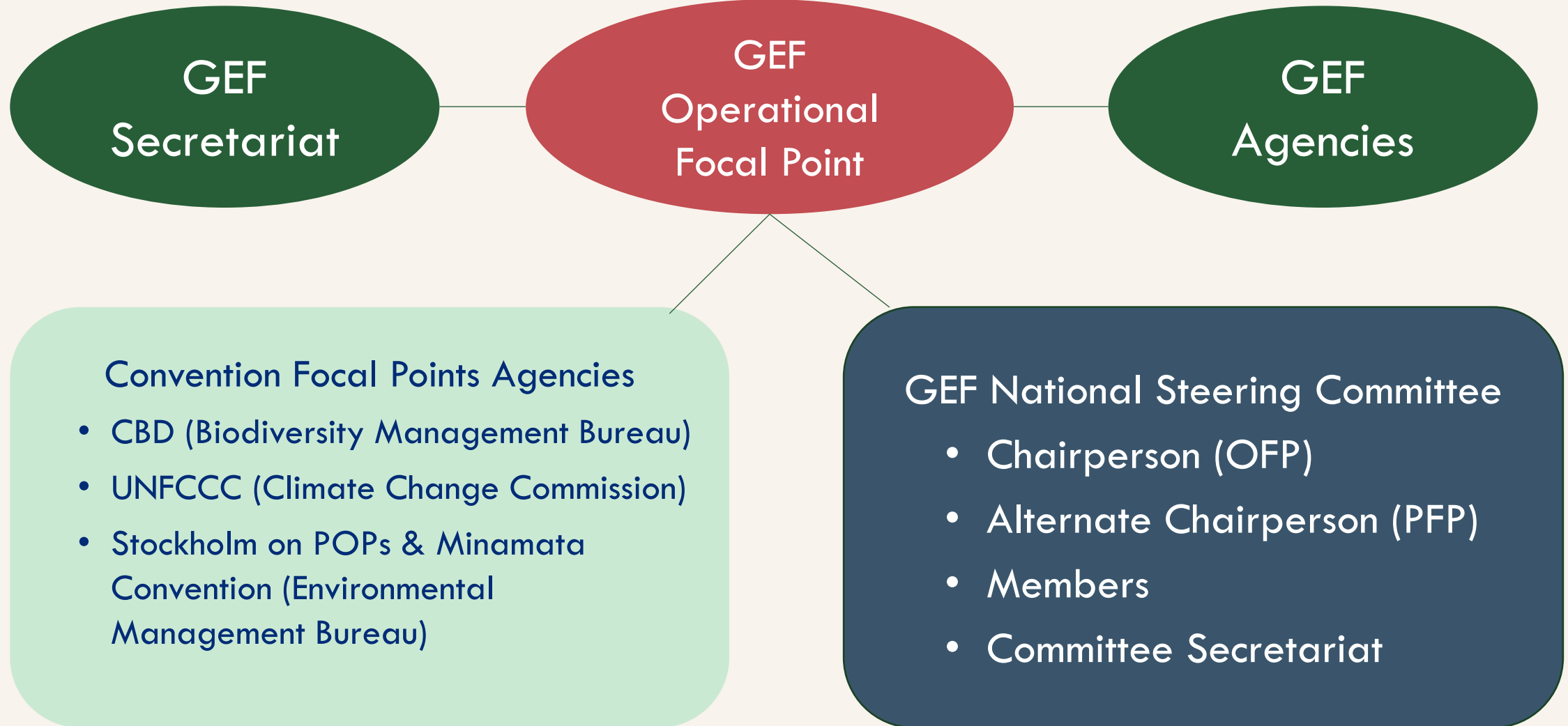
Technical Working Groups comprising of the Convention focal points which review the GEF project proposals

3

GEF National Steering Committee (created in GEF-4 cycle)

- ✓ *Inclusive membership composition*
- ✓ *Transparent decision-making process*

GEF COORDINATION FRAMEWORK



PHILIPPINES

*Inclusive
Coordination*
**STEERING
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

Department of Environment
& Natural Resources
(Chairperson: OFP)

National Economic &
Development Authority
(Co-chairperson: PFP)

Biodiversity Management
Bureau

Department of Foreign Affairs

Environmental Management
Bureau

Department of Interior & Local
Government

Climate Change Commission

Department of Finance

Soils & Water Management
Bureau

League of Cities &
League of Municipalities

Department of Energy

National Commission on
Indigenous Peoples

Civil Society Organizations

CSO REPRESENTATION IN THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Role of CSO members in the committee and GEF projects

Propose potential projects, execute certain components of projects, co-financing, coordinate in national & local levels, directly interact with local beneficiaries through outreach & consultations, bring specialized experience & local knowledge in the monitoring & evaluation of projects

Role of OFP in supporting CSO capacity building

- OFP ensures CSOs participate in GEF workshops, national dialogues & trainings.
 - OFP engages CSOs in GEF project pipeline development and provides opportunities to execute GEF projects.
-
- In 2011, 3 CSO representatives were elected to the committee.
 - In 2019, CSO representation was increased to 5 members with the inclusion of CSOs from the 3 major island groups.
 - In GEF-7, Philippines GEF CSO Network was created.



