

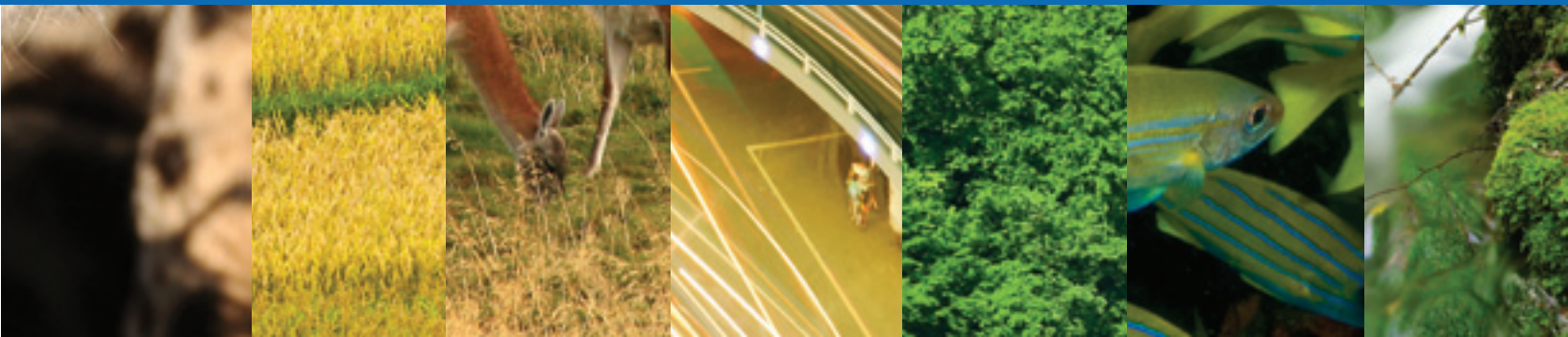


GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Behind the Numbers

A CLOSER LOOK AT GEF ACHIEVEMENTS







The numbers tell a story:

23 years, \$12.5 billion invested directly, **\$58 billion** in cofinancing, and **3,690** projects in more than **165 countries**.

Together, these numbers make us the world's leading public financial fund dedicated to smart environmentally sound choices that boost local economies and protect **the planet**.

Yet behind those numbers is a bigger story

that comes from the **positive impact GEF investments have** on the two billion human beings still waiting for access to electricity, clean water, and other services others easily enjoy. It is the story of a unique networked organization that brings together the **public sector, businesses, and civil society** to make a **global impact**.

Investing in our Planet





What is the GEF?

A FINANCIAL MECHANISM for key international environmental conventions.

A PARTNERSHIP of 183 governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

A CATALYST that has generated unprecedented levels of cofinancing, averaging levels of 1:6.

A NETWORK of agencies with a broad set of competencies — UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and international NGOs.

A LEARNING ORGANIZATION with an Independent Evaluation Office.

A SCIENTIFIC PANEL providing both strategic and project-level input.

A HIGHLY TRANSPARENT system among international organizations.

A BALANCED GOVERNANCE structure, reflecting both the United Nations and Bretton Woods systems.

A MECHANISM FOR ADAPTATION to climate change, managing two United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adaptation funds — the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.

A KEY INNOVATOR for meeting the world's goals for development, climate protection, and the conservation of natural resources, including the Earth's rich biodiversity by acting locally for global impact.



Climate Change

More than **\$4.3 billion** to support mitigation and adaptation projects and enabling activities in more than **168 developing countries** and economies in transition.

Leveraged an additional **\$29.4 billion** in cofinancing from GEF partner agencies, governments, commercial banks, businesses, and non-governmental organizations.

Supported more than **50 climate-resilient technologies** for energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable urban transport, and methane reduction. Played catalytic roles for mobilizing investments, enabling recipients, pioneering innovative financial instruments, and promoting market-based mechanisms leading to widespread adoption and dissemination of climate-friendly technologies.

