



B I O D I V E R S I T Y M A T T E R S

GEF's contribution to preserving
and sustaining the natural
systems that shape our lives



GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY

This report reviews the Global Environment Facility's (GEF's) collaboration with developing nations and countries with transitional economies in five regions to conserve internationally significant species of plants and animals. GEF projects encourage sustainable uses of biological diversity, including uses by people dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. The report describes GEF projects by region in a range of ecosystems, including drylands, forests, and mountains as well as freshwater, marine, and coastal areas. Readers will gain an understanding of how GEF and its implementing agencies work with countries to ensure that the project development process is driven by countries and reflects their national development priorities.

To learn more about biodiversity projects in the African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern and Central European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western Asian regions, please see the “Project Map” on the GEF Web site at www.gefweb.org. At this site, readers may obtain the following GEF information:

National “focal points.” See “Participants,” then “Focal Points.”
Constituencies. See “Participants,” then “Council,” then “Constituencies.”
Small Grants Program. See “Documents,” then “Small Grants Programme.”

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BIODIVERSITY MATTERS

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THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Global Environment Facility considers the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity—Earth’s natural inheritance—to be one of its greatest priorities. In 10 years, GEF has become the single most important source of grant funding for this purpose in the world, steering nearly \$4.2 billion in direct grants and cofinancing to protect and use Earth’s remaining biological heritage sustainably. Although this amount is small in the face of the work yet to be done, it represents a significant commitment by the international community to preserving the diversity of life on our planet.

Dollar evidence of global commitment to biodiversity is backed by GEF’s extensive network of partnerships with developing countries and countries in economic transition in which GEF’s projects are implemented. Across five regions—Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia—160 countries work with GEF through its three implementing agencies, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank. Four hundred and seventy action-oriented projects that address the loss of globally significant biodiversity have been developed, proposed, and executed. Many of those projects are described within these pages.

GEF projects produce solutions to many of a country’s environmental and socioeconomic problems by helping protect aspects of the environment that are crucial to human survival: the atmosphere, marine and freshwater bodies, land resources, and the diversity of plant and animal life. In coming years, biodiversity must become an even greater priority, particularly of those who live closest to and depend the most on natural diversity. Local people must become the prime movers in hands-on conservation solutions if their communities are to become sustainable and endure. From the ground up, GEF works hard to elicit these communities’ participation in and contributions to GEF projects.

All GEF projects benefit from the lessons GEF has learned around the world in the past decade. In our first ten years, we have begun to understand the challenges that developing countries and countries in economic transition face, and we want to become their ally in finding ways to address these challenges. Our role, simply put, is to serve as a catalyst: to forge true partnerships with and among governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, NGOs, indigenous communities, private enterprises, grassroots organizations, and other groups.

In GEF’s second decade, we hope to deepen and broaden these partnerships. Such collaboration will be crucial for creating a policy setting that cuts across sectors and ensures that future—as well as present—generations will benefit sustainably from the bounty of our natural systems.

Mohamed T. El-Ashry
Chairman and CEO
Global Environment Facility

**THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
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NATURAL INHERITANCE—TO
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PRIORITIES.**

GEF AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

GEF INVESTMENTS IN BIODIVERSITY WORLDWIDE
FROM 1992 TO 2002, GEF HAD ALLOCATED NEARLY \$1.4
BILLION FOR 470 BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS IN 160
COUNTRIES. THESE PROJECTS HAVE ATTRACTED NEARLY
\$2.8 BILLION IN COFINANCING.



THE WEB OF LIFE: ROBUST, YET FRAGILE

From ocean depths to high mountaintops, from dry deserts to moist rain forests, the earth collectively supports millions of species of plants and animals. They represent a vast, and in great part hidden, treasure trove of diversity, of which most of us are scarcely aware. Scientists have identified 1.75 million species, although they estimate that anywhere from 3 to 100 million species could inhabit the planet.¹

Diversity in life, however, is not shown simply by the number of species. At the microscopic level, rich genetic differences exist within species, in their chromosomes, genes, and DNA. Macroscopically, a tapestry of complex ecosystems—formed by the interactions of living creatures with each other, the air, water, and earth—covers the land and dwells in the seas. All levels of diversity have important impacts on our lives—from genetic material that adds disease resistance to a food crop, to a promising new medicine derived from a newly discovered plant species, to the slow release of life-giving water from forests and wetlands.

All this life resides within a whisper-thin mantle that envelops our rock and water planet. Over an astounding

3.5 billion years, natural forces have shaped these species and ecosystems—and, in the past 10,000 years, humans have increasingly influenced them as well.

As long as human populations and activities remained small relative to the natural world, we could maintain the illusion that nature was limitless and resilient—an unending frontier to conquer and tame, a bounty to tap and harvest. In this belief, we could, without concern for the future, take advantage of nature. Its many benefits—food, medicines, energy, clean water and air, climate control, flood protection, inspiration, and recreation—remained as much a part of the background as our own heartbeat and were simply taken for granted.

As human populations have exploded in size and standards of living have improved, our impacts on the natural world have accelerated. In the past few hundreds of years, we have even begun to affect species numbers, entire ecosystems, and apparently the global climate. The limits of natural resources and systems come ever more sharply into view. On every continent, deforestation, desertification, urbanization, and population are undermining to varying degrees nature's capacity to sustain human communities. Forfeiting the natural goods and services provided by robust, functioning ecosystems

¹ Material for this section was drawn from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Web site, <http://www.biodiv.org>, *About the Convention*, "Sustaining Life on Earth: How the Convention on Biological Diversity Promotes Nature and Human Well-Being" (accessed February 2002).

THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND GEF

In 1992 world leaders meeting at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, launched the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the first global agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. More than 175 countries have since ratified the agreement. The Global Environment Facility was designated as “the institutional structure entrusted with operation of the financial mechanism of the CBD” to assist developing countries in meeting convention objectives. The convention’s Conference of Parties guides GEF on the policies, program priorities, and eligibility criteria to be applied for this purpose.

