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UNEP is an Implementing Agency of the GEF with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is the only GEF Agency whose sole focus is the environment.

Strategic Engagement

UNEP is actively strengthening its strategic engagement with GEF through targeted actions including:

- Technical input into the development of strategic papers and programmes, e.g.:
 - a) GEF-V strategic direction;
 - b) The Programme on Technology Transfer;
 - c) The "Ban-the-bulb" Initiative;
 - d) The Sustainable Buildings initiative.
- Launching key GEF initiatives that will help to provide high-quality, consistent and participatory input into developing GEF-V strategies:
 - a) Economic Analysis of Adaptation Options;
 - b) The Global Commission on Land Use and Ecosystems;
 - c) Global Project for Ecosystem Services.
- Strengthening the role of STAP in providing not only strategic advice, but also a mechanism to offer long-term perspectives on environmental challenges that GEF should engage in the future:
- Proposing new targeted research projects that would help define the direction for new or existing GEF windows, such as carbon sequestration and bioenergy.

UNEP plays a key role in supporting countries to develop and execute GEF projects, with a focus on:

- Scientific assessments, monitoring, early warning;
- Linking science to policy (Capacity Building, Enabling Activities) at national, regional and global levels;
- Innovation, technology transfer and lifting barriers;
- Regional and global cooperation;
- Awareness raising, advocacy, and Knowledge management.

UNEP also plays an important role in supporting the strategic and policy directions of the GEF, operationalising the Trust Fund and enhancing its scientific rigour and relevance. UNEP hosts the secretariat of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

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For more information on UNEP GEF projects, please click www.unep.org/dgef

UNEP's

Division for Global Environment Facility Coordination





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Complementarity

The GEF priorities and UNEP's six thematic areas as defined in the Medium Term Strategy (MTS) are closely aligned.

For the first time, concerted effort has been made to enhance cohesion between UNEP's Programme of Work 2010-2011 and its GEF portfolio, which has resulted in greater consistency and complementarity.

This alignment has potentially strengthened UNEP's comparative advantage within the GEF. The nature of DGEF projects opens substantive areas for collaboration with other UNEP Divisions building synergies and enhancing impacts by leveraging additional funding for global environmental benefits. Successful examples include:

- Ecosystem Management and Services (with the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, DEPI);
- Scientific Assessments (with the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, DEWA);
- Incentive Mechanisms, Climate Change, Harmful Substances (Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, DTIE);
- Access and Benefit Sharing (Division for Environmental Law and Conventions, DELC);

- Public Awareness and Advocacy (Division of Communications and Public Information, DCPI);
- Poverty and Environment Initiative (Division of Regional Cooperation, DRC); and
- Development of Indicators and Targeted Research (World Conservation Monitoring Centre, WCMC).

The purpose of this alignment is to build greater synergies, enhance impacts and their sustainability and leverage additional grant financing for global environment benefits. GEF funding can be matched with regular programme funds to pioneer new, innovative and transformational activities within the MTS framework.

Country Responsiveness

UNEP will continue to provide targeted support to countries, through strengthening its strategic presence in the regions and through the implementation of the Bali Strategic Action Plan in the context of its Programme of Work.

Complementary activities that UNEP-GEF supports at a country-level include:

- Technical and capacity building assistance to countries in piloting innovative methods, technology and modeling;
- Development of norms, guidelines and standards at a country-level;
- Awareness-raising, education and advocacy;
- Using national or regional capacity to assist locally and strengthening South-South cooperation;
- A fast response to country needs, guaranteed by DGEF performance standards;

- Regional and Global cooperation between countries; and
- Supporting work of civil society and other organizations.

Such activities can also lend themselves to assist countries to have direct access to various funds, such as the Adaptation Fund. UNEP is developing a model to provide scientific and technical support through a decentralized regional scientific and technical advisors system which would help countries in project design and administrative assistance to meet fiduciary standards of the various funds, as well as ensure greater links between scientific findings and policy at a country-level

GEF-IV, 2006-2010, has by far been the most dynamic period in GEF history. Far-reaching reforms including the introduction of the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) and restructuring of the modalities of cost recovery, have posed new challenges for both countries and agencies alike.

The Division of Global Environment Facility (DGEF), the division within UNEP that coordinates UNEP's engagement with GEF, has put in place a new management and financial structure aimed at increasing its effectiveness and efficiency.

Further reforms in anticipation of GEF-V can be envisaged.

GEF Fiduciary Standards

UNEP meets the fiduciary standards of the GEF. There is a clear institutional separation between UNEP-GEF's implementing (oversight and accountability) functions and executing services being offered by other Divisions.