



# The Global Environment Facility

## Financing climate change solutions

The GEF unites 178 member governments—in partnership with international institutions, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector—to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. An independent financial organization, the GEF provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. These projects benefit the global environment by linking local, national, and global environmental challenges, and promoting sustainable livelihoods in local communities. Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP), the GEF has also made more than 7,000 small grants directly to nongovernmental and community organizations.

In just 16 years, the GEF has evolved into an effective and transparent entity with a solid track record of getting results. Today, it is the largest funder of projects to improve the global environment. The GEF has allocated \$7.4 billion, supplemented by more than \$29 billion in cofinancing, for more than 1,980 projects in more than 160 developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The GEF partnership includes ten agencies—the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the World Bank.

### GEF AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

The GEF is a financial mechanism for implementing the international conventions on biodiversity, climate change and persistent organic pollutants. The GEF is also a financial mechanism for the Convention to Combat Desertification and collaborates closely with other treaties and agreements.

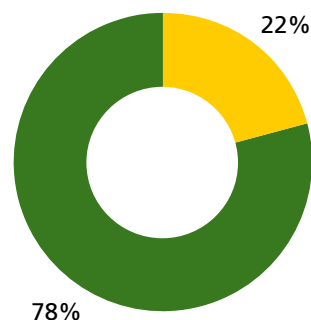
In all its work, GEF catalyzes problem-solving partnerships, working closely with convention secretariats, implementing agencies, executing agencies, private sector, and civil society.

### ABOUT THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

As the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the GEF is helping developing countries expand their use of clean energy and reduce their consumption of fossil fuel. The GEF is the largest funder of renewable energy in the developing world, supporting solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and small hydropower energy. In 16 years, GEF's clean energy portfolio has grown to more than \$2.2 billion in grants for projects with a total value of nearly \$14 billion.

Since 1991, GEF's work on global climate change has included funding for enabling activities, mitigation activities, and adaptation activities. The bulk of GEF projects seek to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, benefit the economy, and help improve local environmental conditions.

### THE LEVERAGING EFFECT OF GEF SUPPORT



■ GEF allocation — \$7.4 billion

■ Cofinancing amount — \$29 billion

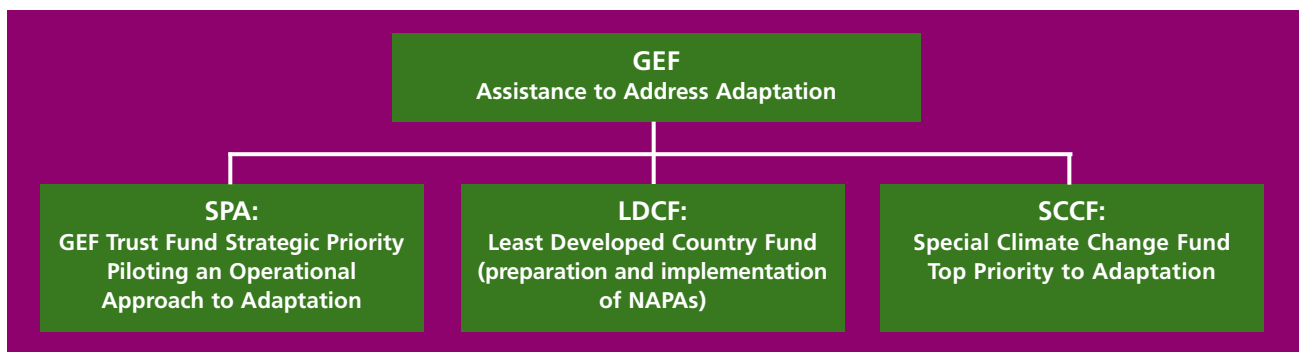
To help countries adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, the GEF supports projects that reduce countries' vulnerability to climate change impacts and helps them build adaptive capacity.

Examples include:

- 🌴 Kiribati: enhance adaptive capacity by incorporating climate change impacts into future coastal and fresh water planning. Implementation focuses on institutional and policy support, as well as pilot measures for coastal infrastructure, fresh water conservation, and coastal biodiversity.
- 🌴 Colombia: support efforts to define adaptation measures and policy options to meet the expected impacts from climate change. These efforts focus on high mountain ecosystems, insular areas, and water management interventions that combine mitigation and adaptation.
- 🌴 Eastern and Southern Africa (Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania): mainstream adaptation to climate change into development planning in the participating countries to ensure that vulnerability is reduced.

## ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE SPECIAL FUNDS

Because of the risks that climate change is already posing to humans and the environment, the Climate Convention has asked the GEF to finance projects that help countries adapt to the adverse effects of climate change through two funds: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund. Particularly vulnerable are small island states with fragile coastal ecosystems, such as the Caribbean and Pacific Islands as well as African countries at risk of enhanced floods and drought. The GEF works with countries to identify areas vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise, develop cost-effective response programs, and enhance regional and national capabilities for dealing with climate change problems. One example is in Bhutan. There, GEF is working



to reduce the country's vulnerability to glacial lake outbursts, through physical measures to artificially lower the water level of glacial lakes, targeted disaster risk management development, and installation of early warning systems.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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