According to this convention, biological diversity or biodiversity represents the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial ecosystems, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and ecosystems of which they are a part. Variability refers to diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. Ecosystems are dynamic complexes of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

is hindering national development and taking a serious toll, particularly on those who depend most directly on natural resources for their survival—the poor.

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES

For a decade, GEF’s mandate has been to assist countries in addressing the loss of their plant and animal species, among other global environmental problems. GEF defrays the added costs of making existing or planned development projects friendly to the global environment, and it finances regional approaches to environmental problems. Closely aligned with national priorities, GEF projects

offer and, in some cases, have already delivered substantial and sustainable benefits to local communities.

GEF maintains close working relationships with the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, implementing agencies with extensive ties to developing countries, and its own network of national and NGO contacts around the world. Broad representation in its governing structure provides GEF with unique access to policymakers and civil society and with opportunities to foster cooperation among governments, international organizations, the scientific and technical community, and NGOs. These partnerships increase the effectiveness of GEF projects.

Biodiversity conservation is a substantial focus, in dollar amounts and numbers of projects, for GEF. By fiscal year 2001, GEF had supplied nearly \$1.4 billion of grant resources, representing roughly 40 percent of total funds allocated, for 470 projects in 160 countries.

The dollar amounts that GEF directs to biodiversity conservation are magnified several times over by the funds and resources that it *mobilizes*. Cofinancing of nearly \$2.8 billion has been attracted from other international agencies, national and local governments, project beneficiaries, and the private sector.

HOW DO GEF PROJECTS CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY?

GEF supports practical measures to encourage sustainable uses of biodiversity—including uses by people who depend on natural resources for their livelihood—and stakeholder involvement, all the while promoting awareness of biodiversity’s value. GEF brings together key institutions and individuals, catalyzing action and ensuring that funding meets country priorities as well as the needs of local communities.

On the basis of guidance provided by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, GEF’s biodiversity portfolio has centered on four types of critical, life-supporting systems and the interactions among them:

SPECIES AT RISK

As species become endangered and some go extinct, we can less easily ignore the fragility of ecosystems and the species they support as well as the irreversibility of our actions. Scientists estimate that 34,000 plant and 5,200 animal species are now facing extinction. Species at risk of extinction worldwide include:



One in eight plants



One in four mammals



One in five reptiles



One in four amphibians



One in three fish



One in eight birds

- **Drylands.** Forty-four projects, mostly in Africa, are addressing massive desertification and persistent land degradation.
- **Coastal, marine, and freshwater.** Sixty-five projects are strengthening integrated management of water-based resources and underwriting nature reserves and marine parks.
- **Forests.** Ninety-one projects focus on threatened forests, especially those found in the humid and sub-humid tropics.
- **Mountains.** Twenty-one projects protect mountain ecosystems in Central America, the Andes, East Africa, peninsular Southeast Asia, and the vast expanse of hilly and mountainous terrain comprising the Himalayas.
- **Agricultural biodiversity.** GEF is widening its support for the maintenance of biodiversity important to agriculture through projects in Ethiopia, Peru, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority.

Including projects that support preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and short-term response measures, 470 GEF biodiversity projects have approached or are approaching the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in a variety of ways:

- Demarcating, strengthening, and expanding protected areas, on-site conservation, and park or reserve management
- Developing integrated conservation and development activities alongside protected areas
- Developing demonstration projects linked to sustainable use and alternative livelihoods
- Improving cooperation with local and indigenous communities through community-based natural resource management approaches and comanagement schemes
- Establishing long-term funding mechanisms for costs associated with biodiversity conservation
- Applying science and technology to inventory, assess, and measure the impacts of approaches to biodiversity conservation.

GEF has also provided \$35.5 million to help 136 countries meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. These nations have inventoried their biodiversity, developed action plans and strategies for conservation and sustainable use, and reported the results to the Conference of Parties. A recent independent study found that GEF's biodiversity activities supported *worthwhile and cost-effective national biodiversity planning processes that resulted in well-informed and impressive strategies with reasonable assessments of current biodiversity status and trends.*

ADDED INFLUENCE

GEF finds ways to magnify and extend the impact of the funds that it allocates:

GEF has supported development of more than a dozen conservation trust funds, including funds in Bhutan, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Uganda, and (more recently) Suriname. Typically created and managed by private organizations and capitalized by government, donor agencies, and other means, conservation trust funds (some of which are described in subsequent sections of this report) are long-term financial mechanisms chiefly for biodiversity conservation. Six established funds with measurable operating experience have raised more than \$43.7 million in non-GEF contributions, and the projects supported by those contributions attract additional financing, often from grantee organizations.

Recreating a project's success elsewhere is a major goal of GEF projects. One of many projects that achieved that goal is the Cuba Sabana-Camaguey project, implemented by UNDP, which developed construction guidelines for minimizing environmental impacts and safeguarding biodiversity that are now used elsewhere in the region.

GEF projects have inspired action on the part of others. Donors have been known to come on board after a project has started, attracted by the goals or initial success of the project. GEF's Program for Sustainable Forestry,

managed by UNDP in Guyana, for example, gained considerable cofinancing from other donors that was not calculated in the original project's budget. In other cases, GEF projects have moved countries to take their own steps: one result of GEF's South Pacific Biodiversity project, managed by UNDP, was the decision by the island nation of Tonga to withdraw its support for renewed whaling.

GEF'S CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA

GEF INVESTMENTS IN BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA
SINCE ITS INCEPTION, GEF HAS ALLOCATED \$347.8
MILLION FOR 160 BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS IN 51 COUN-
TRIES IN AFRICA. THESE PROJECTS HAVE ATTRACTED
\$760 MILLION IN COFINANCING.



For a decade, GEF has worked collaboratively with its implementing agencies and other partners to assist African countries in developing sustainably, while conserving biodiversity in a range of ecosystems: from drylands and forests to freshwater bodies and marine and coastal areas.

DRYLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Since 1991 GEF has helped African states achieve social and economic development by conserving globally significant biodiversity. Specific projects promote conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources inside and outside protected areas, and prevent or control land degradation, while addressing local needs to increase the productivity of agricultural lands and improve food security.