PHILIPPINES

GEF FEATURED STORY FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Good example of local CSO's role in empowering women



Transparency STEERING COMMITTEE PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

GEF-8 PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Alignment with country priorities & frameworks (geo-spatial, thematic areas) and international commitments.
- With potential for scalable transformation & impacts, e.g., biodiversity corridor/landscape approach, demonstration models for upscaling/replication.
- Addressing systemic barriers (policy support, institutional changes, capacity-building, public investments), thus, with potential to provide solutions to interrelated drivers of environmental degradation (e.g., BD and CC).
- With opportunities for local innovative solutions & stakeholder engagement towards empowerment of women, youth and indigenous peoples.
- With potential to unlock private sector resources and engagement.
- Alignment with GEF programming strategy.
- Demonstrating approaches to address the intersectionality of sectors to enhance climate & disaster resilience.



Questions?

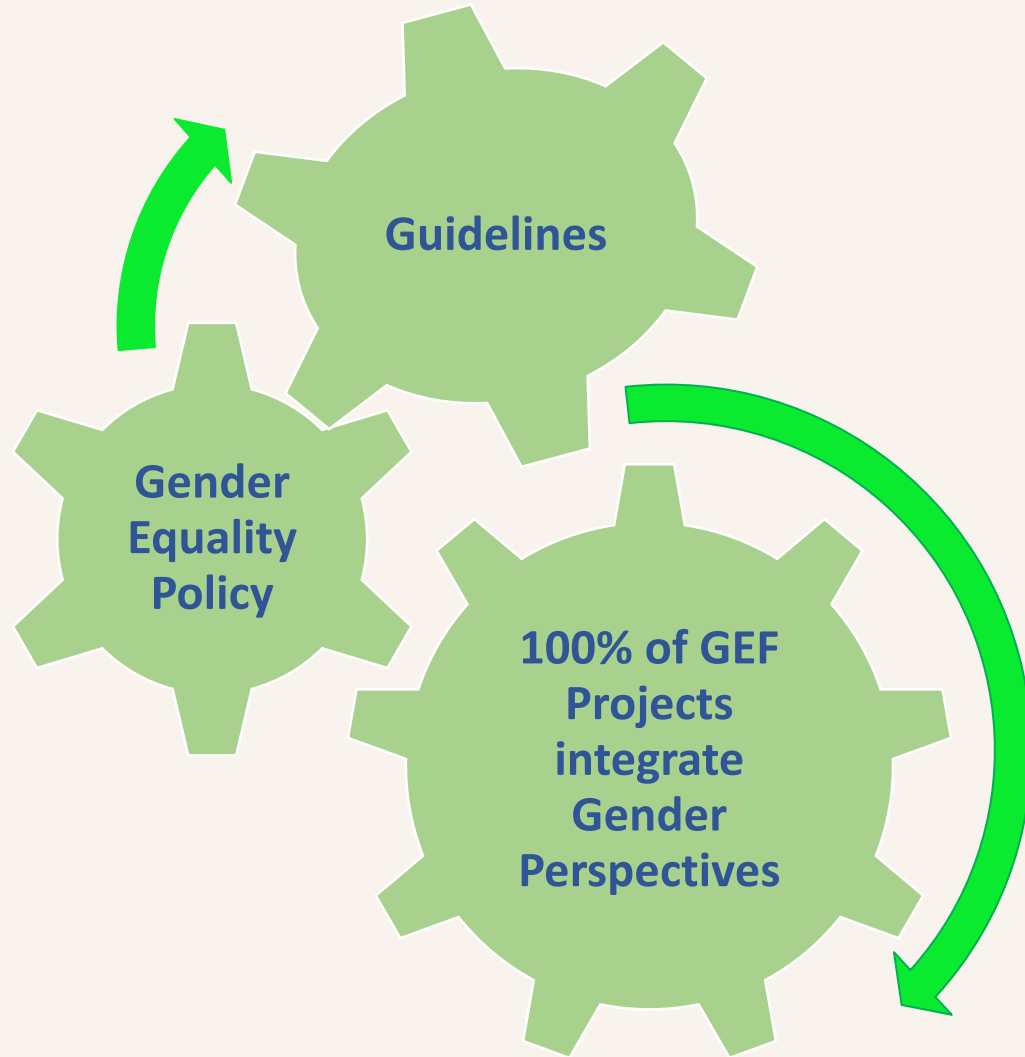
GENDER EQUALITY, GEF, MEAs



menti.com | Use Code 4944 5887



Gender Equality in the GEF



Gender equality in the MEAs



- COP Agenda item Integrated across thematic areas
- Gender Action Plan National Gender and Climate Change FP