GEF investments over time are expected to directly reduce **2.3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide** equivalent and catalyze an additional **7.2 billion tonnes** through transformation of markets, more than the annual CO₂ emissions of the United States and European Union combined.



Transferring Technology and Knowledge

The GEF's efforts to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions include renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). GEF supports the demonstration, deployment, and diffusion of more than 50 climate-friendly technologies in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable urban transport. GEF climate change projects have also helped develop widely adopted policy and regulatory frameworks, pioneering innovative financial instruments, and market-based mechanisms.

- Understand that energy efficiency projects are viable investments that improve the financial stability of their clients and reduce the banks' overall risk exposure
- Examine industry related loans and leases from an energy efficiency perspective
- Actively build a portfolio of energy efficiency projects
- Develop specialized financial products which target niche markets for EE finance

The IFC has recently completed a market assessment of the scope for energy efficiency investments in the Russian Federation, and this highlights a number of critical barriers to financing investments in energy efficiency technology: lack of liquidity in the financial markets, high risk perception of energy efficiency, lack of long-term debt sufficient to cover typical payback periods of energy efficiency investments. IFC has identified 12 banks that have declared an interest in providing loans for energy efficiency projects, and the market assessment has also identified a number of potential projects that could form the basis of a project pipeline.



Russian Sustainable Energy Finance Program

The primary goal of this project is to build capacity in Russian financial institutions through the process of developing and marketing specialized energy efficiency (EE) finance products targeting appropriate market niches and financing EE projects as a direct result. The *Russian Sustainable Energy Finance Program* aims to establish sustainable lending practices in the Russian financial sector which support EE investment and focuses on transactions intended to support FIs such that they:



Private Sector-led Development of On-Grid Wind Power in Tunisia

Despite rapid growth, wind power only meets 1% of global energy demand. Tapping wind power's significant potential at scale entails engagement with the private sector.

In Tunisia, the GEF is supporting the private sector-led development of on-grid wind power. GEF financing of \$10 million has been matched with private-sector funding of \$95 million. The project, expected to be replicated elsewhere in the region, highlights the important link of private sector involvement and technology transfer.



Adapting to Climate Change

Currently, 51 least developed countries (LDC) have accessed **\$12.2 million** in support of the preparation of their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA). Of the 50 countries that have completed their NAPAs, **48** have accessed a total of **\$726.25 million** under the **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)** for **138 country projects** that address urgent and immediate adaptation needs. Under the **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)**, **66 countries** have accessed a total of **\$242.26 million** for **58 projects**.

Adaptation projects are reducing the vulnerability of those sectors and resources that are central to development and community livelihood. These sectors include, for example: water, agriculture and food security, health, disaster risk management and prevention, infrastructure, and fragile ecosystems.



Burkina Faso: Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production for Food Security in Vulnerable Rural Areas Through the Framers Field School approach

An adaptation project in Burkina Faso will target the capacity of this country's agricultural and pastoral sectors to cope with climate change by mainstreaming adaptation practices across agricultural development initiatives, policies and programming, and by directly scaling up farmers' adoption of climate-resilient technologies through an existing network of farmer field schools. The project would contribute towards several of Burkina Faso's adaptation priorities, as stated in its National Adaptation Program of Action, notably those on early-warning systems, agricultural water use, as well as resilient livestock and crop production. Through pilot investments in climate-resilient agricultural practices, capacity building for adaptation through extension services, as well as instituting pro-adaptation policies and programs, the project is expected to allow at least **26,000 vulnerable farmers and agro-pastoralists to adopt climate-resilient practices.**



Solomon Islands: Water Sector Adaptation Project

A water sector-based intervention, financed by the Least Developed Countries Fund, is expected to improve the resilience of water resources to the impacts of climate change in order to improve health, sanitation, and quality of life while sustaining livelihoods in targeted vulnerable areas in the Solomon Islands. Among the activities to be financed with the GEF-LDCF funding, the project will complete vulnerability assessments of water supplies, and increase the reliability and improved quality of water supply through implementation of soft adaptation measures and strategic investments in water and sanitation infrastructure.