Preserving biodiversity for agriculture. GEF supports on-site conservation of crop diversity, which maintains the complex interaction of genetically diverse traditional varieties with their associated pests, predators, and pathogens. One GEF project in Ethiopia, for example, worked to conserve globally important crop genetic resources in the long term by strengthening Ethiopian institutional capacity, providing local farmers more secure seed sources, and improving knowledge on seed selection and management. Ethiopia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection executed this project, which UNDP managed.

Using community knowledge in management of natural resources. Several GEF-financed projects work with local communities in Botswana, Kenya, and Tanzania to help stabilize soils and reverse the degradation of dryland ecosystems with globally significant plant species that are resilient to droughts, climatic variability, and other stressful events. At seven sites, a GEF-supported project, managed by UNDP and UNEP, helped develop natural-resource management systems that combine community knowledge of vegetation management, scientific research, and practical experience in rehabilitating degraded ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.

Addressing range management in the context of climate change. GEF has funded projects that simultaneously address biodiversity loss and climate change. In Sudan, a GEF project rehabilitated rangelands, while increasing carbon sequestration. The project helped increase soil cover, reduce soil erosion, increase plant and fauna species diversity, reduce airborne particulates, improve socioeconomic conditions for livestock producers, and strengthen local capacity to manage and preserve the ecosystem. Sudan's Ministry of Agriculture, Natural, and Animal Resources executed the project, which was managed by UNDP.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR AGRICULTURE

Nearly 2.5 billion people around the world rely on wild and traditional cultivated plant species to meet their daily food needs. Mounting pressures to intensify food production, a growing urban market, and other demographic and social factors have propelled a shift to monoculture and mechanization; this shift has caused the disappearance of significant numbers of cultivated plant and traditional varieties. In China, from 1949 to the 1970s, the number of varieties of wheat grown by farmers decreased from the tens of thousands to approximately one thousand.

Most diversity in plant species useful in agriculture lies in cultivated and semicultivated lands in the tropics and subtropics. In many of these areas, farmers and pastoralists manage highly diverse plant species and genetic varieties using systems that maximize diversity in cropping and cultivation, microlevel adaptations, successional vegetation, and small-scale farming.

GEF has broadened its work to maintain such genetic plant diversity around the world through projects in areas with crop plant species found nowhere else. Activities include protection of a diverse array of insect pollinators for healthy yields, genetic variability of traditional varieties and wild relatives of domesticated species, and enhanced soil fertility.

GEF's People, Land Management, and Environmental Change project was originally developed by the United Nations University to fill a gap in research on the loss of agriculture-related biodiversity in cultivated tropical areas across a range of ecosystems in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Managed by UNEP, the project integrates locally developed knowledge with scientific assessments of quality of those areas with regard to crop production. The goal is to devise sustainable agricultural technologies that maintain crop diversity and management. In the long run, all these efforts should contribute to food, water, and income security in GEF project sites and in areas where the projects may be replicated.

Introducing innovative approaches to range management. A GEF project in Morocco along the southern slopes of the High Atlas Mountains is introducing novel ways to integrating pastoral range management with biodiversity conservation in ecosystems used for grazing. Managed by UNDP, the project is reviving biofriendly seasonal movement of livestock up and down mountain-sides and common property management; it is doing so by enhancing conservation-oriented land use and providing innovative incentives for managing rangelands sustainably. Effective approaches will be replicated in other dryland grazing areas.

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

GEF's forest conservation projects integrate many actions to protect the integrity of forest ecosystems, while involving local communities in resource management that generates benefits for them. Notably, several GEF projects have focused on development of conservation trust funds to ensure long-term funding.

Managing forests sustainably. A GEF project in Ghana is promoting and strengthening public and private efforts to use national forest and wildlife resources in a socio-economically and ecologically sustainable manner. An

array of approaches will involve local communities in managing and using forests and wildlife resources sustainably; increase knowledge of rare, threatened, and endemic species; and strengthen management of national parks. Ghana's Ministry of Lands and Forests is executing this project, which the World Bank is managing.

Establishing conservation trust funds. GEF has been a leader in developing conservation trust funds to provide long-term funding for forest protection in Africa and elsewhere. Two GEF projects created trust funds to help conserve and sustainably develop the Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla national parks in Uganda and the Mulanje Mountain Massif in Malawi. Both projects promoted the conservation and sustainable use of important biodiversity along with the equitable sharing of benefits accruing from forest resources, and both trust funds had representatives of local communities on a steering committee or board.

FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

In keeping with GEF's emphasis on international waters, integrated lake and river system management is the focus of GEF projects addressing freshwater resources in Africa. Several major basinwide projects also illustrate GEF's commitment to conservation of biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems.

Managing transboundary land and water. GEF funded a project in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda for environmental management of Lake Victoria's extensive ecosystem. Managed by the World Bank, the project began a long-term comprehensive collaboration among the governments of these countries on broad, integrated approaches to rehabilitation of the lake's ecosystem. Basin resources will be sustainably used to supply safe water; sustain a disease-free environment; and generate food, employment, and income. At the same time, the project will attempt to conserve biodiversity and harmonize national management plans to reverse environmental degradation.

Allocating and jointly managing water resources. A GEF-supported project has taken on the enormous task of alleviating imminent and long-term threats to the inter-linked freshwater resources of the Okavango River basin, which lies within Angola, Botswana, and Namibia. The project is working toward joint management by governments, fishing communities, and other stakeholders of all the basin's water resources and protection of associated wetlands and other aquatic systems and their biodiversity. Water-related ministries in Angola, Botswana, and Namibia executed this project, which is managed by UNDP.

MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

GEF projects on marine and coastal resources entail several approaches: integration of conservation and regional development, establishment of partnerships for sustainable resource management, and design and implementation of management plans that conserve habitat (in part) by financing alternative income-generating activities.

Integrating coastal zone management. A GEF-supported project in Mozambique is testing and refining a multi-pronged approach for sustainable economic development of coastal zone resources. The project is working to integrate conservation fully with regional development, establish and strengthen protection of key marine conservation areas, initiate conservation-oriented community activities in and around those areas, and build the capacity of key government and nongovernmental stakeholders responsible for biodiversity protection (among other activities). Mozambique's Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs, provincial and district governments, and relevant technical line ministries are executing this broadly based project, which is managed by the World Bank.