- KM-Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 22 and 23
- Gender Plan of Action
- National Gender and Biodiversity FPs



- Gender Action Plan
- Gender Caucus

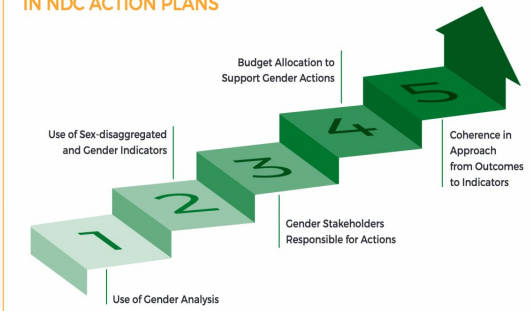


- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
- Awareness-raising and capacity-building



- Gender Action Plan
- Gender mainstreaming knowledge hub

FIGURE 1. KEY AREAS OF GENDER-RESPONSIVENESS IN NDC ACTION PLANS



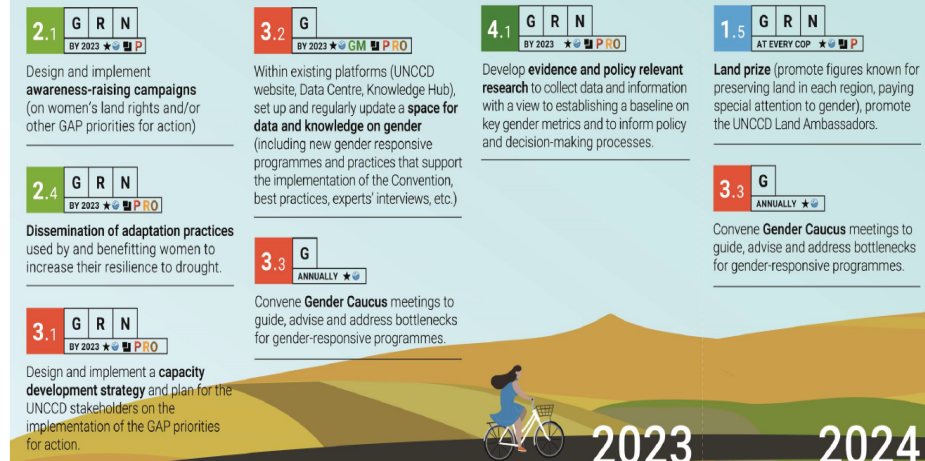
Target 23

Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

Gender road map 2023-2024

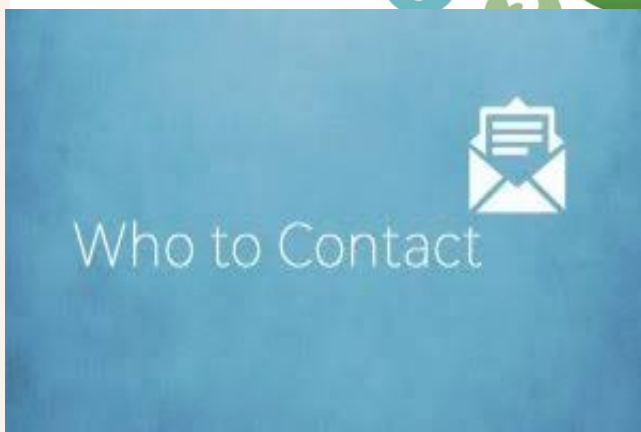
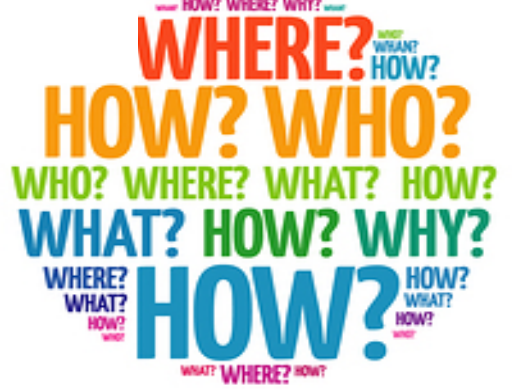
At COP15 in Abidjan, the Parties adopted a Gender Road Map, to guide and accelerate implementation of the Gender Action Plan through gender-responsive and transformative approaches



