



Sixth
GEF
Assembly
Viet Nam 2018

JUNE 27-28, 2018

Delivering Transformational Change



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY



Cover: A woman sewing fishing nets in a fishing village in Vinh Hy Bay, Phan Rang province, Viet Nam.

Floating fishing village in the Halong Bay (Descending Dragon Bay), Gulf of Tonkin, Viet Nam. Landscape formed by karst towers-isles in various sizes. ©Efired/Shutterstock



Enormous challenges face our planet, the collective home of mankind—challenges such as environmental degradation, pollution and climate change. But these challenges also offer an unprecedented opportunity for us to recognize and to reassess these realities, thereby changing our awareness and actions to advance strongly on the sustainable development path.

The sixth meeting of the Global Environment Facility Assembly is an occasion for nations as well as individuals to join hands and to act to realize our shared aspirations for a '*resilient, sustainable and life-affirming planet*'.

Over almost three decades since its establishment, the Global Environment Facility (the GEF) has done exactly that—has joined hands to seize the opportunity, to tackle the enormous environmental challenges of our age, and has done so on a global scale, particularly in developing countries, including Viet Nam.

Viet Nam sincerely thanks the GEF and its agencies, countries and partners for this work—for their generous support, invaluable resources and collaboration. At the Outreach Session of the G7 Summit in Canada on June 9, 2018, I spoke highly of cooperation between Viet Nam and the GEF on responding to climate change, protecting green and healthy oceans as legacy for future generations.

Viet Nam stands ready to participate in meeting the challenge and in seizing the opportunity, to implement projects, at global, inter-regional and inter-sectional levels, to tackle global environmental related issues, to learn and to share experiences with international partners in these fields.

It is in such joining together that we will define and remake our common future, and restore our common home.

Nguyen Xuan Phuc

*Prime Minister
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam*



Our global environmental commons—the land, seas and atmosphere we share, and the ecosystems they host—are under severe threat from ever more powerful human activities.

Business as usual will guarantee disaster; incremental change will not suffice. The only solution is transformational change. We need to transform food, urban, and energy systems, and move to a circular economy.

We must raise our ambition, and GEF-7 is an opportunity to do that. The successful GEF-7 replenishment, where countries pledged \$4.1 billion, is a sign of confidence in the GEF's ability to help countries catalyze systems change.

We need to forge new partnerships if we are going to overcome the challenges before us, and I'm excited about the many leaders joining us at the assembly from governments, private sector, academia, and civil society.

I congratulate the Government of Viet Nam for its high ambitions for sustainable development. I would like to sincerely thank them for hosting this GEF Assembly, which I hope will be inspiring to every participant.

We all share one planet in common, and we must all work together to take care of it. We need to act swiftly, and at scale—and that is just what the GEF intends to do.

Naoko Ishii

*CEO and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility*



Terraces in Sapa, Viet Nam.

GEF-7 Programming Priorities

In April 2018, donors pledged \$4.1 billion for GEF-7

Focal Areas

- **BIODIVERSITY**
\$1,291 mil.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE**
\$801 mil.
- **LAND DEGRADATION**
\$475 mil.
- **CHEMICALS AND WASTE**
\$599 mil.
- **INTERNATIONAL WATERS**
\$463 mil.

Key Programs Include

- **FOOD, LAND USE, AND RESTORATION**
\$430 mil.
- **SUSTAINABLE CITIES**
\$155 mil.
- **SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**
\$261 mil.
- **BLENDED FINANCE**
\$136 mil.
- **SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**
\$128 mil.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27

8:30–10:00

Opening Ceremony

Opening by Naoko Ishii, CEO, GEF
 Welcome Address by H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam
 Cultural Event and Group Photo

10:00–13:00

Opening Plenary Sessions

13:00–14:30

Lunch for Heads of Delegations (hosted by GEF CEO)

14:30–17:30

Parallel High-level Round Tables

	RT 1	RT 2	RT 3	RT 4	RT 6
Plenary Statements by Heads of Delegations	Food, Land Use and Restoration	Sustainable Cities	Blue Economy	Partnerships Agenda 2030	Circular Economy
				RT 5	RT 7
				Science Based Targets for Earth	Marine Plastics

19:00

Reception hosted by the Government of Viet Nam**THURSDAY JUNE 28**

9:00–12:30

Parallel High-level Round Tables (Continued)

Plenary Statements by Heads of Delegations (Continued)	RT 8	RT 9	RT 10	RT 11	RT 13
	Sustainable Landscapes in the Amazon and Congo Basin	Preventing a Toxic Legacy	Wildlife	Gender and the Environment	Conservation Finance
				RT 12	RT 14
				Innovation in Clean Energy	Sustainable Drylands