Managing large marine ecosystems. GEF supported a project for the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem along the coast of southwestern Africa. This highly important center for marine biodiversity and fish-

eries production and significant draw for tourism is under pressure from industrial pollution and poorly planned and managed coastal development and near-shore activities. The project, managed by UNDP, is working toward sustainable management and use of the ecosystem's resources through a partnership involving the participating countries, donors, regional organizations, industries, NGOs, and other affected interests.

Managing coastal and marine protected areas. A GEF-supported project is working in Mnazi Bay Marine Park in Tanzania to conserve a representative sample of internationally significant and threatened marine biodiversity. The project is enabling local and government stakeholders to protect and sustainably use marine biodiversity and resources of the Mnazi Bay and Ruvuma estuary. Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is executing this project, which UNDP is managing.

Managing coastal wetlands. A GEF project, managed by the World Bank, worked to ensure protection and sustainable management of key coastal wetlands in Ghana. The project supported the design and implementation of a coastal zone management plan to protect five environmentally sensitive and threatened coastal wetlands with globally significant biodiversity, including large numbers of migratory bird species. This innovative effort is conserving habitat without restricting human use and providing alternative livelihoods by financing income-generating activities.

WOMEN ARE BECOMING KEY PARTNERS IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In Africa, women are performing critical conservation tasks as activists, managers, and repositories of knowledge.

In Mozambique, a GEF project, implemented by the World Bank, targets women's groups as key partners in the conservation and sustainable use of 7,000 square kilometers of coastal and 2,500 square kilometers of marine areas inhabited by threatened and endangered turtles. Women, who have long opposed illegal hunting safaris, have also helped develop restrictions on marine harvesting. Women's groups will now help manage the project's community microenterprise program.

The wide diversity of medicinal plants found in Bale Mountains National Park and nearby Harenna Forest in Ethiopia are increasingly threatened by agricultural expansion, deforestation, and overharvesting. A GEF project implemented by the World Bank is supporting farmer-based cultivation trials of selected threatened and indigenous species in home gardens. Elders, mostly women who have used herbal remedies in home health care, provided the best advice in identifying and conserving medicinal plants. That advice will be used by youth groups that were formed to cultivate medicinal plant gardens along the boundaries of villages and to market herbal remedies outside the villages.

GEF'S CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

GEF INVESTMENTS IN BIODIVERSITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION ■ SINCE ITS INCEPTION, GEF HAS ALLOCATED \$306 MILLION FOR 93 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN 33 ASIAN-PACIFIC COUNTRIES. THESE PROJECTS HAVE ATTRACTED \$528 MILLION IN COFINANCING FROM OTHER SOURCES.



In response to threats to biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region, GEF has developed a substantial portfolio of biodiversity conservation projects. The greatest investments are in forest ecosystem projects, followed by coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystem projects, then mountain and arid and semiarid projects. All these projects emphasize the sustainable use of natural resources for the long-term benefit of local communities.

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

One of the greatest challenges of the Asia-Pacific region is balancing the needs of people with conservation of forests. GEF generally seeks to address pressures driving biodiversity loss by creating networks of protected areas with soundly managed buffer zones, linked wherever possible through biological corridors. In addition, GEF seeks to help alleviate poverty in local communities in and around protected area through microcredit schemes, sustainable extraction of nontimber forest products, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Conserving forests. In Indonesia, a GEF-supported project, managed by the World Bank, is working to secure the future of Kerinci-Seblat National Park by integrating park management and conservation with local and regional development. Specifically, the project is strengthening park management and protection in collabora-

tion with buffer zone communities and local NGOs and governments. Project activities are intended to stabilize land use outside the park, improve management of a permanent buffer zone, and relieve pressures on the park itself. The project is strengthening governmental planning and raising local and governmental awareness.

Encouraging environmentally benign activities. In Vietnam, GEF funded a project, managed by UNDP, to improve protected area management. The project is working to provide sustainable livelihoods, generate employment, protect endemic genetic resources, preserve distinctive and globally significant ethnobiological forms and values, and mitigate fragmentation of habitats. Specifically, the project is helping establish large and small protected core areas with adjacent sustainable resource-use zones, using a participatory approach, an open consultative process, and the appropriate integration of conservation and development.

Compiling information on biodiversity. In Sri Lanka, a GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is working to conserve and promote sustainable use of globally and nationally significant medicinal plants and their habitats, species, and genomes. The project is funding the compilation of information on medicinal plants in a data base and promoting an appropriate legal and policy environment. The project's overall objective is to expand on-site

conservation by establishing three conservation areas for medicinal plants and to expand off-site conservation by addressing the need for increased nursery capacity for and cultivation of medicinal plants.

Innovative financing. In Papua New Guinea, a GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is working to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits accruing from forest resources in one of the world's last remaining extensive tracts of tropical rain forest. The project will improve forest management, promote the environmental sustainability of forest harvests, and implement a strategy to promote conservation and small-scale sustainable-use enterprises in biodiversity-rich areas.

Benefiting communities. In the northern areas and the northwest frontier province of Pakistan, a GEF project is assessing the effectiveness of rural-village management of wild species and habitats in conserving biodiversity. The project is providing communities with technical skills and know-how, support for legislative and policy reform, environmental education, and assistance in developing and implementing conservation plans and funds. Valley conservation funds established in project areas are providing sustainable funding to pay for conservation activities. The project established a biodiversity trust fund for long-term financing of traditional conservation of species and habitats. Pakistan's Ministry of Environment, Local Government, and Rural Development is executing the project, which is UNDP is managing.

MARINE, COASTAL, AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

In the past decade, GEF has assisted Asian-Pacific countries and subregions through projects focused on marine, coastal, and freshwater resources. Some projects are aimed at establishment of ecologically critical areas or at integration of conservation and development objectives.