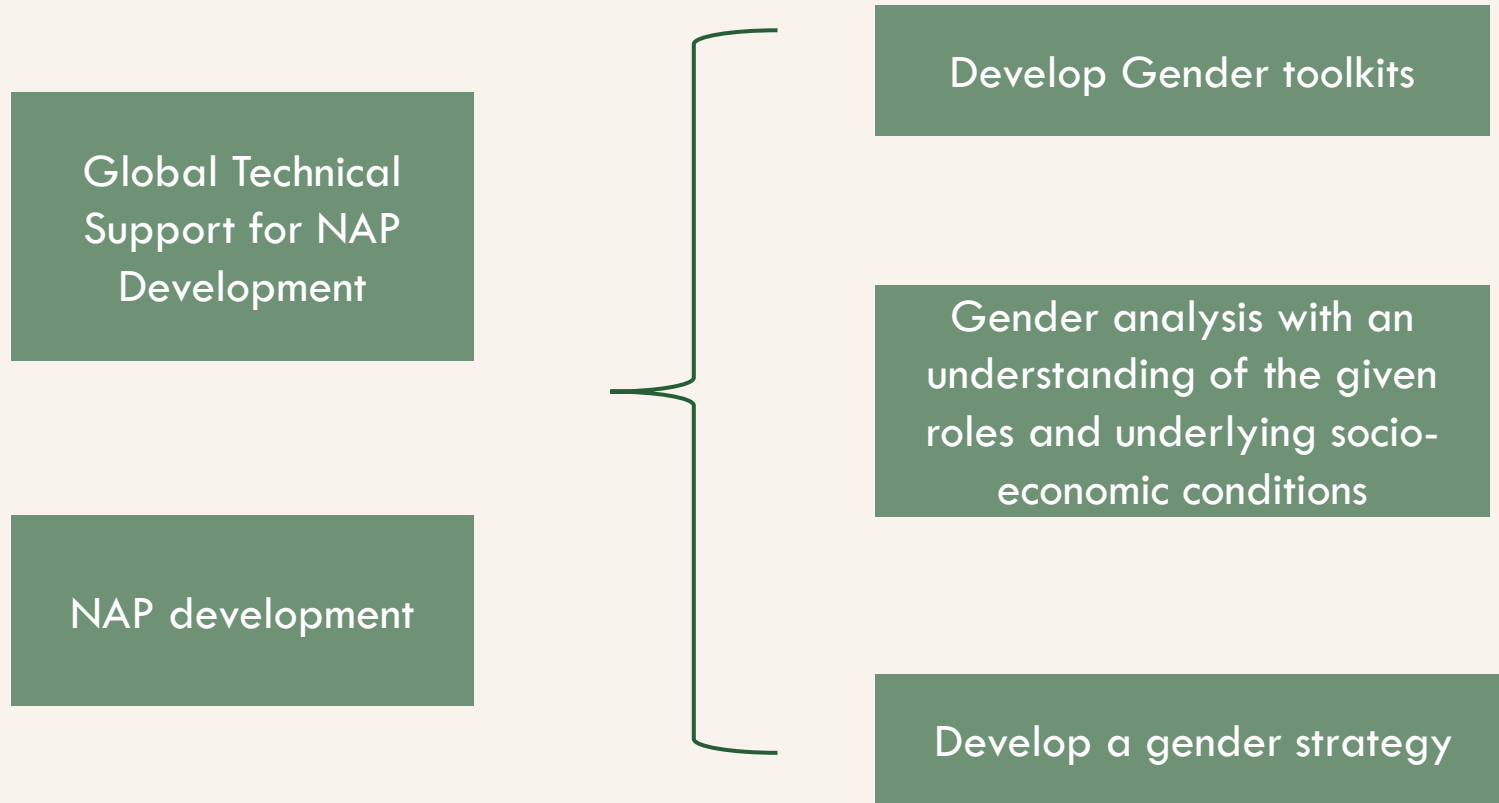
2023

2024





DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE GOLD MINING IN COTE D'IVOIRE



DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE GOLD MINING IN COTE D'IVOIRE

Facilitating the equal access to information and training

Developing tools to facilitate the development of the strategy to prevent the exposure of vulnerable population



Equal participation in the national coordination mechanisms and other national consultations

Access to finance for miners and social welfare options for miners and their communities.