12:30–14:00

Lunch for Heads of Delegations (hosted by the Government of Viet Nam)

14:00–17:00

Closing Plenary Sessions

17:00–18:00

Closing Ceremony

A Defining Moment

OPENING PLENARY SESSIONS

Following statements from political leaders, three high-level plenary sessions will look at the state of the planet, the ambition and action needed to transform key economic systems, and how the GEF can catalyze change that helps safeguard the global environmental commons.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

H.E. Hilda Heine, President of the Marshall Islands
H.E. Michelle Bachelet, Former President of Chile

PLENARY—MESSAGE FROM SCIENCE

The ecosystems, biomes, and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system are being stretched to a breaking point. Our future depends on how well we understand and reverse the deterioration of the global environment.

SPEAKERS

Johan Rockström, Executive Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre
Rosina Bierbaum, Chair, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

PLENARY—DELIVERING TRANSFORMATION

To change the trajectory of environmental change, incremental change will not suffice: the challenge is just too great for that. The only solution is a fundamental transformation in key economic systems. We need to better understand the main challenges and what is stopping us from accelerating progress towards necessary tipping points.

SPEAKERS

Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever
Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment
Takehiko Nakao, President, Asian Development Bank
H.E. Michelle Bachelet, Former President of Chile

MODERATOR

Andrew Steer, President and CEO, WRI

PLENARY—GEF-7 AND SYSTEMS CHANGE

With its unique mandate across multiple Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the GEF is well placed to help catalyze the required transformation. We need to ensure the efforts of GEF's wide network of partners is aligned around the most effective areas for intervention.

SPEAKERS

Sunny Verghese, CEO, Olam International
Suma Chakrabarti, President, EBRD
Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP
Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, CBD

MODERATOR

H.E. José María Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica

LUNCH FOR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

SPEAKER

Ngzi Okonjo-Iweala, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate

CLOSING PLENARY SESSIONS

SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLES

MODERATOR

Jan Piotrowski, Environment Correspondent, The Economist

SPECIAL ADDRESS

H.E. David A. Granger, President of Guyana

PLENARY REPORTS

Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund
 Report by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office
 Report by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
 Statement by a Representative of Civil Society Organizations

ROUND TABLE 1

Food, Land Use and Restoration

1

MODERATOR

Jeremy Oppenheim, Partner, SYSTEMIQ

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever

Sunny Verghese, CEO, Olam International

Agnes Kalibata, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

H.E. Kare Chawicha Debessa, State Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ethiopia

Ajay Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj (farmer's organization)

Shenggen Fan, Director General, IFPRI

Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO

How the world's food system and land use evolve will have major implications for the health of the planet. The world needs a more sustainable food system, one that embeds sustainability from farm to fork, generates agricultural commodities without deforestation and habitat conversion, and restores soils and degraded areas. Interventions at the landscape scale, based on comprehensive land use planning, are necessary to foster a transformational change in food systems and land use. The GEF promotes holistic approaches to help countries reconcile competing social, economic, and environmental objectives of land management. The round table will examine the emerging opportunities for achieving a sustainable food and land use system, and the role that governments and the private sector can play.

ROUND TABLE 2

Sustainable Cities

2

MODERATOR

Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40

Ani Dasgupta, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Suma Chakrabarti, President, EBRD

H.E. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister of Planning, Indonesia

Evelio "Bing" Leonardia, League of Cities of the Philippines, Deputy Secretary-General for Visayas and Bacolod City Mayor, Philippines

By 2050, about two-thirds of the global population will be living in cities, mainly in Asia and Africa. If managed well, compact, resilient, inclusive, and resource-efficient cities could become key drivers toward global sustainability. If managed poorly, sprawling urban areas will exacerbate climate change, land degradation, and air and water pollution. City networks, technology providers, businesses, and international financing institutions, have joined forces to help cities harness innovative planning tools, financing opportunities, and best practices for promoting sustainable urban growth. The round table will engage ministers, mayors, private sector leaders, and heads of city networks in discussing how cities can deliver the promise of sustainable urban growth.