Managing ecologically critical areas. In Bangladesh, a GEF project, managed by UNDP, is working to demonstrate an innovative system for managing ecologically

critical areas. This system should greatly improve the long-term viability of the country's globally significant species of plants and animals. The project is supporting efforts by Bangladesh's Department of Environment to implement ecologically critical areas at two main sites: three such areas within the country's long and biodiversity-rich coastal zone and another at one of the largest and most important of the country's many island freshwater wetlands. Results from these demonstration sites could eventually be replicated in coastal, freshwater, wetland, and other ecosystems throughout the country.

Integrating conservation and development objectives.

In India, a GEF project, managed by UNDP, is working to integrate conservation and development objectives in seven threatened priority sites that represent India's varied ecosystems. The project is supporting improved protected-area management; design and financing of village development plans and agreements addressing the negative interactions of local communities with biodiversity; and education, institution building, and biological and policy research to improve knowledge of and support and capacity for conservation and sustainable development.

MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

In the past decade, GEF has supported Asian-Pacific governments in conserving and using biological resources sustainably in mountain ecosystems by protecting systems of conservation areas in, among other areas, Himalayan regions and montane areas of the Indochina peninsula. GEF also has supported government efforts to use mountain ecosystems wisely. These efforts are aimed at achieving productive, socioeconomic, and conservation goals—full-scale use of biological resources in some areas, various forms of multiple use with conservation easements in other areas, and strict protection of biological reserves.

Establishing conservation trust funds. The small country of Bhutan holds relatively pristine forests and rich biodiversity, but faces growing pressures from an expanding human population and agricultural frontier. A GEF

project, managed by the World Bank, is assisting the Royal Government of Bhutan in conserving its forests and species diversity. The project has been testing a conservation trust fund as a way to provide long-term and sustainable support for biodiversity conservation in this financially constrained country. The project receives technical support from the World Bank, UNDP, the World Wildlife Fund, and other NGOs as well as financial support from donors such as the World Wildlife Fund-US, the Asian Development Bank, and European countries.

Basing biodiversity conservation on community management. In Pakistan, a GEF project, managed by UNDP, is intended to protect the rich ecological landscapes and biodiversity of the Karakoram, Hindu Kush, and Western Himalayan mountain ranges of northern Pakistan. The project is empowering local communities in managing biodiversity. Four wildlife conservancies, encompassing a representative sampling of biogeographic zones of the high mountains, will be established. Conservancies are facilitating on-site conservation of habitats and species and promoting sustainable uses of biodiversity.


DRYLAND ECOSYSTEMS

GEF projects in dryland ecosystems work to enhance and conserve biodiversity by linking and complementing development efforts that protect systems of conservation areas endangered by intensified use, drought, and desertification. GEF projects manage resource use in a sustainable manner by balancing production, socioeconomic, and biodiversity goals.

Conserving and sustainably managing dryland biodiversity. In Iran, a GEF project, managed by UNDP, is promoting conservation of vulnerable and endangered plant and animals species, including the highly charismatic cheetah, whose last refuge is in the central part of the country. The project's goal is to strengthen local capacity for sustainable rangeland management in an area where livelihoods depend on livestock. The project will demonstrate sustainable approaches to improving

herders' incomes, while decreasing potential conflicts between cheetahs and livestock as well as humans.

Promoting sustainable livelihoods for biodiversity conservation. In Mongolia, a GEF project, managed by UNDP, is working for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the last remnants of temperate grassland habitat in the Eastern Steppes, a venue of high biological significance. Project activities include ensuring protection of globally significant biological diversity in protected areas and buffer zones and improving incomes for people living in surrounding areas. The project is integrating biodiversity conservation into provincial and local development planning.



TOO EASILY WE FORGET HUMAN DEPENDENCE ON OTHER SPECIES. . . WE RELY ON FORESTS AND VEGETATION TO PRODUCE SOIL, TO HOLD IT TOGETHER, AND TO REGULATE SUPPLIES BY PRESERVING CATCHMENT BASINS, RECHARGING GROUND WATER AND BUFFERING EXTREME CONDITIONS; WE RELY ON SOILS TO BE FERTILE AND BREAK DOWN POLLUTANTS; AND WE RELY ON NUTRIENTS FOR RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE. THERE IS NO CONCEIVABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR SUCH NATURAL SERVICES.

SIR CRISPIN TICKELL

FORMER BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

GEF'S CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

GEF INVESTMENTS IN BIODIVERSITY IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE ■ SINCE ITS INCEPTION, GEF HAS ALLOCATED \$103 MILLION FOR 56 BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE. THESE PROJECTS HAVE ATTRACTED \$109.8 MILLION IN COFINANCING.



The GEF-financed projects in Eastern and Central Europe have integrated a variety of actions to protect ecosystem integrity, involve local communities in resource management, and generate benefits for them.² In addition, GEF projects have experimented with innovative financial mechanisms, including trust funds and revolving funds, for long-term funding for conservation.

TRANSBOUNDARY MOUNTAINS

GEF projects aimed at biodiversity protection in transboundary mountain areas have often focused on coordination of management activities within a country or of national policies/regulations and institutional arrangements.

Conserving diversity through management activities and establishment of a gene bank. A project in Poland is aimed at conserving the Sudety Mountain Forest and the Bialowieza Primeval Forest. Managed by the World Bank, the project is providing institutional support to the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Forests to undertake management activities to conserve biodiversity. One of those activities is establishing a gene bank and arboreta to protect genetic diversity and provide plants for reforestation in areas degraded by pollution. A related GEF project in Belarus is supporting manage-

ment of biodiversity in Belovezhskaya National Park, which lies adjacent to Bialowieza.

Coordinating national policies/regulations and institutional arrangements for biodiversity protection. A GEF project in the West Tien Shan mountain range in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan is aimed at protecting the area's vulnerable and unique biological communities. The project is strengthening and coordinating national policies/regulations and institutional arrangements for biodiversity protection and strengthening and expanding a network of *zapovedniks* (nature reserves). Managed by the World Bank, this transnational project is the first of its kind in the Tien Shan range.

WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

GEF projects to protect biodiversity in Eastern and Central Europe's wetlands have taken a variety of approaches: integrating regional development and natural resource management, integrating biodiversity conservation and use with regional reconstruction, and expanding management capacity through development of legal and policy frameworks.