Biodiversity

Over \$3.46 billion, leveraging **\$10.04 billion** in cofinancing, to support implementation of more than **1,200 projects** in more than **155 countries** to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

As the largest funding mechanism for Protected Areas worldwide, the GEF has invested in over **3,277 PAs**, covering more than **856 million hectares**. The GEF has provided more than **\$2.3 billion** to fund protected areas, leveraging an additional **\$6 billion** in cofinancing from project partners.

Biodiversity protection and planning for more than **292 million hectares** of productive landscapes and seascapes.

Support for the development of National Biosafety Frameworks in **123 countries** and for their subsequent implementation under the Cartagena Protocol.



Working Together with Indigenous and Local Communities

The GEF has been working closely with indigenous and local communities since its inception, recognizing that their effective public involvement is essential to the success of its projects. Many GEF projects that involve indigenous communities focus on capacity building and awareness raising, policy and institutional development, promotion of sustainable economic opportunities and practical, innovative conservation actions in protected areas and buffer zones.

The *Integrated Ecosystem Management in Indigenous Communities Project in Central America* is a project where the GEF invested **\$9.7 million**, leveraged with a cofinancing of **\$39.9 million** to strengthen the role of indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation and management. The total area inhabited by indigenous people in Central America is estimated to be as high as **170,000 km²**, almost 33% of the area of the seven countries that make up the region. The projects emphasize on achieving effective conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in the seven Central American countries (Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama) by strengthening the capacity of indigenous communities to protect and manage their natural and cultural resources, as well as rescuing and reinforcing traditional land-use practices they have developed over centuries.



Protecting the “Thermostat of the Planet” in the Amazon

Tumucumaque, the world's largest tropical forest national park, is located in Brazil and supports at least **800 plant species, 366 birds, 207 fishes, and over 100 mammals, including 48 species of bats**. At over **40,000 km²**, Tumucumaque is larger than Belgium, and is one of the most public successes of ARPA, launched in 2002 with a **\$30 million** grant by the GEF and implemented by the World Bank, with the equivalent of over **\$50 million** in cofinancing provided by the German bilateral funding agency Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the World Wildlife Fund, the Government of Brazil, and other donors.



Strategic Program for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin

The deforestation rate in the Congo Basin is estimated to be **10,000 km²**, and the annual statistics indicate that **65.9 million tons of carbon** is released every year from this region.

Ten countries of the Congo Basin — Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe — have developed a shared vision and a 10-year plan of action on forestry, called the Convergence Plan. To support this commitment, the GEF launched the Strategic Program for Sustainable Forest management in the Congo basin in February 2008, seeking to reverse the rate of deforestation and degradation of ecosystems, maintain ecosystem functioning, and conserve ecosystem values such as the biodiversity and carbon-based capital of the Basin.



International Waters

The GEF is the largest investor in multi-country collaborations on shared water systems in the International Waters focal area. Projects across multiple country boundaries have included **33** transboundary river basins, **10** transboundary lakes, **7** transboundary groundwater, and **21** large marine ecosystems.

More than **\$1.5 billion** leveraged **\$8.7 billion** in cofinancing freshwater, environment and community security projects across more than **170 countries**.

Largest ecosystem-based and coordinated program of action to reverse the depletion of marine fisheries. Working with more than **150 nations**, GEF projects cover **21 of the Earth's 64 large marine ecosystems**, including half of those shared by developing countries.



Improving Livelihoods Through Improving Water Quality in Lake Manzala

Lake Manzala in Egypt is a long, shallow lake on the northeastern edge of the Nile delta between the two port cities of Dormiatta and Port Said.

Much of the heavily polluted drain water crossing the delta enters large coastal lakes before flowing into the Mediterranean Sea, where contaminated water and tainted fish stocks in the lake represent huge risks the ecosystem and the region's food security.

