

## MAJOR REGIONAL FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

### AMAZON REGION PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAM (ARPA) – PHASE I AND II

Total GEF Grant: US\$46,000,000 Co-financing: US\$121,500,000  
 GEF Agency: World Bank Implementation: 2003 – present

The ARPA project has a long-term target to set aside 50 million ha of protected areas that include all 23 Amazonian eco-regions and to catalyze long-term sustainable coordination, management, and monitoring systems for these protected areas. The project brings together the federal government, five states, several funding agencies, and numerous government institutions and local organizations. Since its inception, ARPA has accounted for 37% of the decrease in deforestation in Brazil and 46% of all protected areas created in the world. The first phase of the program (2003-2008), supported by \$30 million in GEF grants, created 24 million ha of new protected areas, helping to protect biodiversity, build knowledge about the Amazon and foster respect for the rights of local people. The second phase, backed by \$16 million in GEF grants, will create 13.5 million ha of additional new protected areas (an area larger than Greece) in the next four years, including parks, biological reserves, ecological stations, extractive reserves and sustainable development centers, while consolidating 32 million ha of existing areas. In financial terms, studies have shown that the creation of 13 PAs in the Amazon under ARPA from 2003 to 2007 is associated with the offset of emissions equivalent to 430 million tons of carbon by 2050 as compared to the business-as-usual scenario. Assuming the value of \$5 per ton of carbon, these PAs will account for \$2.2 billion in emissions reductions by 2050 or about \$54 million per year. With the total cost of the first phase of ARPA around \$84.5 million, the rate of return for this investment was approximately 22%.

### ADAPTATION TO THE IMPACT OF RAPID GLACIER RETREAT IN THE TROPICAL ANDES (BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, PERU) – SCCF

GEF Grant: US\$9,297,700 Co-financing: US\$25,542,000  
 GEF Agency: World Bank Implementation: 2008 – present

Through the implementation of specific pilot adaptation activities, the project is contributing to the strengthening of local ecosystems and economies to the impacts of glacier retreat in the Tropical Andes (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru). Activities include: 1) the strengthening of national meteorological service capacity to monitor glacier dynamics and their impacts on the hydrological cycle in the region; 2) promoting integrated resource management, including demonstration activities for climate resilient agriculture (e.g. exporting of drought-resistant crops, demonstrating more water-efficient and water management practices), and 3) ensuring participatory development adaptation strategies and plans that integrate the implications of glacier retreat in the region.

### INTRODUCTION OF CLIMATE FRIENDLY MEASURES IN TRANSPORT

Total GEF Grant: US\$4,125 million Co-financing: US\$6.4 million  
 GEF Agency: World Bank Implementation: 2003 – 2009

The Mexico City Metropolitan Area is one of the most populated urban areas and had suffered from higher concentrations of local criteria pollutants because of geographic and location factors. The objective of the project was to contribute to the development of policies and measures that would assist in a long-term modal shift toward climate-friendly, more efficient and less polluting, less carbon intensive transport in the area.

The project provided a solid platform for an ongoing evolution of the transport sector of the city, with a focus on improving its long-term sustainability, efficiency and environmental performance. The project resulted in the development of the City-wide Climate Change Action Strategy, the first of its kind in Latin America. The field test of alternative bus technologies (low sulfur diesel and CNG) led to the development of the largest and most comprehensive initiative of this type worldwide. Implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system considerably improved the image of public transport in the city and reduced a total of 107 thousand tons CO<sub>2</sub> between 2005 and 2008.

### INTEGRATING WATERSHED AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT IN THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN (IWCAM)

Total GEF Grant: US\$13,782,491 Co-financing: US\$98,269,493  
 GEF Agency: UNEP and UNDP Implementation: 2005 – 2011

This initiative focused on strengthening the commitment and capacity of the thirteen participating Small Island Developing States to implement an integrated approach in the management of watersheds and coastal areas. The successful implementation of the initiative was instrumental in the process leading to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities to the Cartagena Convention entering into force. IWCAM worked on a broad spectrum of activities such as diminishing freshwater flows, degraded freshwater and coastal water quality, land use management, hygiene and sanitation. These activities increased local, national and regional ability to manage the aquatic and ecosystem resources sustainably.

### SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ARID AND SEMI-ARID ECOSYSTEMS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN PATAGONIA

Total GEF Grant: US\$5,183,966 Co-financing: US\$26,570,455  
 GEF Agency: UNDP Implementation: 2007 – 2012

The GEF supports projects that maintain and improve flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities, such as the project that worked to improve rangeland management and sustainable pastoralism by reducing livestock grazing pressure. It was designed to address land degradation in Patagonia alongside the national Sheep Law. The Sheep Law provides resources to large, medium and small-scale farmers to implement sustainable livestock practices, including extensive range management technology.

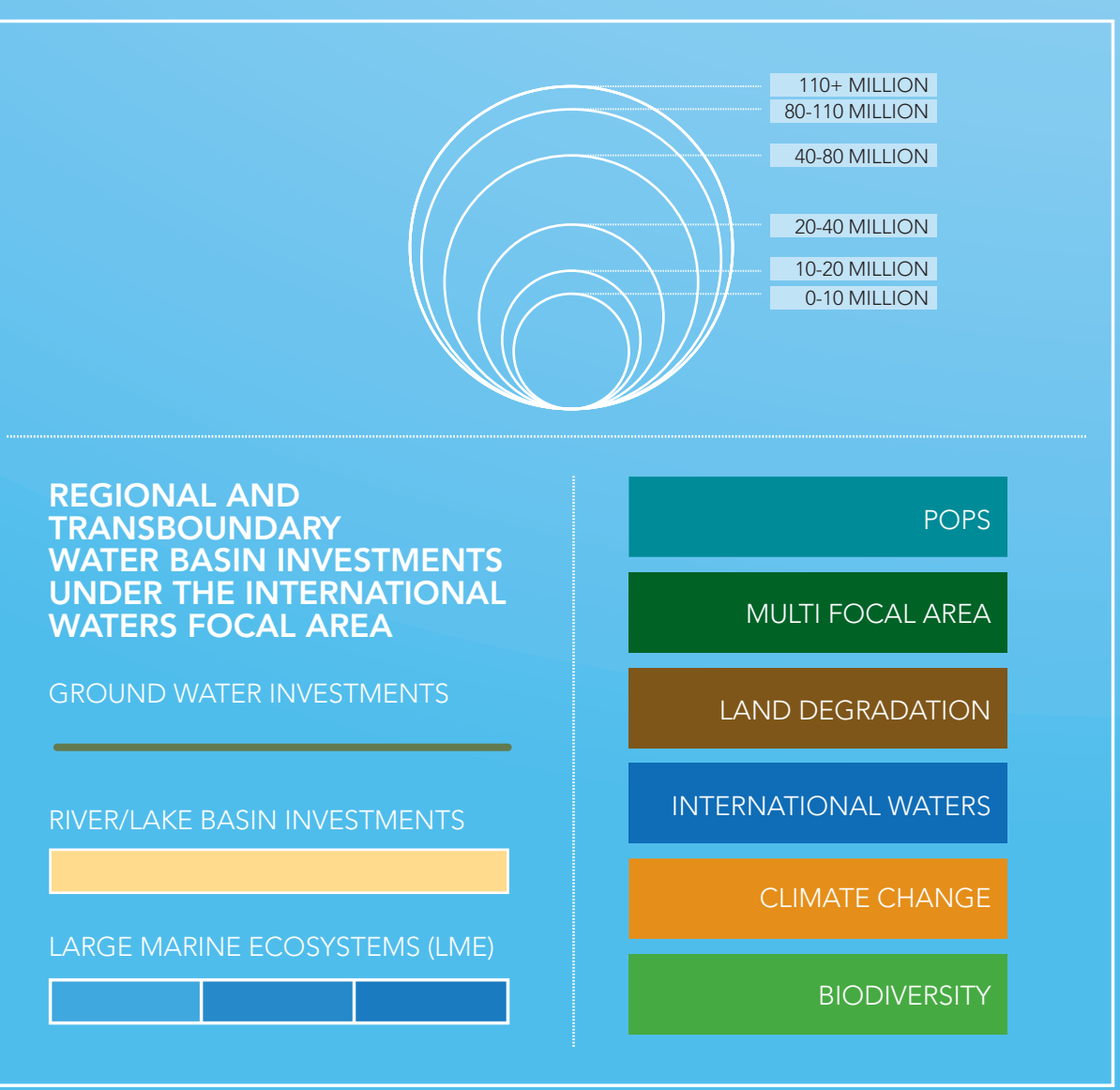
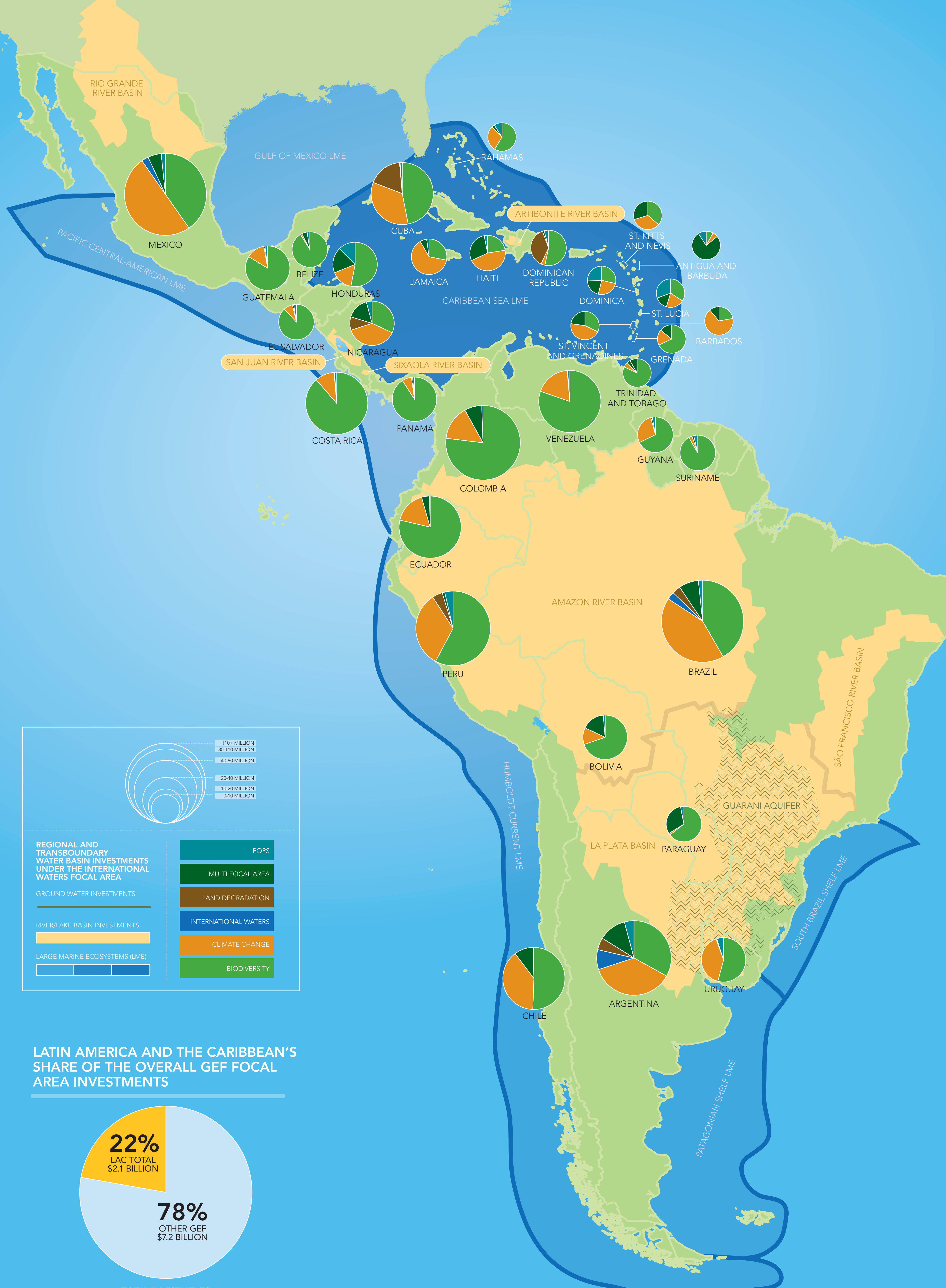
The project mitigated the causes and negative effects of land degradation to reinforce the integrity, stability, functions and services of the Patagonian steppe ecosystem, which covers 780,000 km<sup>2</sup> or about 30% of Argentina. It supported and strengthened the capacity of provinces to combat desertification. It also supported mechanisms to mainstream sustainable land management (SLM) into investments of the Sheep Law and other projects focused on livestock improvement and extensive management technologies, changing practices on approximately 6,000,000 ha.

### ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF PCBs

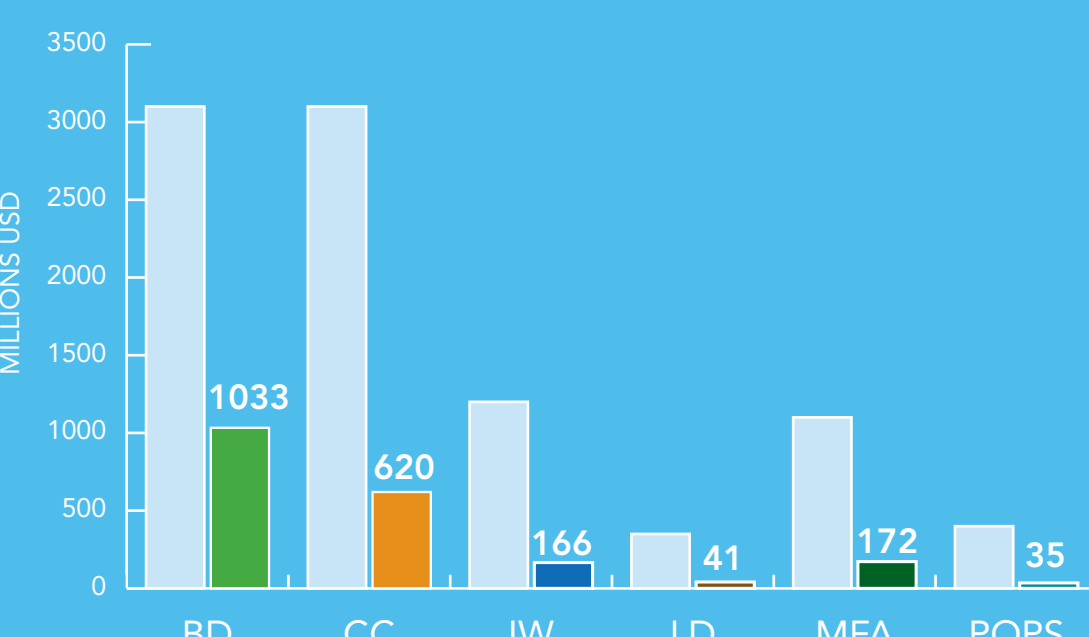
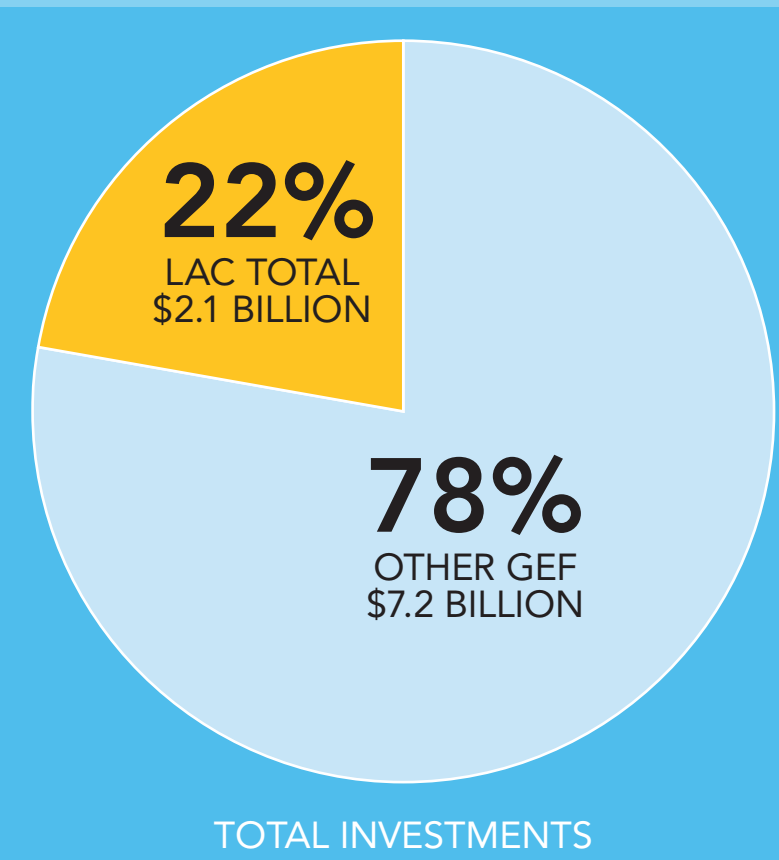
GEF Grant: US\$4,800,000 Co-financing: US\$10,810,000  
 GEF Agency: UNDP Implementation: 2009 – present