Integrating regional development and natural resource management. In addition to formulating a

² In addition to Eastern and Central European countries, this region encompasses the Central Asian countries of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

national biodiversity strategy, improving nature protection efforts, and making other federation-wide efforts to conserve biodiversity, a GEF-funded project in the Russian Federation is focusing on conservation of the special biodiversity in the Lake Baikal region. This attempt to integrate regional development and natural resource management has progressed rapidly and includes many innovative efforts, including protection of the Baikal grayling fish spawning grounds, better management of hunting to protect rare migrating wildfowl, and orchid conservation. It is managed by the World Bank.

Integrating biodiversity conservation and use with regional reconstruction. In Croatia, a GEF project is working to conserve and sustainably use the globally significant biodiversity of the Kopacki Rit Wetlands, a highly threatened regional and global ecosystem with more than 200 endemic floral species. Part of World Bank-financed reconstruction of Eastern Croatia, the project is supporting development of reserve management plans, creation of building capacity, rehabilitation of infrastructure, and monitoring of the area's ecological and socioeconomic characteristics.

Expanding management capacity through development of legal and policy frameworks. Several major GEF projects on international water systems in the region—the Black Sea and the Danube River basin—are also helping conserve biodiversity. These projects are strengthening existing and creating new regional capacities to manage ecosystems by developing appropriate legal and policy frameworks to control pollution as well as maintain and enhance biodiversity.

FORESTS

GEF projects in Eastern and Central Europe's forests have attempted to balance conservation and sustainable use, and to disseminate information about protection efforts.

Balancing conservation and sustainable use. In the Caucasus forests of Georgia, a GEF project is integrating

biodiversity conservation approaches into forestry and range management through partnerships between Georgian NGOs and the government. The project, which is managed by UNDP, is helping create three protected areas in forest ecosystems, balancing conservation with sustainable use. Capacity building will help strengthen the conservation of biodiversity on agricultural and other landscapes that connect the three protected areas.

Demonstrating protection efforts. In the Carpathian forests of Romania, as part of a GEF project managed by the World Bank, the Piatra Craiului Biosphere Reserve (pristine mountain forests), Retezat National Park (coniferous forest/alpine meadow), and Neamt and Suceava National Parks (mixed hill forest and meadows; reintroduction of European bison) received funding for protection and demonstration activities by local communities.

GEF'S CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

GEF INVESTMENTS IN BIODIVERSITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ■ SINCE ITS INCEPTION, GEF HAS ALLOCATED \$501.6 MILLION FOR 128 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN 33 LAC COUNTRIES. THESE PROJECTS HAVE ATTRACTED MORE THAN \$1.2 BILLION IN COFINANCING FROM OTHER SOURCES.



The GEF has many projects working to conserve biodiversity in the LAC region. Forest projects have received the greatest investment, followed by marine, coastal, and freshwater projects, then mountain and dryland projects. These projects emphasize conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, GEF has focused on support for preparation of national strategies and action plans in all countries of the region.

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

GEF forest projects are working to create regional networks of protected areas with soundly managed buffer zones, linked, wherever possible, by biological corridors. Many of these projects also assist in addressing issues such as poverty alleviation. Approaches include microcredit schemes that benefit local communities in and around globally important protected areas, sustainable extraction of nontimber forest products, and creation of positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Conserving forests. In Brazil, a GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is supporting expansion and consolidation of strictly protected areas in the Amazonian region. Specifically, the project will identify and establish new, strictly protected areas and develop long-term sustainable management tools and mechanisms for effective protection of all Amazonian strictly protected areas. The project supports the government's commitment to

expansion of effective protection in the Amazon to at least 10 percent of land area or 37 million hectares.

Involving indigenous communities. Many of LAC's indigenous people, who often live near or in nationally protected areas, retain traditional knowledge and resource management practices that could contribute to biodiversity conservation. In Peru, a GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is working to increase participation of indigenous peoples in conservation of biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon through communal management of protected areas. Project goals include establishment of areas for communal reserves using participatory methods, development of management plans and of agreements with indigenous communities, and building and strengthening of institutions' organizational and technical capacity to manage reserves sustainably. The project is investing in pilot community development projects for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Establishing biological corridors. A GEF-funded project in Central America and southern Mexico is linking a series of protected areas and buffer zones containing biological corridors of land with a variety of uses and degrees of protection. The project is integrating biodiversity conservation in the region with sustainable uses of biodiversity within a framework of economic development priorities. The project exemplifies the benefits of

regional and subregional institutional cooperation. The Central American Commission for the Environment and Development is coordinating the project, which UNDP and UNEP are managing.

Encouraging environmentally benign activities. In El Salvador, a medium-sized GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is working to maintain and enhance habitats within shade-grown-coffee plantations. Among the project's goals are increasing the area under shade-grown cultivation; providing habitat for globally significant biodiversity, such as migratory birds; creating biological corridors composed of shade-grown-coffee plantations; and promoting development of a "biodiversity-friendly" coffee production system in El Salvador, along with certification and marketing abroad.

Supporting innovative financing. A GEF project provided support for the Terra Capital Fund/Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America, managed by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC). This IFC fund of \$20–\$50 million is making equity and quasi-equity investments in Latin American companies that protect or sustainably use biodiversity. Approaches include sustainable agriculture, use of underutilized species, sustainable forest management, harvesting of nontimber products from forests and wildlands, and ecotourism. GEF funds are paying for the incremental costs of screening and evaluating these efforts.

MARINE, COASTAL, AND FRESHWATER SYSTEMS

In the past decade, many GEF projects have assisted LAC countries and subregions to protect marine, coastal, and freshwater systems. Many of those projects are aimed not only at protecting biodiversity but also at improving the quality of lives.

Promoting sustainable development. A GEF project in Cuba worked to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development in the Sabana-Camaguey region, specifically protecting international waters in an archipelago with outstanding coastal and marine biodiversity

and high levels of endemism. Managed by UNDP, the project strengthened capabilities of national, regional, and local government agencies; collected biological information on the region's ecosystems; developed a plan for development in the area; promoted public awareness; and gathered and analyzed climatic and other information for long-range management of the area.

