

# Canada and the Global Environment Facility

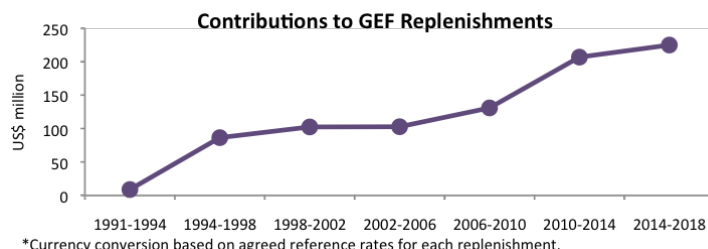
Canada, through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), helps developing countries implement their multilateral environmental agreements and environmental priorities in a way that supports national sustainable development priorities and ensures benefits for local development.

Canada is working closely with the GEF to implement the following priorities for the GEF Sixth Replenishment (GEF-6) period (2014-2018):

- leverage scarce donor resources, including through enhanced private sector engagement and greater use of non-grant instruments;
- strengthen programming results by addressing drivers of environmental degradation, increasing the integration of gender considerations, and enhancing country and civil society engagement; and,
- improve the GEF's efficiency and effectiveness by focusing on operational reforms, including improving the efficiency of the project cycle and strengthening the results-based management and the knowledge management systems.

## Canada's Contributions to the GEF

Since the GEF's inception in 1991, Canada has contributed to the organization's resources, with cumulative pledges totaling US\$875 million. Canada ranks sixth in contributions to the GEF Sixth Replenishment.



Canada also supports GEF-administered funds, and has contributed C\$30 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), which addresses the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of least-developed countries, and C\$13.5 million to the Special Climate Change Fund, which supports adaptation and technology transfer in all developing countries that are party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Separately, in 2013, Canada contributed \$16.5 million to scale up/extend LDCF programming to advance food security.

## Canadian Representation in the GEF Council Membership

The GEF Council is responsible for developing, adopting and evaluating policies and programs for GEF-financed activities. Council membership, which is based on equal representation from both developed and developing countries, consists of 32 GEF constituencies—16 from developing countries, 14 from developed countries and two from countries with economies in transition. As one of the largest regular contributors to the GEF Trust Fund, Canada has a single country seat.

## At a glance

**Cumulative Canadian contribution**

**US\$875 MILLION**

**GEF-6 contribution**

**US\$226 MILLION**

**Donor ranking: 6**

## Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility is a partnership for international cooperation where 183 countries work together with international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to address global environmental issues.

Since 1991, the GEF has provided US\$13.5 billion in grants and leveraged US\$65 billion in co-financing for 3,900 projects in 165 developing countries. For 24 years, developed and developing countries alike have provided these funds to support activities related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programs.

The GEF serves as a financial mechanism for the following conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and Minamata Convention on Mercury. The GEF, although not linked formally to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, supports implementation of the Protocol in countries with economies in transition.

The GEF administers several funds, including the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, both of which were established by the parties to the UNFCCC.

## GEF Results Achieved:

- reduced carbon emissions by 2.3 billion tonnes;
- slowed the advance of desertification in Africa by improving agricultural practices;
- set up protected areas around the world roughly equal in size to the area of Brazil;
- eliminated the use of ozone-depleting substances in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and
- transformed the management of 33 major river basins and one third of the world's large marine ecosystems.

...all this while helping to improve the livelihood and food security of millions of people.

## Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation in Ethiopian Farming

Diversity of crops is a critical element in ensuring resilience and high productivity of agricultural production, making conservation of wild relatives of crop species an important part of overall management of farming systems.

In Ethiopia, the GEF has supported policies across the agriculture, biodiversity, environment, trade, and forests sectors to mainstream agro-biodiversity mainstreaming.

Policy development was accompanied by awareness raising among more than 1,000 community representatives and targeted skills enhancements were provided to 300 extension officers and experts.

About 1/5 of all participants were women. The project has helped establish markets for wild-relatives of four target species: Durum Wheat (high in protein and low in gluten), Teff (the ingredient of Injera, the spongy crepe to grab bites of food), Forest Coffee (wild populations of Coffee Arabica), and Enset (the "Ethiopian Banana"). Opening the markets for these species with known values chains serves a dual purpose: it contributes to household incomes and it increases the value of farmer varieties, hence justifying their conservation and securing their contribution to national food security. In addition, crop wild relatives are being conserved in in-situ gene banks to continue providing breeding material for continual crop improvement and adaptation.

## Electricity Services for Rural Areas Project in Senegal

Access to electricity in Senegal was poor in rural areas and unreliable in urban areas. Less than four percent of Senegal's villages were estimated to have electricity, and in the electrified villages, less than 30 percent of households had electricity connections.

In line with the Senegalese government's strategy for energy sector reform and liberalization, the project development objectives were to:

- promote social equity between urban and rural areas by increasing access to electricity in rural areas, through private providers;
- ensure proper regulation as well as competition in the energy sector, leading to affordable and reliable energy supply to urban and rural populations; and
- lessen the barriers to development of renewable energy sources.

These objectives were achieved by supporting the establishment of a national agency for rural electrification; providing financing for a decentralized rural energy fund aimed at attracting private investment and mobilizing significant internal and external resources; and contributing to Senegal's investment program for grid-connected electrification.

## Results achieved:

- 604,045 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub> were produced by preventing deforestation, increasing the use of improved wood stoves and higher energy-efficient carbonization units, and increasing the use of renewable sources of energy;
- 20,386 households benefited directly from electricity;
- 289,116 hectares were brought under community-based sustainable management within the project implementation zone; and
- 250 improved carbonization units were installed.

## Contacts

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September 2015