



# GEF CEO Remarks at the GLOBE International World Summit of Legislators Award Ceremony

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**June 17, 2012**  
**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Your Excellency Eduardo Paes, the Mayor of the city of Rio de Janeiro,  
Honorable John Gummer, Lord Deben, President of Globe International,  
Senator Cicero Lucena, President of GLOBE Brazil  
MP Barry Gardiner

Authorities, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I receive this award on behalf of the Global Environment Facility. Through the course of my six years as the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF, I have had the honor of working closely and very successfully with Globe International on a number of fronts.

I am excited to be here with you today in the midst of the World Summit of Legislators. The Summit is an idea that grew out of my earlier dialogue with Globe about major opportunities that were opening up in connection with the Rio+20 Conference.

I strongly believe that the legislative branch is the missing link in the work that we do to

promote sustainable development and the environment in developing and developed countries alike. To this point, I have had my share of frustration with the countless policy frameworks that the GEF has funded around the world, only to see them gathering dust on the shelves of government offices. All too often, this has happened because legislative bodies remained either unaware or unconvinced of the vital importance of transforming these valuable proposals into real instruments for action at the national and local levels.

The Globe International agenda addresses this critical problem, and this is why we have developed such a solid partnership over the years.

One concrete example among many is the work that the GEF, the United Nations Environment Programme and Globe recently completed promoting the sustainable use of natural resources through the International Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems. This was the first parliamentary body to push the agenda on sustainable land use. This effort involved overcoming political barriers so as to bring about the passage of effective legislation in key developing countries. In just two years of effort, a network of parliamentarians from 40 countries has come together, resulting in the enactment of path-breaking legislation in key countries such as in Mexico.

Another example is GLOBE Legislators' Forest Initiative (GLFI), funded by the GEF and implemented by UNEP. As you may know, the GEF continues to be one of the largest providers of grants to developing countries for forest management and conservation. Through GEF-5, our fifth and current replenishment, we will have made available up to \$1 billion for forests through an innovative incentive mechanism called SFM/REDD-plus. Sustainable Forest Management and the efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) recognize and work to enhance the multiple benefits provided by forests.

Up to now, this policy space has been led by executive branches of government and civil society with limited participation of legislators. But as the REDD+ process advances, the typical functions of parliament will play an increasingly important role in creating effective national strategies. In support of GEF's strategy, the Globe Initiative has been working with a select group of legislators from forested developing countries to strengthen legislation and

parliamentary scrutiny. These efforts aim to reduce deforestation the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Mexico, and right here in Brazil.

The absence of legislatures from the global environmental agenda is a problem that Globe International and the GEF are working very hard to solve, and with your energetic participation, we are making great progress. The effective work of Globe as an international network of parliamentarians for the environment and development underscores the crucial role that legislators play in ensuring that sustainable development and the green economy continue to take root. I believe that this Summit will become the launching pad for much more robust processes at the national level on a number of fronts having to deal with the sustainable management of natural resources.

With many thanks and with my great appreciation for this award bestowed by you, I will let you go back to your reception and networking.

Have a great evening!