

THE GEF AND ITS ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

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A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Largest environmental multi-donor trust fund in the world

Financial mechanism of five international environmental conventions



18 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



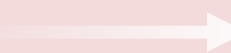
GOVERNANCE

GUIDANCE

ASSEMBLY

CONVENTIONS

CBD
UNFCCC
UNCCD
Stockholm (POPs)
Minamata
BBNJ



COUNCIL

32 Constituencies



OPERATIONS

SECRETARIAT

INDEPENDENT
EVALUATION OFFICE

STAP

TRUSTEE

ACTION

185 member governments

COUNTRIES

Operational & Political Focal Points
Convention Focal Points
Civil Society Organizations
Indigenous Peoples
Private Sector

18 AGENCIES

EXECUTING ENTITIES



Family of funds

Serve the Convention on Biological Diversity



Global Environment Facility

Trust Fund: Focus on biodiversity, chemicals and waste, climate change, international waters, and land degradation, plus integrated programming.



Global Biodiversity Framework

Fund: Newly-created fund to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 2030 nature-positive goals.



Nagoya Protocol Implementation

Fund: Supports action on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Serve the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



Least Developed Countries

Fund: The only dedicated source of multilateral funding for Least Developed Countries' most urgent climate adaptation needs.



Special Climate Change Fund:

Climate adaptation fund focused on technology and innovation, with dedicated window for Small Island Developing States.



Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Trust Fund:

Support for climate change data and reporting, in support of the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

Connecting Multiple Conventions



Convention on Biological Diversity



Minamata Convention on Mercury



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants



UN Convention to Combat Desertification



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement



GEF-8 Resources

GEF Trust Fund

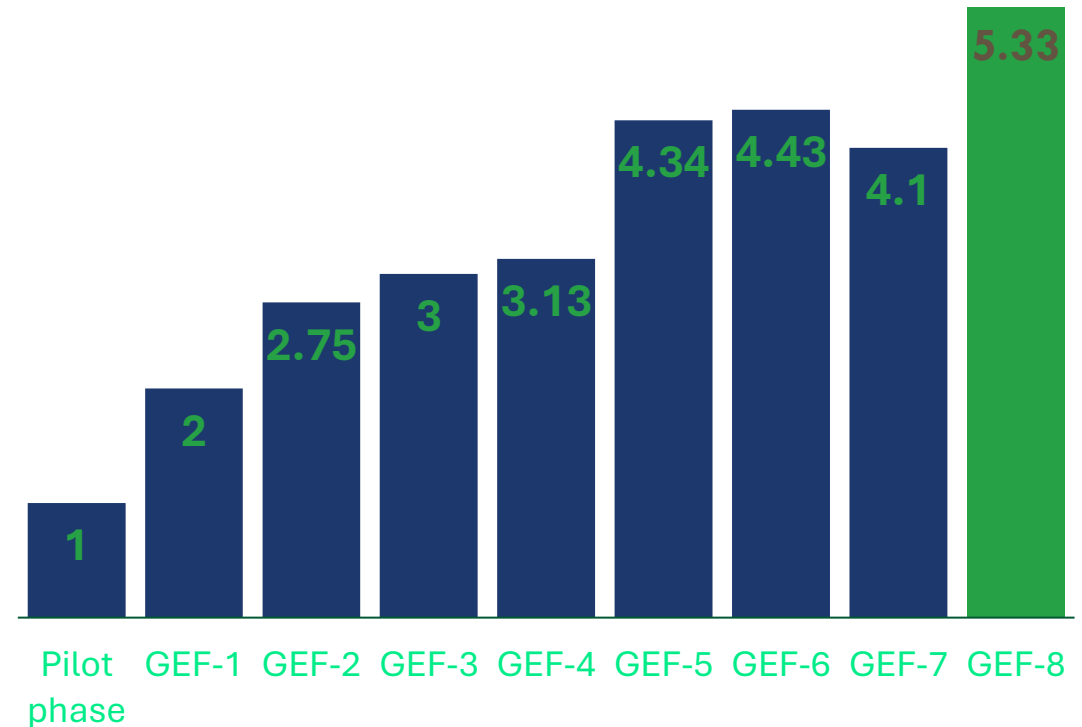
4-year
replenishment cycle
from July 1, 2022
to June 30, 2026

\$5.33 billion
pledged by
39 donor nations

Country 'STAR'
allocation

GEF-8 strategy responds to
conventions and takes an
**integrated approach to
systems transformation**