In Mexico, a GEF/UNDP PCB management project is helping to identify where aging electrical equipment such as transformers are located, remove them, and implement a system to dispose of them safely. Destruction of equipment can be costly, especially for small and medium sized companies, so companies are encouraged to "pool" their waste. Companies can have as little as one piece of equipment disposed of safely at a reasonable price. The national inventory surveyed and inspected electrical equipment repair and maintenance shops and found that poor practices were the main cause of PCB contamination of new and clean equipment, while exposing their workers to high levels of PCBs. The project supported the adoption of a new standard, making it a requirement to dispose of PCB-containing equipment safely. This new standard is also helping to better regulate and monitor electrical maintenance shops. To date, the project has trained policy makers, PCB owners, workshops and maintenance staff on how to manage and dispose of PCBs.

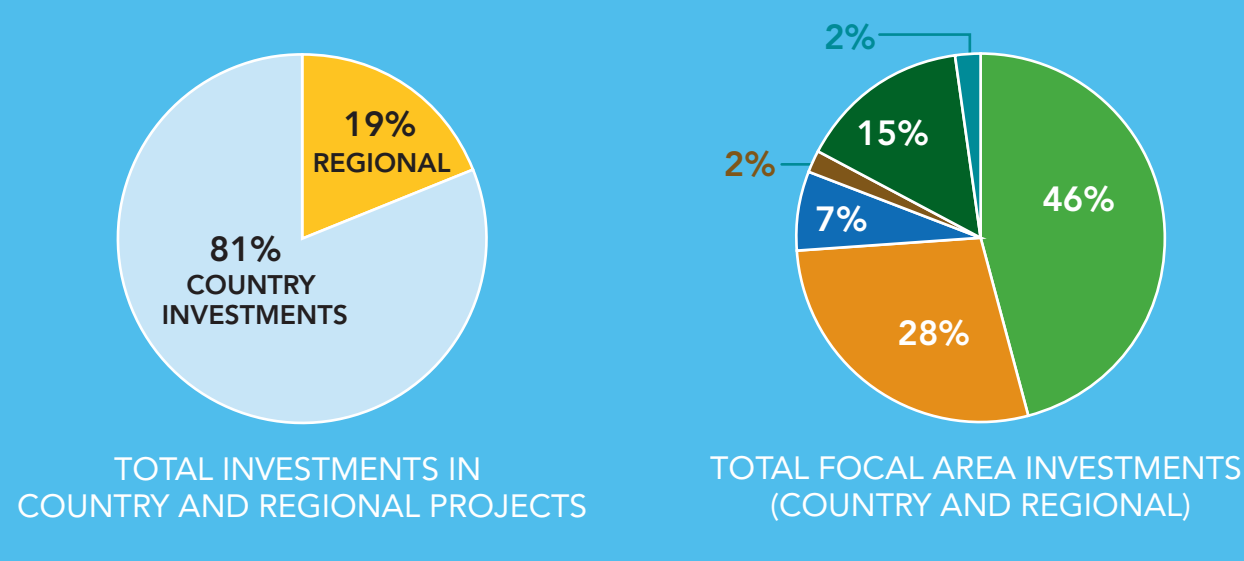
This project shows that having a strong private sector partnership is important in helping to deal with hazardous chemicals and waste. Thus far, this project handled 4500 tons of contaminated oil and equipment.



