



Behind the Numbers

A CLOSER LOOK AT GEF ACHIEVEMENTS



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET





The numbers tell a story:

18 years, \$8 billion invested directly, **\$33 billion** in cofinancing, and **2,400** projects in more than **165 countries**. Together, these numbers make us the world's leading public financial fund investing in the joint management, **care, and restoration of our planet**.

Yet behind those numbers is a bigger story

that comes from the **positive impact GEF investments have** on the two billion still waiting for access to electricity, clean water, and other services others easily enjoy. It does this as a unique networked organization working together to make a **global** impact with the help of the **public sector, businesses,** and **civil society**.

A large group of African school children, mostly girls, are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing light blue and white school uniforms. The background shows a schoolyard with a dirt path and some buildings in the distance.

Investing in our Planet



What is the GEF?

A PARTNERSHIP of 178 countries, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

A CATALYST that generated unprecedented levels of cofinancing averaging levels of 1:4 over the past 15 years.

A FINANCIAL MECHANISM for the main multilateral environmental conventions.

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

A LEARNING ORGANIZATION with an independent Evaluation Office that receives 19 percent of the total corporate budget.

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

A HIGHLY TRANSPARENT system among international organizations.

A BALANCED GOVERNANCE, reflecting UN and Bretton Woods systems.

AN EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION where the Secretariat budget is 1.8 percent of the total core fund.

ACTING LOCALLY FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

With increasing threats from climate change, pollution and shrinking biodiversity, the GEF is a key catalyst and innovator, providing two essential components to meet the world's goals for development, climate protection, and the conservation of natural resources, including the Earth's rich biodiversity.



Climate change

\$2.4 billion to support projects in developing countries and economies in transition with another **\$14 billion** in cofinancing.

1 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions, an amount equivalent to nearly **5 percent** annual human emissions.

30 climate-friendly technologies supported by the GEF for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable urban transport. GEF climate change projects have also played a catalytic role in crafting proactive national policy frameworks, pioneering innovative financial instruments, and promoting **market-based** mechanisms leading to widespread adoption and dissemination.

By 2006, GEF-supported activities had reduced greenhouse gas emissions by **224 million** metric tons of CO₂ equivalent with an investment of **\$1.8 billion** dollars. And that's just the beginning: GEF is expected to contribute **\$1 billion** to the reduction of about **1.7 billion** metric tons of CO₂ equivalent through ongoing projects.



Adapting to Change

The Bhutan government will be integrating climate risk projections into existing disaster risk management so that their early warning system is expanded to cover the growing risk of bursting dams that hold glacial lakes. GEF funds will also be used to physically lower the level of certain lakes under the project which is part of the **Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund**.



Transferring Technology and Knowledge

Technical breakthroughs supported by the GEF are expected to more than halve the cost of clean, geothermal power in Kenya and other countries of the Rift Valley, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing local development opportunities.

The GEF China Refrigerator Project will save 66 billion kWh of electricity during the lifetime of the products, and reduce 100 million tons of CO₂ emissions. Production and sale of top-rated energy-efficient refrigerators has increased significantly, from 360,000 units in 1999 to 4.8 million units. Today, 256 types of refrigerators manufactured in China comply with international standards and exceed advanced **energy-efficiency** requirements of the EU.



Biodiversity

\$2.3 billion, leveraging **\$5.36** billion in cofinancing, to support implementation of **790** projects in more than **155** countries to conserve and sustainably use **biodiversity**

\$1.5 billion in investment in the creation or management of **1,600 protected areas** covering **360 million** hectares

Biodiversity protection and planning for more than **100 million** hectares of productive lands

Support to the development of National Biosafety Frameworks in **122** countries and for their subsequent implementation under the Cartagena Protocol



Protecting the “lungs of the planet” in the Amazon

The forests of South America’s **Amazon** Basin have been described as the “lungs of the planet,” and are a rich source of biodiversity. The Tumucumaque National Park is the first of many new protected areas that are part of the GEF-funded Amazon Region Protected Area (ARPA) program. In just over four years, ARPA has helped turn an area of the Amazon the size of North Dakota into legally protected forestland. As of January 2009, ARPA had placed 24 million hectares into new protected areas, exceeding the original goal of 18 million hectares. A \$35 million endowment fund has been established to manage the new protected areas, also exceeding the original target of \$13 million.



Financing Stewardship, Adding Jobs

Villagers in the **Congo** now earn income managing the forests and protecting critical gorilla habitat as part of the GEF’s Tropical Forest Account. The program fosters investments in high tropical forest cover regions including the Congo Basin, Amazonia, New Guinea and Borneo.



Protecting Critical Ecosystems

With the help of the GEF’s Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Namibians have created a 2.6 million-hectare protected area, the largest single-area proclamation in **Africa** in the past 20 years. The Sperrgebiet National Park supports nearly a quarter of Namibia’s plant diversity on less than 3 percent of the country’s land surface. The Fund has enabled more than 1,300 civil society groups to help conserve hotspots in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



International waters

GEF is the **largest investor** in multicountry collaborations on shared water systems. Projects across multiple country boundaries have included **30** river and lake basins, **5** groundwater basins, and **19** of the planet's **64** large marine ecosystems.