GEF Replenishment Cycles
(billion USD)

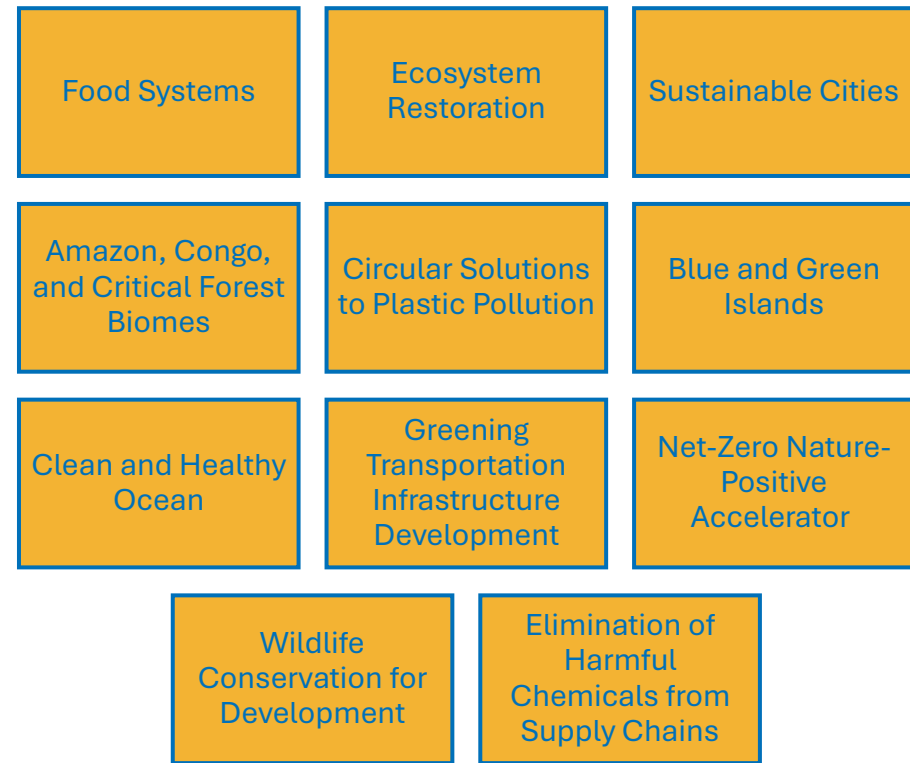


GEF DELIVERY MODEL

FOCAL AREAS

- Biodiversity
- Climate change mitigation
- Land degradation
- International waters
- Chemicals and waste

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS



GLOBAL PROGRAMS

- ✓ Mobilizing the Financial Sector for Environmental Goals through Blended Finance **\$195M worldwide competitive**
- ✓ Community Action for Global Transformation - Small Grants Program and Beyond

CROSS-CUTTING

Gender responsiveness • Stakeholders' Participation • Private sector engagement

GEF Policy Requirements

Stakeholder Engagement

- Promote the inclusive and meaningful participation of stakeholders in GEF's governance and operations

Gender Equality

- Ensure equal opportunities for women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from GEF-financed interventions

Environmental and Social Safeguards

- Enhance the environmental and social outcomes of GEF-financed projects

GEF Advisory Groups

GEF CSO Network

- Raise awareness and enhance engagement of civil society in the work of the GEF
- Provide guidance and advice to GEF on policies, project design, financing options

IPAG

- Raise awareness on the GEF and programs related to Indigenous Peoples in international, multilateral fora
- Provide guidance and advice to the GEF on policies, project design, financing options

GEF Gender Partnership

- Platform to share knowledge, tools, approaches, strategies to advance gender equality in GEF projects
- Provide expert advice on policy and programming directions



Food Systems Integrated Program

FOLUR program: A healthy planet and people starts with sustainable landscapes, tenure, and transformative governance

“Rights-based approaches address secure and equitable access to land... Tenure rights are a principal requirement to achieving effective and equitable Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) Luisa Jansen, FAO

“About 3.3 billion people, more than forty percent of the global population, live within one kilometer of forests, and 36 percent of intact forest landscapes are in areas where Indigenous People (IP) and local communities live and work, according to the report.

Yet only about 10 percent of those have formal, legal rights to use and manage this land. The report examines when and how the formalization of rights can lead to forest conservation while providing a practitioner’s guide on strengthening land rights.”