ROUND TABLE 3

Blue Economy

3

MODERATOR

Kristian Teleki, Director, Sustainable Ocean Initiative, WRI

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean

H.E. José María Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica

Jim Leape, Co-Director, Center for Ocean Solutions

Carter Roberts, President and CEO, WWF-US

Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention

The ocean is a massive resource for all of us. It covers 70% of the Earth's surface, it feeds 3 billion people who depend on a healthy ocean for their primary source of protein, it absorbs 25% of all CO₂ emissions—making it the largest carbon sink on the planet—and it generates an economic value of some \$2.5 trillion each year, which would make the ocean the seventh largest economy in the world. But the ocean is facing tremendous pressures. Nearly 85% of global fish stocks are either over-exploited or fully exploited. Acidification and warming seas are causing irreparable damage, especially to coral reefs. Oceans are straining under increasing pollution, 80% of which is from land based sources. This round table will discuss opportunities and constraints for curbing unsustainable fishing, pollution and habitat loss. The round table will also discuss options for diversifying financing to catalyze sustainable blue economies.

ROUND TABLE 4

Partnerships for Implementing the 2030 Agenda

4

MODERATOR

Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director, UN SDSN

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, Special Envoy of the President of Burkina Faso, Resource Mobilisation for SDG's and Climate Change

Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP

Howard Bamsey, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, CBD

Axel van Trotsenburg, Vice President, Development Finance, World Bank

Partnerships, including the private sector, civil society, and global and local thinkers, play a critical role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. The Multilateral Environmental Agreements for which the GEF serves as financing mechanism have reached major milestones, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Significant progress has also been achieved in preventing land degradation, controlling chemicals, and, protecting oceans. The MEAs recognize that global sustainability issues are indivisible and interlinked, needing coordinated responses from many partners, and across themes and geographical boundaries. To achieve ambitious, global goals, inclusive partnerships that are able to create new knowledge and catalyze action are needed. This round table will review these lessons and focus on how GEF-7 can promote partnerships that support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.



ROUND TABLE 5

Science Based Targets for Earth

5

MODERATOR

Dominic Waughray, Director of Partnerships, World Economic Forum

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Johan Rockström, Executive Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre

Andrew Steer, President and CEO, WRI

Rosina Bierbaum, Chair, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

The Paris Agreement provides a science-based target for industry, societies, and humanity at large regarding climate change. We lack, however, science-based targets for many other dimensions of the Earth system, which means that we are allowing technological innovations and economic growth to evolve without adequate guidance. The challenge is to assess and quantify biophysical dimensions for a stable Earth system and to formulate them into actionable targets for a multitude of actors, both public and private, for all dimensions of the Earth system, such as biodiversity, land degradation, nitrogen and phosphorous. This round table aims to reinforce the important role of science-based targets as a key tool for maintaining a stable Earth system that actively taps the potential of the private sector.

ROUND TABLE 6

Circular Economy

6

MODERATOR

Dominic Waughray, Director of Partnerships, World Economic Forum

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

H.E. Ibrahim Jibril, Minister of Environment, Nigeria

Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir, CEO, TriCiclos

Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Officer, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Timo Mäkelä, Senior Advisor, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra

Steve Yurich, Senior Managing Executive Officer & Head of Marketing, Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corp

Globally, over 60 billion tons of natural resources are extracted per year, and over 13 billion tons of waste are disposed into landfills, incinerators, and waterways. This linear, take-make-waste process puts enormous strain on the global environment. Tackling this challenge requires moving to a circular economy, which addresses the entire lifecycle of products to ensure that resource efficiency is dramatically improved through better material use and design, that consumer behavior changes, and that recovery and recycling processes become much more efficient. This round table will discuss opportunities and constraints for moving towards a circular economy based on practical examples and knowledge from countries and global platforms like the WEF's Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy.

ROUND TABLE 7

Marine Plastics

7

MODERATOR

Martin Stuchtey, Partner, SYSTEMIQ

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment

Atle Hamar, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway

Thi Ta Dinh, Director General, Viet Nam Administration of Sea and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam

Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President, East Asia Pacific, World Bank

At least 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic dumped into the ocean each minute. Plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris from surface waters to deep-sea sediments and has been detected on shorelines of every continent. Confronting this challenge requires addressing the entire plastic value cycle—material engineering, product and process design, consumer use and behavior, collection systems and recycling. Inspired by a display of the latest sustainable materials and design innovations, this round table will discuss options and approaches for integrating efforts across the entire supply chain to mitigate threats posed by plastics in the ocean, including the need for partnerships between government, the private sector, and financial institutions at local to global scales.