FIRST BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT AND COMBINED 2ND BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY AND 4TH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION

GHG inventory

NDC Tracking,
Mitigation actions,
and domestic MRV

Vulnerability and
Adaptation

Financial, technology
development and
transfer and
capacity-building
support

Other relevant
information (gender and
knowledge
management) including
supplemental NC
chapter

Strengthened
institutional
arrangements and
mechanisms with
gender considerations

Describes the possible
role of different
stakeholders and
gender groups

Vulnerability and
adaptation assessment
of key socio-economic
sectors with perspectives
on impacts on different
gender groups

Improved capacity of
stakeholders to assess
and track support
needed and received to
implement climate
actions

Improved gender
integration, training and
public awareness with
regards to climate
actions through
knowledge management

FIRST BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT AND COMBINED 2ND BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY AND 4TH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Mainstreaming of Gender and Climate Change across sectors



Floods and Droughts



Access to recourses



Women's empowerment



Early Warning System

Systematic integration of Gender Considerations

TOGO

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF DRYLANDS IN NORTHERN TOGO

Enabling Frameworks
and Capacity for LDN
Implementation and
Biodiversity Conservation

Sustainable land and
forest management
and biodiversity
conservation at site
level

Sustainable nature-
based livelihoods

Knowledge management, M&E, and gender mainstreaming



Gender Budgeted

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GENDER BARRIERS

- **Limited Access to Land and Resources**
- **Insufficient Capacity Building for Women**
- **Gender Gaps in Decision Making**
- **Economic Disparities**
- **Cultural and Legal Constraints**
- **Limited Impact of Gender-Focused Interventions**

ACTION PLAN

- Inclusion of women and young people in the spatial distribution of land
- Empowerment Women's actions contributing to the reduction of threats to wildlife
- Women's access to knowledge/skills development supported by the Nature-Based Livelihoods Project
- Greater women beneficiaries from project activities through educational and socioeconomic empowerment.

CHALLENGES IN GENDER STREAMING

1

COTE D'IVORE

Collaboration w/
women's
organization



**Integration of Gender Responsive
Actions in the results framework**

2

NIGERIA

Broad concept of
gender in climate
change
frameworks



3

TOGO

Cultural and
customary
norms



**Women's
Participation**

vcollanteslebale@thegef.org

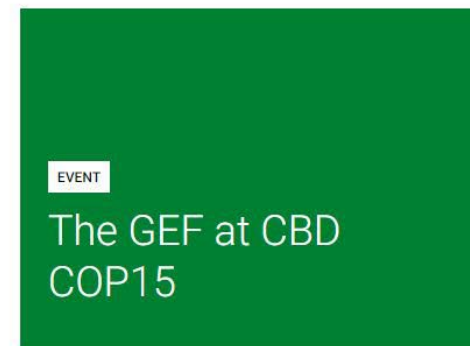
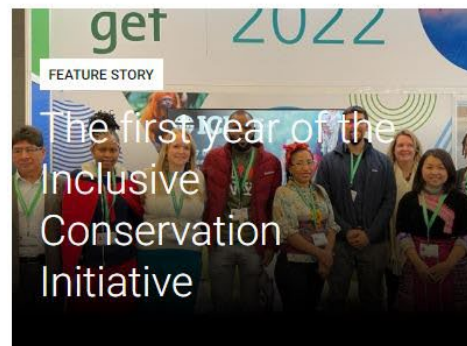
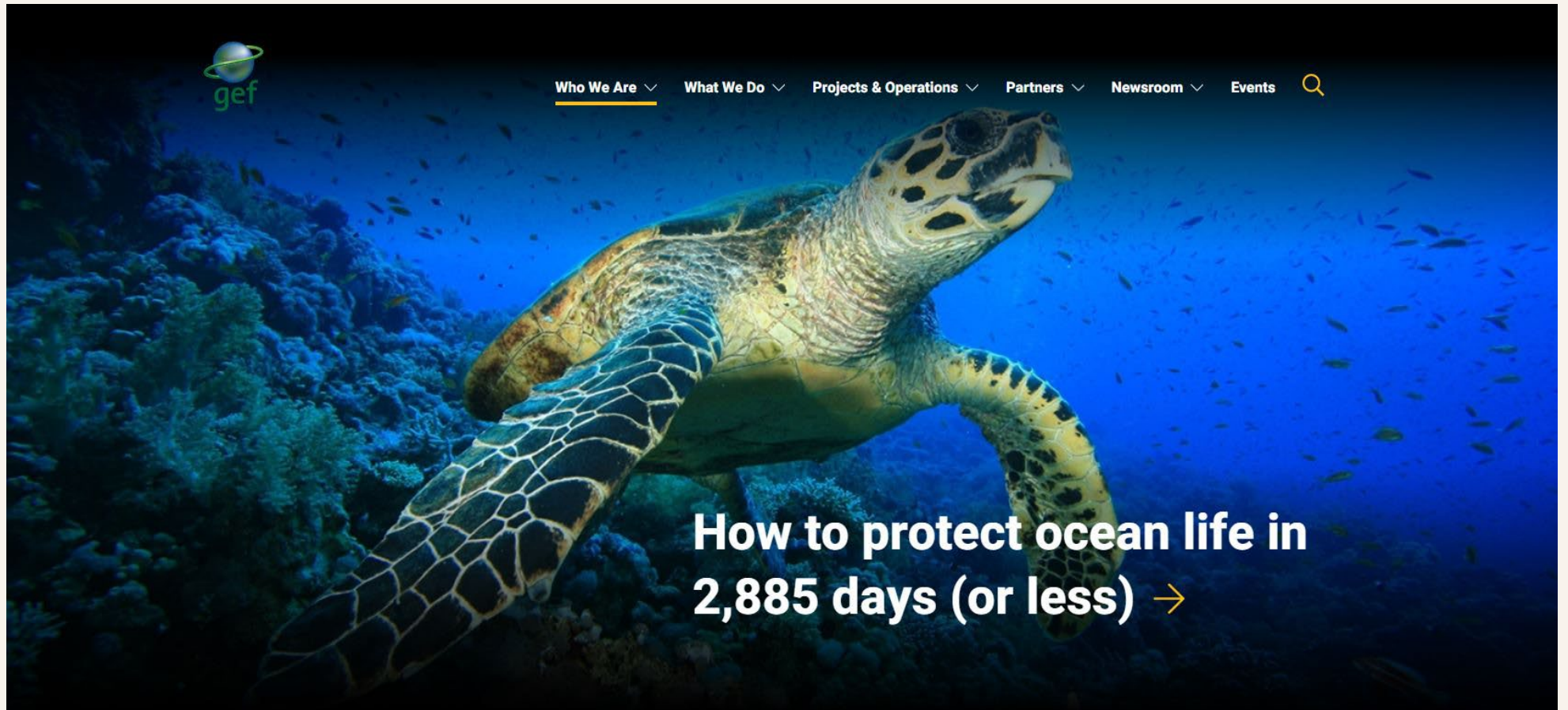
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www.thegef.org