Examples from Nigeria, Kenya and Viet Nam



<https://www.folur.org/index.php/news/healthy-planet-and-people-starts-sustainable-landscapes-tenure-and-transformative-governance>

Direct funding to Indigenous Peoples and local communities: ICI-GEF-7 and HCI-GEF-8

RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLES AND RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE GOALS, INCLUDING THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO STEWARD THEIR TERRITORIES, LANDS, WATERS AND RESOURCES



- Increase resources and recognition for Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' governance and stewardship of territories, lands, waters and resources to deliver global environmental benefits.
- Direct fund to Indigenous Peoples organizations to conserve biodiversity: Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) – GEF-7 and Heart of Conservation Initiative (HCI) - GEF-8
- Promote knowledge exchange, training, and international engagement, all directed and governed by Indigenous communities
- Supporting nine Indigenous organizations across 13 countries with grant of \$1-2 million

The GEF-7 Inclusive Conservation Initiative

- The GEF Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) in GEF-7 was developed to provide direct funding to IPLCs organizations as part of an overall initiative designed and led by Indigenous leaders.
- The ICI has funded 10 Indigenous-led initiatives in 12 countries. These agreements, ranging from \$1 to \$2 million per project, illustrate the powerful impact of direct financing models.



The GEF-8 Heart of Conservation Initiative

- GEF launched ICI 2.0 (“Heart of Conservation Initiative”) in 2024 under GEF-8 with a \$22.5M budget, building on the success of ICI 1.0.
- HCI is guided by a Global Steering Committee of Indigenous leaders and the GEF's Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group members, ensuring Indigenous-led decision-making.
- HCI centers Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and leadership as essential to global conservation outcomes.
- A call for proposals for HCI was launched in 2025 for component 1 and now EOI are under review and OFP for countries with chosen projects, will be contacted.



Photo credits: ICI

The GEF Small Grants Program

SGP background

Serving as GEF Corporate Program
since 1992

Providing local solutions to global
environmental problems

Supporting innovative community-
based initiatives and actions

SGP in numbers

- > **29,000** grants since 1992
- US\$**1.5 billion** of GEF funds to local communities and CSOs across **136** countries
- US\$**956m** co-financing

GEF SGP 2.0 in GEF 8

Renewed ambition, size, governance and delivery model of SGP

Diversified SGP Implementing Roles



- Increased country choice with 2 new Agencies for SGP Core (FAO, CI)

Piloted New Models – Innovation & Inclusion



- CSO Challenge Program (IUCN)
- Microfinance Initiative (WB forthcoming)

Expanded Scale and Scope



- Increased Core financing from 128M in GEF-7 to 135M
- Expanded country coverage from 124 countries in GEF-7 to 135
- Secured 20.4% more STAR resources since GEF-7

Instituted New Guidance/Protocols



- Increased grant ratio from 62% in GEF-7 to 72%
- Developed new Operational Guidelines and results framework capturing socio-economic benefits

PPD: STIBRAWPA (Mujeres artesanas en Bribri)





Global Biodiversity Framework Fund
SECOND TRANCHE



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GBFF's aspirational target

“ An aspirational programming share of 20% at the portfolio level by 2030 from the total amount of resources allocated under the GBFF is to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity. ”

Policy on Allocation of Resources for the GBFF

Project development cycle

1 PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT REQUEST

- *Secretariat opens a call for proposals*
- *Secretariat reviews according to agreed selection criteria*
- *Based on the review, resource availability and the 3 portfolio-level targets, the CEO approves all or a subset of the PPG requests*

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. *Potential to generate Global Environmental Benefits*
2. *Alignment with the GBFF Programming directions and advancing the KMGBF implementation*
3. *Alignment with the NBSAP and BFP or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities*
4. *Level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector and civil society*
5. *Mobilization of private sector and philanthropic resources*
6. *Engagement with and support to IPLCs*
7. *Balance amongst regions*

2nd tranche

Tranche 1

9 March 2024 – 8 August 2025

Tranche 2

Starts 11 August 2025



GBFF GUIDELINES ON ACTIONS BY IPLCs

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund



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Next steps

Activity	Participants/stakeholders involved	Tentative timeline
First draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat 	September 2025
Online meetings and/or electronic consultation on first draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBFF Council Members and observers • GEF agencies • CBD Secretariat • IPAG 	September/October 2025
Open consultation side-event to the first meeting of the CBD Subsidiary body on Article 8j and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8j)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested delegates of the SB8j 	October 27-30, 2025
Finalized Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat 	November 2025

Thank you!

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