Maintaining biological diversity and improving quality of life for human communities. In Argentina, parts of the country's 3,500-kilometer coastline—one of the richest, most highly productive temperate marine ecosystems in the world and known for many endemic and migratory species of global importance—are threatened by human activities. A GEF project, managed by UNDP, worked to consolidate and implement a coastal zone management plan in the region and to maintain ecosystems' biological diversity and productivity, while improving the quality of life for communities that depend on coastal resources.

MOUNTAINS

GEF supports many activities to protect biodiversity in LAC's mountainous areas. Those activities range from conservation efforts by indigenous communities in relatively small areas to formulation of a biodiversity plan for an entire nation.

Conserving biodiversity through the efforts of indigenous communities. In the states of Oaxaca, Michoacán, and Guerrero in Mexico, a GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is working toward effective conservation of biodiversity by indigenous communities. The project is helping establish community conservation areas on lands with high biodiversity, lands in which sustainable use of biodiversity can help local people generate income. In addition, the project supports community-based biological corridors, capacity building for biodiversity conservation and management, indigenous knowledge, and identi-

THE AMAZON RIVER PRODUCES ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE FRESHWATER OF THE PLANET. THE NEOTROPICAL ZONE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CONTAINS 68 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS.

fication of sustainable financing for landscape-wide conservation.

Implementing a national biodiversity plan. GEF funded a project in the Colombian Andes, which harbors some of the world's most diverse plants and animal species. The project, managed by the World Bank, is helping Colombia implement a national biodiversity plan and apply key strategies for conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biological resources in the region.

DRYLAND ECOSYSTEMS

GEF has supported a small, but wide-ranging portfolio of dryland biodiversity projects in the LAC region. These projects focus in particular on systems of protected areas, such as those in Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, and Mexico.

Developing a methodology to measure the causes and impacts of biodiversity loss. A regional GEF project is developing an indicator methodology for dryland ecosystems in the LAC region. The methodology is intended to provide policymakers, NGOs, and key stakeholders with tools to identify and analyze both the causes of land degradation and biodiversity loss and the impacts of communities in dryland areas.

Managing alien-species threats. The Galápagos Islands, located 1,000 kilometers off the coast of Ecuador, are globally outstanding in their unique terrestrial and marine biodiversity and endemism. The islands are threatened mainly by the introduction of alien species. A GEF project has worked since 1998 to control invasive species on the islands. Managed by UNDP, the project is empowering Ecuadorian institutions charged with conserving the islands to be proactive and adaptive in managing threats and guarding against future invasions of alien species. The project will develop technical skills needed for different management models and establish the relative cost-effectiveness of each of those models.

GEF'S CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY IN WESTERN ASIA

GEF INVESTMENTS IN BIODIVERSITY IN WESTERN ASIA ■ SINCE ITS INCEPTION, GEF HAS ALLOCATED \$27.5 MILLION FOR 19 BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS IN WESTERN ASIA. THESE PROJECTS HAVE ATTRACTED NEARLY \$22.96 MILLION IN COFINANCING.



The GEF projects in Western Asia address biodiversity conservation in drylands, mountains, forests, and coastal and marine areas.

DRYLAND ECOSYSTEMS

GEF projects are working to maintain the ecological integrity of the region's drylands, help people meet their food needs, and protect intellectual property rights with respect to medicinal plant species.

Conserving medicinal plant species. In Egypt, a GEF project, managed by UNDP, is working to conserve and sustainably use globally significant medicinal plant species in drylands in the protectorate of St. Katherine. Major project activities are preventing the use of critically endangered medicinal plants in certain "hotspots" and introducing small-scale, community-based cultivation, processing, and marketing to relieve pressures on wild sources. The project is encouraging sustainable collection of wild medicinal plants, promoting alternative energy sources, dispersing grazing pressure, and protecting intellectual property rights.

Sustainably using biodiversity to meet food needs. A GEF project in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria is likewise promoting the conservation and sustainable use of dryland biodiversity for agriculture in the Fertile Crescent. The goal of the project, managed by UNDP, is to ensure the continuous availability of biodiversity essential to the region's sustainable development of agriculture and to global food security and production.

FOREST AND MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

In Syria, a GEF project, managed by the World Bank, is working to reduce population pressures at a fir/cedar forest pilot site, which is home to rare species of plants and a variety of migratory birds. The area is severely threatened by continued agricultural expansion, grazing, firewood collection, and recreational activities. The GEF project is promoting sustainable use of natural resources as well as identifying and implementing alternative livelihoods in local communities.

COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

A GEF project, managed by UNDP, worked to develop and implement a management plan for the Socotra Archipelago that integrates conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity. Encouraging community participation, the project addressed local needs, recognized the value of indigenous knowledge systems, and integrated local culture into sustainable management of natural resources.

A GEF project managed by UNDP addresses biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of globally important coastal and wetland reserves in six countries in the Mediterranean region. The project is creating structures and networks to promote interministerial coordination as well as local and national policies aimed at addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss. The project also seeks to implement sustainable development activities in fifteen key pilot sites containing globally threatened biodiversity.

NEW APPROACHES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



The GEF has provided broad assistance and made targeted efforts to conserve ecosystems, habitats, and species of plants and animals throughout the world. In its first decade, GEF has become the primary source of grant funding to this end for developing countries and countries in economic transition. By uncovering valuable lessons and listening to its country partners, GEF has become more effective, improved its service, and strengthened its capabilities in critical areas.

Recognizing that solutions hinge on collaboration with many partners—national and local governments, multi-lateral and bilateral groups, private companies, NGOs, and individuals—GEF seeks to develop still more effective partnerships.

EXPANDING OPTIONS

As governments and other concerned parties continue to identify new tools and approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the five regions covered in this report, GEF's support and assistance will continue to evolve. Through its new roles and funding responsibilities, GEF has expanded options for overcoming threats to biodiversity by applying lessons learned in the past decade.

A new generation of GEF projects takes an integrated ecosystem management approach. These projects support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in agricul-

ture and other production landscapes and seascapes as well as in parks and protected areas, managing them holistically within natural boundaries. In addition, the projects promote programs that cross sectors and integrate the management of diverse ecosystems. Finally, the projects link biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and management of transboundary waters, addressing policy and governance issues in both areas.