More than **\$1 billion** leveraged **\$4.2 billion** in cofinancing for water, 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 **130 nations**, GEF projects cover **19 of the Earth's 64** large marine ecosystems, including half of those shared by developing countries.



Improving Conditions for Peace



The GEF has been the largest contributor to collaborative efforts in the Nile Basin, with \$79 million in grants to improve conditions for **peace, security, and stability** through the Nile Basin Initiative and through subsidiary cross-border projects.



Sustaining Small Island States

The GEF is providing support for 33 Small Island Developing States to protect their valuable surface and **groundwater drinking** supplies as well as to reduce pollution from sewage and other sources that degrade coastal water quality and pose health risks to communities.



Black Sea Partnerships

Through the GEF Danube/ Black Sea Basin Strategic Partnership with the World Bank, 10 national projects are reducing nitrogen pollution from **agriculture**, city sewage, and industrial sources, and **restoring floodplain wetlands**.

As a result of this partnership and reducing nutrients from the Danube, the “dead zone” observed over broad sections of the western Black Sea in the 1970s and 1980s has become virtually nonexistent in recent years, and the diversity of fish species has roughly doubled from levels in the 1980s. A similar partnership with the World Bank to reduce even more extensive “dead zones” in East Asia is underway.



Land Degradation

\$500 million in GEF resources to **88** projects and programs supporting **sustainable land management** to combat desertification and deforestation in particular

More than **\$3 billion** leveraged in cofinancing that help the global environment while simultaneously improving the livelihood base of millions of rural people who rely on agriculture to survive



Integrated Silvopastoral Approaches

In partnership with the World Bank, the GEF has been able to measure the impact of **payment incentives to farmers** for adopting integrated silvopastoral farming systems in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. This has translated into 12,262 hectares of improved biodiversity and carbon sequestration indices.

Many other environmental benefits of silvopastoral systems have been demonstrated as well: better water infiltration; soil retention; soil productivity; reduction of fossil fuel dependence (e.g., substitution of inorganic fertilizer with nitrogen-fixing plants); diversification of farm benefits; improved visual vistas; and land rehabilitation.





Persistent Organic Pollutants

\$360 million spent for measures to reduce human and environmental exposure to POPs; another **\$440 million** leveraged through private sector and other sources

135 countries assisted in meeting their obligations to Stockholm Convention

Projects underway around the world are removing and disposing of significant amounts of obsolete pesticides and phasing out industrial chemicals and disposing of associated wastes, resulting in long-lasting **global & local benefits for health** and the environment.



A well-established leader in the fight against toxic mercury

GEF work has reduced the toxic environmental and human health effect from exposure to mercury from artisanal gold mining — a poverty-driven activity that contaminates air, soil, water, fish, and people when mercury is used to extract gold from ore. Although artisanal gold mining provides an important source of livelihood for 15 million people, it also accounts for 20 percent of global mercury pollution.

Through a partnership with UNDP and UNIDO, the GEF demonstrated practical methodologies and technologies to minimize mercury releases in mining operations. The project illustrated that a mix of policy and governance reforms, training, and technology transfer can successfully **reduce exposure** to toxic mercury in artisanal gold mining.

Best practices and **affordable technologies** were introduced to over 12,000 mining community members by 100 local trainers in 6 countries. The reduction of mercury resulting from the application of the techniques was important at all the project sites. In Brazil, the project contributed to a reduction of over 1,700 kg of mercury releases to the environment. In Indonesia, mercury emissions were reduced by 900 kg in 2008 after the Indonesian government introduced a new law creating a licensing system and policy framework for small-scale miners.

The approach is being replicated in Cambodia, Ecuador, Guinea, Mozambique, Senegal, and Venezuela, with 35 more countries seeking help.





Technical and financial support to help countries

with economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to reduce their consumption of ozone-depleting substances by **99 percent**

Protecting
the ozone
layer



Working with Countries in Transition

Phasing out ozone-depleting substances is a highly effective way to get immediate, and **future global environmental benefits**. The GEF, in partnership with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, has helped 18 countries phase out ozone destroying chemicals. After more than a decade of international cooperation, the concentration of some of these chemicals in the atmosphere has already started to decline.





SMALL GRANTS, BIG EFFECT

The GEF's Small Grants Programme has invested \$450 million in 10,000 projects by indigenous and community-based organizations based in more than 100 countries. Even though these grants are small, an independent evaluation has shown they help local communities achieve and sustain global environmental benefits, mainly in the areas of biodiversity and climate change.

PARTNERS

One of the GEF's key strengths is the number and type of partnerships. 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)

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)



PHOTOGRAPHY

Alirio Bolívar | 11 (right)
Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology | 5 (bottom inset)
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Victor Melo | 9 (bottom inset)
Mercury Alternatives project — UNDP/UNIDO | 13 (right inset)
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