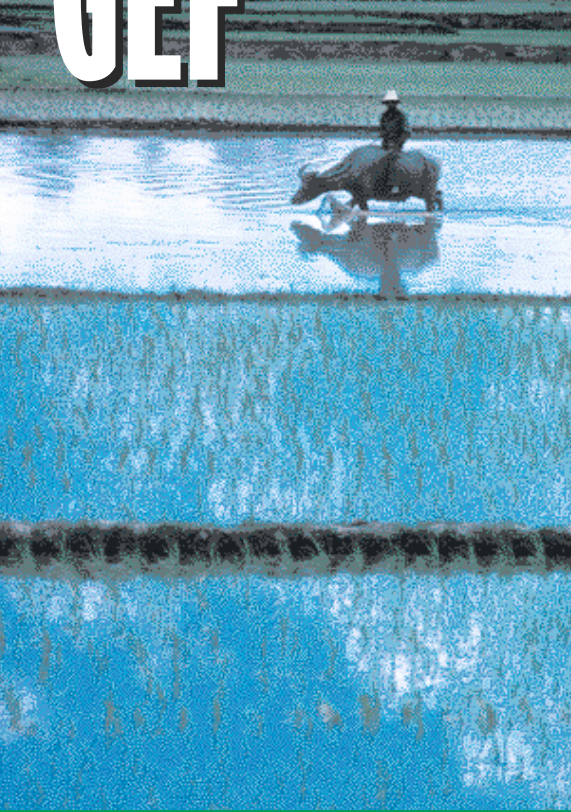


# GEF

## Global Environment Facility



### THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY . . . DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIPS. REAL SOLUTIONS.

GEF is a major catalyst for improving the global environment. GEF's mandate is to make the connection between local and global environmental challenges and between national and international efforts to conserve biodiversity, reduce the risks of climate change, protect the ozone layer, clean up international waters, stop land degradation, and eliminate persistent organic pollutants.

An independent financial entity, the GEF funds projects with practical solutions. Government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national institutions, private companies, and others from developing countries and economies in transition work in partnership with GEF and its implementing agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.

To date, the GEF has approved more than 1,000 projects in 160 developing countries and economies in transition, committing \$4.2 billion in grants. Yet the GEF's imprint is much more widespread. Through cofinancing, it has raised an additional \$11 billion in funding. This impressive leveraging is a reflection of the GEF's philosophy and illustrates the real impact of the GEF's work.

#### Brazil

The GEF provided funds for local Brazilian technicians to design a biomass gas turbine that runs on the residue and waste from sugar refining, including trash from harvesting and bagasse, a residue from processing, to take advantage of all available energy. Previously, Brazil — the world's largest producer of sugar — used only part of the sugar waste, or biomass, to drive sugar refinery machines. The new turbines provide twice the available fuel supply, allowing year-round operation and increasing power generation efficiency.

In addition, the sugar industry now has a new commercial opportunity — selling power from its sugar-driven steam turbines. The new technology could have a significant impact on global climate. If the world's 1 billion-ton sugar cane industry converted its bagasse and field waste into power, use of nearly 250 million tons of oil could be avoided every year. *Implementing agency: UNDP*

#### Ethiopia

With GEF's support, Ethiopia has initiated an innovative project that brings together farmers and genetic research institutions to conserve indigenous crops in dynamic agro-ecosystems. To date the outputs of this agrobiodiversity project have included (a) model research and extension programmes throughout Ethiopia, (b) seed selection and management that provide breeders of crop varieties with a greater range of genetic materials, and (c) a unique living laboratory for national and international crop varieties. *Implementing agency: UNDP*

#### Black Sea and Danube Basin

Unprecedented collaboration on a GEF project by 17 Black Sea and Danube River Basin countries is helping save critical marine resources in the region. These countries rely on the Black Sea, the Danube River Basin, and the various tributaries for economic, social, and environmental services. Yet pollution and other human impacts threaten these important waters. For more than seven years, the GEF has been supporting an array of projects that improve the biodiversity, economic and social values of these marine resources. GEF projects in the region complement one another, emphasizing the importance of a coordinated approach. The projects focus on collaboration, prioritization, and on-the-ground action. *Implementing agencies: World Bank, UNDP, UNEP*

#### Sri Lanka

Thanks to new solar home system technology and support from the GEF, rural areas in Sri Lanka that once relied on candles or kerosene lamps are now using the sun's energy for electricity. This solar energy is more effective than grid-supplied power or kerosene. Moreover, the solar light is brighter than kerosene, emits no fumes, and poses no risk of fire. Working with micro-credit organizations and others, the GEF has helped make bank loans for the purchase of solar home systems easier for rural people to obtain. The new loan repayment arrangements make use of the systems less expensive for rural people than use of kerosene. In addition to energy benefits, the new solar systems have also created opportunities for small businesses in the area. *Implementing agency: World Bank*

#### Eastern Europe and Central Asia

GEF has had a significant impact in reducing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Twenty-seven per cent of total global ODS reductions in 1999 were directly attributable to GEF investments. In the 14 countries with the most advanced GEF projects, ODS consumption has been reduced by more than 90 per cent. Since 1992, the GEF has been providing grants and assistance to countries that have not been eligible for assistance from the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol. In particular, the GEF has focused considerable attention on the Russian Federation, one of the world's largest producers and consumers of ozone-depleting substances. *Implementing agency: World Bank*

#### South China Sea

The South China Sea supports a major world fishery and is internationally known for its shallow water marine biological diversity. Countries bordering the sea are among the fastest growing in the world, in part because of the exploitation of their marine resources. To reverse extensive environmental degradation in the South China Sea, the GEF is supporting a project promoting partnerships among the countries and stakeholders in the area. The project includes targeted action programmes and a recommended legal framework for improved regional cooperation in management of environmental concerns. An important outcome of the project is a strategic action programme that focuses on habitat degradation and loss, overexploitation of fisheries, land-based pollution, and regional cooperation. *Implementing agency: UNEP*



## GEF AT A GLANCE

- The GEF is the single largest source of funding for the global environment. Over the past decade, it has committed \$4.2 billion in grants, and leveraged \$11 billion in additional financing, for more than 1,000 projects in 160 countries.
- GEF investments earn \$3 for every \$1 committed by GEF.
- The GEF relies on three implementing agencies — UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank — which play key roles in managing GEF projects on the ground.
- In 1999, the GEF Council extended invitations to seven other agencies to work on GEF projects. Today FAO, UNIDO, the AFDB, the ABD, the EBRD, the IDB, and IFAD execute GEF projects.
- The GEF is the largest funder of renewable energy in developing countries.
- The GEF has had a significant impact in reducing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In the 14 countries with the most advanced GEF projects, ODS consumption has been reduced by more than 90 per cent.
- About 70 per cent of all external funds for World Heritage Sites designated by UNESCO are supplied through the GEF.
- 173 countries are members of the GEF.
- GEF projects are country-driven, following the strategic imperatives of the country.
- A recent comprehensive assessment by an independent panel of experts finds that the GEF has been a “catalyst for innovative programmes” and produced “significant results” to improve the global environment.

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