Storytelling



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'Youth, women, and elders are the ones who don't give up'

NEWS / November 23, 2022





Photo courtesy of Mirna Inés Fernández Pradel

Mirna Inés Fernández Pradel is a member of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), an international network of young people focused on preventing biodiversity loss and protecting nature. In an interview, she shared lessons from her work to elevate youth voices internationally and expressed her hopes for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 summit in Montreal.

Why is youth engagement around biodiversity important to you?

I believe that the full and effective engagement of young people in decision-making processes about biodiversity is key to delivering policies that protect the diversity of species, ecosystems, and genetic resources that we have, and ensuring the well-being of the communities who depend on these.

Youth all over the world are not only extremely worried about the socio-ecological crisis that we are facing but taking bold actions to halt it. They are taking to the streets and raising their voices to demand social-ecological justice. They also lead projects for biodiversity conservation, restoration, sustainable management, and awareness. All of this happens most of the time with very little or zero funding or institutional support.



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Reviving wetlands in the Western Indian Ocean: efforts and progress

FEATURE STORY / February 8, 2023




Photo credit: RMFerreira/Shutterstock

Wetlands in the Western Indian Ocean region are not just a pretty sight, they are vital ecosystems that support a diverse array of life. They include salt marshes, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests. These unique habitats are homes, breeding and feeding grounds for species such as fish, turtles, sea cucumbers, molluscs, corals, mangroves, and seagrasses. Additionally, wetlands in the Western Indian Ocean region also have significant economic and cultural value. However, these wetlands are under threat from human activities such as pollution through the release of untreated wastewater from cities and settlements, upstream activities like agriculture, deforestation, and natural disasters such as cyclones.

But there's hope! Efforts to safeguard and maintain these invaluable wetlands are in full swing. From Chake Chake, Pemba, where drainage capacity is being boosted, to Seychelles, where locals are being educated on wetland

Media Relations



Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka unite to fight hazardous skin lightening products

NEWS / February 14, 2023



An array of skin lightening products. Photo credit: Jasmine Halki/Flickr

The governments of Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka have joined forces to fight back against damaging beauty practices, launching a joint \$14-million project to eliminate the use of mercury in skin lightening products.

Using cosmetics to inhibit the body's production of melanin, leading the skin to appear lighter, is a centuries-old practice in many parts of the world that continues to take a toxic toll today.

Both men and women use skin lightening products, not only to lighten their skin but to fade freckles, blemishes, age spots, and treat acne. However, consumers are often unaware that many of these products contain harmful chemicals including mercury, a toxic substance which poses risks to human health and contaminates the environment.

Skin lightening products can cause skin rashes and discoloration; scarring; nervous, digestive, and immune system damage, as well as anxiety and depression. The Minamata Convention on Mercury has set a limit of 1mg/1kg (1ppm) for mercury in skin lightening products. However, a 2018 Zero Mercury Working Group and Biodiversity



Publications

MAIN ISSUE

Biodiversity is the variety of Earth's terrestrial, freshwater, and marine organisms, as well as the ecosystems of which they are part. Biodiversity is crucial to the future of all life on the planet and is also the foundation that enable human societies and services and materials, as well as services such as climate regulation, pollination, disaster protection, and nutrient cycling.