In a GEF supported project, **0.25 km²** of constructed wetland were established to imitate the role of natural wetlands by working as a biofilter to remove nutrients, heavy metals, and toxins from wastewater; treating up to 50,000 m³ of water per day, removing **90%** of traditional pollutants and **75%** toxins. The cleaner water is then used in ponds where local fishermen can farm fish that are fit for human consumption, and that can also be used to restock the lake.

Implementing Strategic Partnerships

The Danube River and the Black Sea into which it empties highlight the benefits of cooperation among countries fostered by the GEF's role as champion of the global commons. The tragedy of the commons plagued the Danube River Basin for **150 years** before the GEF stepped in to revert serious environmental havoc stretching through **2,780 kilometers** and **19 countries**, many of them part of the former Soviet Union bloc. It took **15 years** of a multi-faceted effort working with governments, industries and even individual farmers to turn the Danube into a model of integrated river basin management. The project created a common platform for cooperation in a region riven by distrust and even civil conflict, and helped the region recover and move toward political stability. Through the Danube and Black Sea Environmental Forums, regional and national governance institutions and civil society participation have been established and strengthened. Most significantly, about **40,000 km²** of vast marine 'dead zone' in the western Black Sea has been brought back to life by the reduction of industrial and organic pollution (nitrogen emissions reduction by **22%**, and phosphorus emissions by almost **50%**) in the river system.



Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management

The waters surrounding the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific support the largest tuna fishery of any ocean. GEF support has led directly to the establishment of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the Commission now has responsibility for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of tuna resources across a convention area that covers approximately **20%** of the earth's surface.

Conservation and management measures have now been adopted to limit overfishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks. Purse seine catches is being capped at 2004 levels, a catch quota is being introduced for the bigeye longline fishery, and no increases will be permitted in the number of vessels fishing for albacore in both the north and south Pacific Ocean. Further, a fee-based system has been introduced to support these measures.

Strengthening Food Security

The GEF International Waters focal area invested **\$400 million** in grants and leveraged additional **\$2.7 billion** in 75 food security-related water projects around the globe, enabling greater collaboration to help communities to sustainably balance the competing uses of water resources. A wide range of GEF projects demonstrated the benefits of fostering collaboration among national ministries, enabling the participation of local communities, and harnessing innovative technology to reduce wasteful and damaging agricultural practices.



Land Degradation

\$755.7 million in GEF resources invested in generating global environmental benefits and improving livelihoods in agricultural, rangeland and forest production landscapes through **194 stand-alone projects** and **152 multi-focal area projects.**

\$4.4 billion leveraged in cofinancing that has made an impact on the global trend in land degradation while simultaneously improving the livelihood base of millions of rural people who rely on agriculture to survive.



Agricultural Rehabilitation and Sustainable Land Management in Burundi

In Burundi, **90%** of the population is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood. Despite the country's high potential, Burundi suffers from low agricultural productivity as a result of land degradation and the associated loss of ecosystem services caused by population growth, low government investment, and civil strife. The GEF provided **\$5.8 million** toward the *Agricultural Rehabilitation and Sustainable Land Management Project*, generating an additional **\$37 million** in cofinancing. The project promotes capacity building, as well as economically and ecologically sustainable investments in agriculture, which will help improve the livelihoods of people throughout Burundi. At the same time, the project helps reduce pressure on fragile marshlands and safeguards vital ecosystem services such as carbon storage, hydrological cycles, and nutrient cycling in forests in wetlands.

Sustainable Land Management Programme to Combat Desertification in Pakistan



Land degradation has an adverse impact on Pakistan's economy and social welfare. Across much of the country, landscapes are characterized by moderate to severe deforestation, overgrazing, depleted ground water reserves, reduced surface water quantity and quality, erosion, salinity, lowered soil fertility, and the loss of biodiversity. The GEF-5 Project *Sustainable Land Management Programme to Combat Desertification in Pakistan* aims at introducing and upscaling sustainable land management practices to **200 villages** in **14 districts** of four provinces (Punjab, Singh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtankhawa) in mountainous landscapes with an area of **800,000 hectares**. The SLM activities alleviate land degradation and increase the resilience to climate change of local communities, and the project mobilizes a large baseline investment of the GoP to support the implementation of SLM practices so that ecosystem functionality and critical ecosystem services are enhanced at landscape level. As an innovative element, the project will facilitate the generation of community-level SLM funds to incentivize rural farmers to adopt SLM practices.