Among the GEF projects that exemplify the integrated ecosystem-management approach is a project in Nicaragua that supports forest conservation and adoption of renewable energy through sustainable harvesting and processing of coffee and allspice. The project, which is managed by the World Bank, promotes adoption of renewable energy by removing cost and other barriers to its use in harvesting and processing. In addition, the project is linking various initiatives to preserve biodiversity and limit expansion of the agricultural frontier in the buffer zone surrounding the Bosawas Reserve.

Another GEF project is integrating silvopastoral approaches to ecosystem management in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Highly innovative, this pilot project is aimed at improving ecosystem functioning of degraded pasturelands through development of intensive silvopastoral systems. Managed by the World Bank, the project will reduce erosion and improve soil and water quality,

increasing production, income, and employment in rural areas. The project should indirectly promote biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration.

SUPPORTING SYNERGIES AMONG CONVENTIONS

The world's nations have adopted far-reaching international legal agreements addressing environmental issues. These agreements often have overlaps in the obligations required of ratifying countries. GEF is uniquely positioned to assist countries to take advantage of those overlaps by supporting programs that fulfill, at least in part, countries' obligations under multiple treaties.

Coral reef conservation and management is responsive to countries' obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification. Pollution control that diminishes risk to endangered and threatened wildlife is responsive to countries' obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Law of the Sea Convention, and the Marpol Convention.

CONTINUAL LEARNING

Although young, GEF has unmatched experience in financing environmental protection and an institutional capacity for learning and improvement. GEF is working to strengthen its relationships with countries in an effort to be ever more responsive to local priorities and to increase its sources of information and ideas:

GEF is sponsoring a series of country dialogue workshops to identify and disseminate practices that will strengthen country-based coordination of GEF matters. (See annexes 1 and 2 for workshop locations and dates.) These workshops represent opportunities for GEF to renew its understanding of country needs and improve its service.

GEF's drive for improved relationships with countries and partner institutions, together with its new capacities and initiatives, add up to opportunities for countries

seeking to address global environmental concerns in the context of sustainable development. In the past decade, GEF has worked to answer countries' needs—by fine-tuning and sometimes overhauling procedures, developing programs in response to emerging needs, and growing in new directions. Looking to the future, GEF is poised to expand its support to the global community in addressing global environmental challenges.

ANNEX: COUNTRY DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS BY REGION

ANNEX 1

GEF COUNTRY DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS (APRIL 2000–DECEMBER 2001)

LOCATION	DATES
	2000
South Africa, Johannesburg	April 4–7
Vietnam, Hanoi	April 25–29
Uzbekistan, Tashkent	June 5–8
Egypt, Cairo	June 26–28
Nigeria, Abuja	July 18–21
Algeria, Algiers	July 25–28
Caribbean sub-reg ³ , Roseau, Dominica	August 8–11
Philippines, Manila	August 22–25
Malawi, Lilongwe	October 3–6
Tanzania, Dar es Salaam	November 6–9
Sri Lanka, Colombo	November 7–10
Caribbean sub-reg ⁴ , Port of Spain, Trinidad	December 5–8
Cuba, Havana	December 12–15
	2001
Azerbaijan, Baku	Jan. 30–Feb. 2
Tunisia, Tunis	February 20–22
Bolivia, La Paz	March 6–9
Cambodia, Phnom Penh	March 13–16
Pakistan, Islamabad	May 14–16
Niger, Niamey	May 15–18
Russian Federation, Moscow	June 7–9
Ukraine, Kiev	June 12–15
Iran, Tehran	June 16–19
Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, (Port Louis)	July 10–13
Pacific Islands SIDS ⁵ (Apia, Samoa)	September 17–20
Kazakhstan, Astana	Oct. 30–Nov. 2
Uganda, Kampala	December 11–14

³ All member states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados participated in this sub-regional workshop hosted by Dominica.

⁴ Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago participated in this sub-regional workshop hosted by Trinidad and Tobago.

⁵ Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Fiji, Palau, Kiribati, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea

ANNEX 2

GEF COUNTRY DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS (JANUARY–DECEMBER 2002)

LOCATION	DATES
	2002
Lebanon, Beirut	January 8–11
Mozambique, Maputo	February 6–8
Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou	February 12–15
Nepal, Kathmandu	March 6–8
Bhutan, Thimpu	March 13–15
Bangladesh, Dhaka	April 16–18
Bulgaria, Sofia	April 24–26
Ecuador, Quito	May 21–23
Syria, Damascus ⁶	May 21–24
Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar	June 11–14
Guinea, Conakry	June 18–21
Albania, Tirana	July 9–12
Chile, Santiago	July 23–26
Romania, Bucharest	September 24–26
Indonesia, Jakarta	October 1–3
Venezuela, Caracas	October 29–31
Madagascar, Antananarivo	November 19–22
Argentina, Buenos Aires	November 26–29
Ethiopia, Addis Ababa	December 10–13

⁶ Dates to be confirmed.

ABOUT GEF



The Global Environment Facility is a major catalyst for improving the global environment. Following a three-year pilot phase, GEF was formally launched in 1994 to forge cooperation and finance actions addressing four critical threats: biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters, and ozone depletion.

GEF is the only new funding source to emerge from the 1992 Earth Summit. During its first decade, GEF allocated \$4.2 billion, supplemented by \$11 billion in co-financing, for more than 1,000 projects in 160 developing countries and countries with transitional economies.

GEF is the designated financial mechanism for international agreements on biodiversity, climate change, and persistent organic pollutants; GEF also supports the work of the global agreements to combat desertification and protect international waters and the ozone layer.

GEF projects are carried out by public and private partners. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank have managed GEF projects in their capacity as implementing agencies since 1991. In 1999, the GEF Council expanded opportunities for seven other agencies to work on GEF projects. Today, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development

Organization (UNIDO), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) execute GEF projects under this policy.

GEF counts 171 countries as members and is unique among international financial organizations in welcoming the participation of representatives of NGOs in its deliberations.

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