Biodiversity, thus, is fundamental to sustainable development. Managing and protecting this asset for current and future generations requires full engagement of organizations at all levels, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and others.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which came into force in 1993, is the global policy framework for action to maintain biodiversity for future generations and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems at local and national levels over the past several decades but not at the scale necessary to stem the ongoing tide of biodiversity loss. Changing the trajectory of biodiversity loss means addressing its five main direct drivers: habitat change, over-exploitation or unsustainable use, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species. These critical drivers of biodiversity loss are intensifying, particularly habitat loss driven by the expansion of agriculture.

The GEF provides financial resources for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the goal of the GEF-8 (2022-2026) biodiversity focal area strategy is globally significant biodiversity conserved, and restored.

To achieve this goal, GEF-8 investments will focus on three main objectives:

1. Improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems, protocols effectively.
2. Implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols effectively.
3. Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity.

WHAT WE DO

The GEF provides financial resources for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the goal of the GEF-8 (2022-2026) biodiversity focal area strategy is globally significant biodiversity conserved, and restored.

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2. Implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols effectively.
3. Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity.

RESULTS

The GEF has invested more than \$5.2 billion to conserve biodiversity and use it over \$13.4 billion in additional funds, supporting 1,500 projects in more than 158 countries.

The GEF has supported the improved management of more than 2,500 million hectares around the world, an area larger than the size of Latin America. We have managed biodiversity across more than 543 million hectares of productive landscapes and seascapes.

Under the Cartagena Protocol, the GEF has supported the development of National Biosafety Frameworks in 127 countries and their implementation. GEF support has also been critical in bringing the Nagoya Protocol into force by supporting countries to develop the needed legal and policy frameworks to be able to ratify the agreement. A growing part of the GEF implementation is building country capacity for its implementation.

GEF-8 Provides New Opportunities for Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

In GEF-8, \$1.92 billion have been allocated to the biodiversity focal area making it the largest focal area of the GEF. The GEF-8 biodiversity focal area strategy reflects the priorities of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and responds to several major global studies on the biodiversity crisis, including the *Caeraputa Review*, the *Global Biodiversity Review*, the *Fifth Intergovernmental Outlook*, and the 2019 *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform (IPBES) global assessment*.

Objective One of the strategy (improve restoration, sustainable use, and a shift in the GEF strategy from previous phases, GEF-8 focuses on integrated landscape/seascape management approaches that use multiple tools and strategies to respond to the drivers of biodiversity loss within large landscape and seascape mosaics. This strategic shift reflects

will include... opportunities to address the key underlying drivers of biodiversity loss in comprehensive and integrated ways.

countries with additional framework... to the CBD... biodiversity loss in comprehensive and integrated ways.

www.thegef.org

GEF-8 SCORECARD November 2022

gef GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Mainstream Migratory Soaring Birds Safeguards: Strong Partnership with Private Sector and CSOs in Middle East and Africa

gef GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

PROJECT FULL NAME	COUNTRY & REGION	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway	Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, and Sudan)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

IMPACT AREAS

- Biodiversity
- Land Degradation
- Sustainable Forest
- Poverty Reduction
- Food Security
- Socio-economic Benefits
- Education

gef PROJECT ID: 9491

PARTNERS

1,885

Red Sea Flyway is the second most diverse flyway in the world. Each year over 100 million birds of at least 37 species, including 7 threatened species, use this common air-rout between the Nile and the Red Sea. The project aims to mainstream MSB into the productive sectors along the Red Sea Flyway (RSF). Under the project, the GEF will support the safe passage of MSB into the productive sectors along the Red Sea Flyway (RSF). The project focuses on 11 flyway countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, and Sudan.

GEF-8: Moving Toward an Equitable, Nature-Positive, Carbon-Neutral and Pollution-Free World

gef GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Social Media

The image shows the Facebook profile page for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The profile picture is a large landscape photo of a coastal area with green hills and a blue bay. The cover photo is the same. The profile name is "Global Environment Facility" with 64K likes and 110K followers. There are buttons for "Sign Up", "Liked", and "Search". Below the profile information are tabs for "Posts", "About", "Mentions", "Reviews", "Followers", "Photos", and "More". The "Intro" section states it is the official Facebook page of the GEF, a nonprofit organization with a website at thegef.org and a 4.9 rating from 86 reviews. The "Posts" section shows a post from February 17 at 10:33 AM about wetlands in the Western Indian Ocean region.