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

GEF's intervention in the POPs focal area is characterized by a large number of activities covering all POPs issues identified under the Stockholm Convention. These include investment projects addressing PCBs and PCB containing wastes, obsolete POPs pesticides, POPs-contaminated waste, development of alternatives to DDT for vector control, waste management and introduction of BAT/ BEP to minimize dioxins and furans, development and update of NIPs, capacity building projects for ensuring a sustained implementation of the Stockholm Convention. The GEF mandate to the Stockholm Convention is also magnified where there are opportunities for co-benefits with other Chemicals Convention and agreements, climate change and international waters.

Since 2001 the GEF has committed **\$806 million** to POPs projects and leveraged some **\$2.3 billion** in cofinancing from partners in the public and private sectors, bringing the total value of the GEF POPs portfolio to over **\$3.1 billion**. GEF POPs investments will contribute to the disposal of PCB oil, contaminated equipment and waste, obsolete POPs and associated waste and to reducing dioxin/furan and mercury emission by introducing environmentally-sound technologies and best practices. The work of the GEF Chemicals Focal Area has resulted in the sound management and disposal of more than **200,000 tons** of POPs in developing countries and CEITs.



Demonstration of Integrated Pest Management to Eliminate the Use of POPs Pesticides in China

The funding for the project was provided by the GEF in the amount of **\$14.36 million**, with a total cofinancing of **\$13.34 million** provided by China. With the implementation of the project, China banned the production, consumption, use, import and export of four POPs including, DDT, hexachlorobenzene, Chlordane and Mirex in May 2009.

It is estimated that during the project cycle, a total amount of around **350 tons of POPs** was avoided, and the introduction of IPM and capacity building among more than **5,000 management and technical personnel** will sustain project results. The project utilized some funding for the remediation of three high-risk POPs contaminated sites for technology demonstration. In total, four tons of highly concentrated POPs wastes and **7500m² of high-risk pollution soil were cleaned up**. IPM demonstration covers an area of more than **100 million square meters**, and a national replication plan has been developed to replicate the success of the project.



PCB Management in Moldova

With a GEF grant of **\$7.6 million** and a cofinancing of **\$7.4 million**, the project aims at assisting sustainable POPs stockpiles management, and strengthening of the regulatory and institutional arrangements for long term control of POPs and other toxic substances in line with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention and other related conventions and protocols ratified by Moldova.

By completion, the project has surpassed its goals by destruction of **938 tons** of PCB-containing capacitors and **1,293 tons** of obsolete POPs pesticides. In addition, it facilitated:

- Drafting and functionalizing related legislation, by laws and regulations in the country,
- Drafting guidelines and handbooks for POPs management and formal enactment is underway,
- Designing a POPs information management and reporting system,
- Completing Moldova's PCB inventory.



Protecting the Ozone Layer

The GEF has invested a total of **\$225 million** in **18 countries** with economies in transition (CEITs) in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union for phasing out substances that deplete the ozone layer. An additional **\$247 million** in cofinancing from national and other bilateral partners was also contributed to these projects.



Total Sector Methyl Bromide Phase out in Seven CEITs

Funding for the project was provided by the GEF in the amount of **\$5.175 million**, and supported with a cofinancing of **\$6.728 million**. The project enabled the seven participating countries (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Uzbekistan) to meet compliance with the control measure of the Montreal Protocol for methyl bromide phase out. This control measure required **100% phase out** of methyl bromide — excluding quarantine and pre-shipment — by January 1, 2005.

The project phased-out about **167 metric tons** of methyl bromide used each year. In the long run, the project established non-chemical Integrated Pest Management-based alternatives for fumigation.