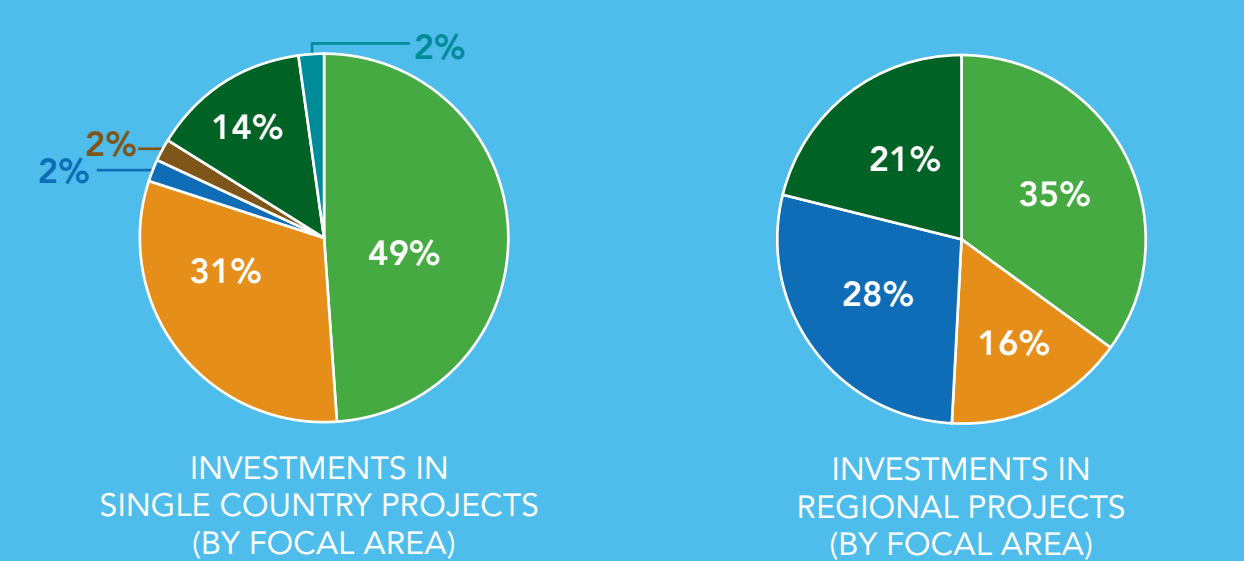
## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN'S SHARE OF THE OVERALL GEF FOCAL AREA INVESTMENTS



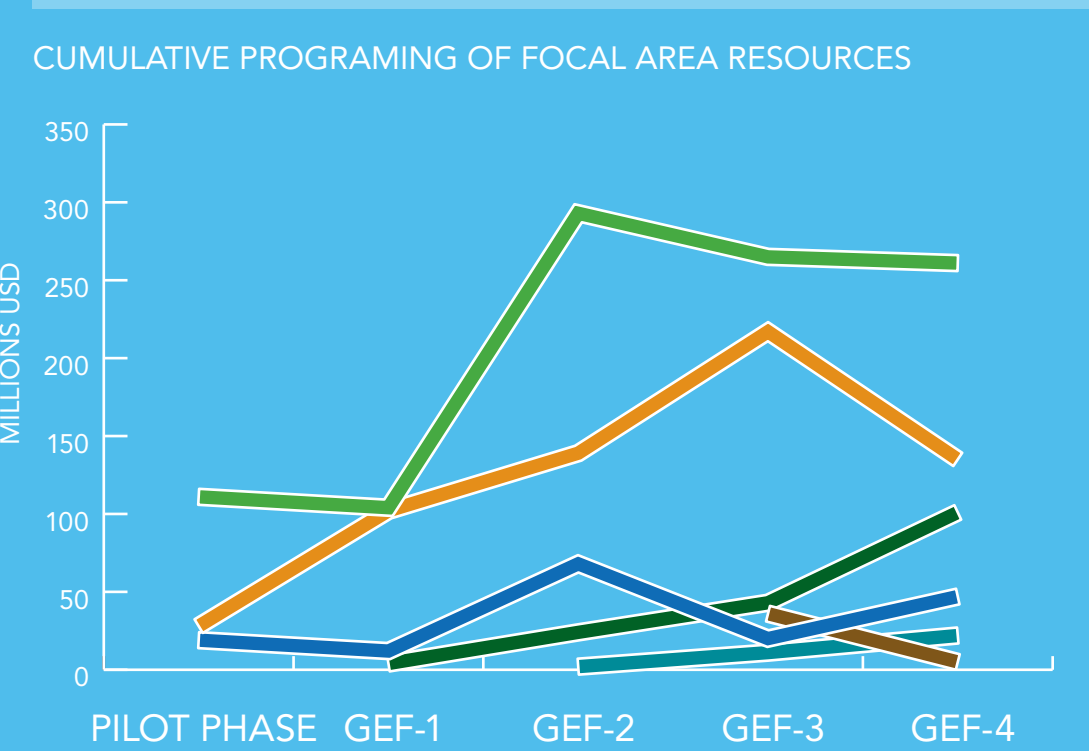
## BREAKDOWN OF GEF INVESTMENTS BETWEEN COUNTRY AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES



## SHARE OF GEF FOCAL AREA INVESTMENTS IN COUNTRY AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES



## TRENDS IN GEF FOCAL AREA INVESTMENTS



# The GEF and Latin America and the Caribbean

TWO DECADES OF PARTNERSHIP TO SAFEGUARD THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT 1991-2012