The image shows the Twitter profile page for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The profile picture is the GEF logo, a globe with a green ring. The cover photo is the same landscape photo as the Facebook page. The profile name is "Global Environment Facility (GEF)" with the handle @theGEF. It is followed by 1,200 people and has 114K followers. The bio states that the GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund for environmental threats and lists the CEO as @cmrodriguez. It is a non-governmental and nonprofit organization based in Washington DC, USA, joined in May 2009.

The image shows the Instagram profile page for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The profile picture is the GEF logo. The bio states it is a nonprofit organization tackling environmental problems, with a link to thegef.org. It has 243 posts, 6,017 followers, and 53 accounts it is following. The "POSTS" section shows a grid of images: a gorilla, a group of people, a blue nature alliance infographic, a whale, and a meeting poster titled "Achieving Finance and High Ambition for MPAs: 30 x 30 Implementation through the GEF and HAC".

The image shows the LinkedIn profile page for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The profile picture is the GEF logo. The cover photo is the same landscape photo. The profile name is "Global Environment Facility" with the tagline "Tackling our planet's most pressing environmental problems." and 80,760 followers. It is followed by 189 employees. The "My Company" section is active. Below the profile is a "Be a team player" section with an "Invite connections" button. The "Trending coworker content" section shows a post by Peter M. Umunay and another by Anil Sookdeo.

Social Media



SCAN ME

Newsletter

www.thegef.org/newsletter



Sampling the fruits of success and innovation in the Maldives

Sometimes the fruits of success taste particularly sweet, as GEF CEO Carlos Manuel Rodríguez discovered on a visit to the Maldivian island of Meedhoo, where he witnessed an effort led by local women to revive a dying culinary art. "This GEF Small Grants Programme project is not only investing in preserving the rich tradition of Bondi-making in the Maldives but, more importantly, in its future generations," said Rodríguez, who later visited two waste-related projects elsewhere in the Addu Atoll. [Read more >>](#)



How to protect ocean life in 2,885 days (or less)

Countries have committed to protecting at least 30 percent of the world's land and sea habitats by 2030. But how? At an event co-hosted by the GEF, World Resources Institute, and High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People during IMPAC5 in Vancouver, people leading, planning, and funding marine protected areas around the world shared ideas about how to make this happen with less than seven years on the clock. [Read more >>](#)



Countries unite to fight hazardous skin lightening products

The governments of Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka have joined forces to fight back against damaging beauty practices, launching a joint \$14-million project to eliminate the use of mercury in skin lightening products. The project is led by UNEP, with funding from the GEF, and executed by the World Health Organization and the Biodiversity Research Institute. [Read more >>](#)

Visual Identity

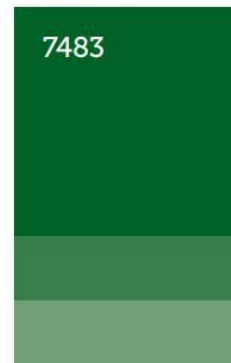
www.thegef.org/gef-logo

Color | Primary

The GEF Primary Color has been selected to present the GEF as a leader in global environmental issues.

Never use the GEF Signature in any other color than the versions provided in these guidelines.

Primary Brand Color



CMYK: 83 / 16 / 83 / 54
RGB: 39 / 94 / 55
Hex: #006227

Color | Focal Area

There are five Focal Areas.

- International Waters
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Land Degradation
- Chemicals & Waste

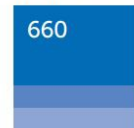
Each Focal Area has a designated color.

This color should be used when developing a product for that Focal Area, such as a brochure, poster, or other material.

The color can be used throughout the communication, for backgrounds, sidebars, headlines, subheads, charts, and graphs.

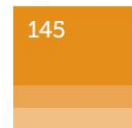
Use the Focal Area designated color for the accent bar on the cover of the publication.

International Waters



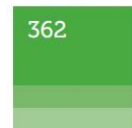
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Climate Change



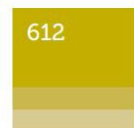
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Biodiversity



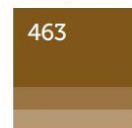
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Hex: #49A942

Chemicals & Waste



CMYK: 26 / 24 / 100 / 0
RGB: 196 / 176 / 0
Hex: #C4B000

Land Degradation



CMYK: 30 / 56 / 100 / 37
RGB: 128 / 86 / 27
Hex: #80561B



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



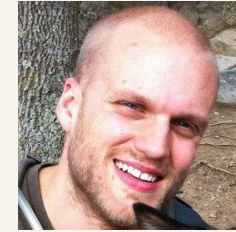
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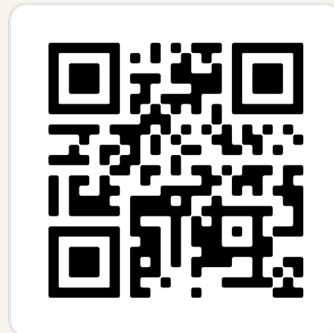
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