The equipment required in the adoption of alternatives was developed through in-country missions by selected technical experts working in collaboration with the national technical focal points.





Securing multiple benefits

\$2 billion of GEF resources have funded multi-focal area projects: in other words supporting programs that have multiple benefits, such as mitigating greenhouse gases while tackling ozone depletion, protecting habitat while securing carbon stocks and improving freshwater flows.

385 GEF projects and programs, providing the multiple environmental and social benefits of sustainable forest management (SFM) and reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and production forest-related landscapes (REDD+). **\$2.1 billion** leveraging **\$9.5 billion** in cofinancing for forest conservation and management.

The GEF-5 SFM/REDD incentive mechanism mobilized **\$688 million** of GEF funds in support of forests for the period of 2010-2014 in **70 countries**. Resilient forests increase carbon sequestration capacity, biodiversity, improve habitat, and protect against soil erosion and desertification. Livelihoods are further enabled by provision of food and shelter for forest-dependent peoples, water supply, flood control, and income opportunities.

Over 50 percent of the GEF international waters projects have benefits for climate change, many of these relating to adaptive management measures, and **over 70 percent** of GEF's projects in international waters benefit biodiversity, specifically with respect to coastal and marine ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems, and pollution reduction.



Congo Basin Forest Program

By combining GEF funds of more than **\$50 million** from different focal areas for **13 coordinated projects**, the GEF has been helping **6 Central African countries** conserve unique forest biodiversity while at the same time creating income for local populations and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This program is part of the GEF's Tropical Forest Account, which fostered investments in high tropical forest cover regions like Amazonia, the Congo Basin and Papua New Guinea/Borneo.



Albania Natural Resource Development Project

This GEF project has promoted sustainable, community-based natural resource management in about **240 upland and mountainous erosion-prone communities** across the country. Since the project's start-up, rural families have better managed forests and pastures to increase productivity and incomes while reducing erosion by **400,000 tons** and more effectively sequestering carbon.

Benefits to the local population included a **25 percent increase** in income earned from forest activities in communal forest and pasture lands, a **50 percent** increase in income earned from forest and agriculture activities in micro-catchments, and employment to **6,000 workers**, including **1,900 women** and **1,900 beneficiary families**.



Improved Management of "Blue Forests"

55 percent of atmospheric carbon captured by living organisms is attributable to marine systems with much of that captured by coastal vegetated habitats, such as mangroves, sea grass beds, salt marshes and kelp. In addition to being hotspots for carbon capture, "blue forests" also support livelihoods and provide food security for communities, yet they are being lost at up to **4 times** the rate of terrestrial forests.

GEF international waters projects protecting "blue forests" provide multiple benefits in terms of coastal storm protection, adaptation to fluctuating climate and sea-level rise, biodiversity conservation, food security, livelihoods, building products, transboundary fisheries, and carbon sinks to mitigate climate change.

For example, the sea grass beds in East Bintan, Indonesia were found, in a GEF project involving **724 households**, to have an estimated annual value of **\$2,287 per hectare** from capture fisheries and associated tourism activities. In East Africa, GEF-funded activities led to the development of a community-based spatial marine zoning process that created limited use areas used as "fish refugia." The limited use areas, along with a participating local economic development plan, resolved long-standing conflicts in the use of seagrass beds and mangroves.



SMALL GRANTS, BIG EFFECT

The GEF's successful Small Grants Programme has invested direct financing and cofinancing amounting to **\$617 million** in **17,000 projects** by indigenous and community-based organizations based in more than **128 countries**. Even though these grants are small, they help local communities achieve and sustain global environmental benefits, mainly in the areas of biodiversity and climate change, according to an independent evaluation.

PARTNERS

One of the GEF's key strengths is its partnership structure. Partners include:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Bank
- African Development Bank (AFDB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Conservation International (CI)
- World Wildlife Fund - US (WWF-US)

UN CONVENTIONS SUPPORTED BY GEF

The GEF also supports a number of UN environmental conventions, as well as the Montreal Protocol and activities related to international waters. These include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury





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