ROUND TABLE 8

Sustainable Landscapes in the Amazon and Congo Basin

8

MODERATOR

Valerie Hickey, Practice Manager, World Bank

Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director, Policy and Programme, IUCN

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Avecita Chicchón, Program Director, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Raymond Ndomba Ngoye, Executive Secretary, COMIFAC

Rosa Lemos, CEO, FUNBIO

Thomas Lovejoy, Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University, and Senior Advisor to STAP Chair

The Amazon and the Congo Basin, Earth's two largest remaining areas of tropical rainforests, cover 1.1 billion hectares. These ecosystems help regulate local and global climate and are home to countless species as well as forest dependent people with significant traditional knowledge of forests and forest management. In addition to improving the management and financial sustainability of protected areas, strengthening sustainable forest management, and reducing carbon emissions from deforestation, there is an urgent need to tackle drivers of deforestation through engagement with key actors and stakeholders. This round table brings together country representatives and subject-matter experts to share experiences from each region in sustainable forest management and incorporating biodiversity management principles into sectors that are driving deforestation through sectoral agreements and incentives and other financing strategies.

ROUND TABLE 9

Preventing a Toxic Legacy:
Transforming the Chemicals Industry

9

MODERATOR

Izabella Teixeira, Co-Chair, International Resource Panel

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Lida Tan, VP Global Business Development, ESD China Ltd.

H.E. Gail Rigobert, Minister of Sustainable Development, St. Lucia

Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Rossana Silva-Repetto, Executive Secretary, Minamata Convention

Yutaka Ichihashi, Managing Director, Nomura Kohsan, Co., LTD

In today's economy, products and materials such as textiles, gold, and electronics are produced in one country and used in many others. In producing countries industries use harmful chemicals in manufacturing and in the extraction of raw materials, while long and usually complicated global supply chains sometimes leave end-user countries with no good options for recycling or disposing of the products. This end-of-pipe management is not sustainable, and solutions that move up supply chains and prevent the need for chemicals and generation of wastes from the outset are starting to be developed. The focus of this round table is to discuss how different stakeholders can come together to support the upstream management of chemicals by addressing supply chains rather than taking an end-of-life approach to sound chemicals management.

ROUND TABLE 10

Wildlife

10

MODERATOR

Claudia McMurray, President and CEO, Mainstream Green Solutions LLC

Jillian Blackbeard, Executive Director for Marketing, Botswana Tourism Organization

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Judy Garber, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, US

Kaddu K. Sebunya, President, African Wildlife Foundation

The numbers and range of many wildlife populations are in widespread decline across the world. Habitat destruction and illegal hunting for the international wildlife trade are two key drivers of this loss of biodiversity. Stemming this loss will depend on the reduction of poaching and curtailing illegal wildlife trade along the entire value chain, and safeguarding the system of protected and community managed areas. When these areas are properly managed, they become an asset on which wildlife-based tourism and other enterprises can be built for the benefit of local communities. This round table will explore the status of the wildlife trafficking crisis, the human and environmental impacts of the crisis, the latest approaches to addressing these challenges, and ways to develop a wildlife economy.



ROUND TABLE 11

Gender and the Environment

11

MODERATOR**Anna-Karin Jattfors**, Regional Director, Asia & Pacific, UN Women**SPEAKERS INCLUDE****H.E. Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa**, Deputy Prime Minister, Samoa**Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director, UN Habitat**Edna Kaptoyo**, Executive Secretary, IAITPTF**Sue Szabo**, Director General, Food Security and Environment, Global Affairs Canada

The active participation of women is essential for the holistic, multidisciplinary, and inter-sectoral approach that is needed to safeguard the environment for future generations. But too often, women's roles and leadership are unrecognized or undervalued. Moreover, social and economic inequalities between men and women also often hold back prospects for sustainable development and undermine sound environmental management. To develop meaningful solutions to environmental challenges, efforts are needed on many fronts, including promoting an equal voice in planning and decision-making, and creating opportunities for both women and men to develop and support sustainable climate, energy, food, and urban solutions. This round table will facilitate a discussion around effective entry points to promote gender equality to tackle drivers of environmental degradation, and concrete opportunities on how the environmental community can better support gender-responsive policy and financing.

ROUND TABLE 12

Innovation in Clean Energy

12

MODERATOR**Kevin Braithwaite**, Vice President of Global Programs, Cleantech Open**SPEAKERS INCLUDE****LI Yong**, Director General, UNIDO**Atchara Poomee**, Founder and MD, PAC Corporation (Thailand) Co., Ltd**Josué Tanaka**, Managing Director, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, EBRD

Over 1.2 billion people cannot access electricity and about 2.8 billion are suffering indoor air pollution due to the use of non-clean energy including solid biomass, kerosene, and coal for cooking. Yet clean energy options are becoming increasingly viable and desirable for the developing world. The capital cost of solar photovoltaic technology, for example, decreased by 50% from 2012-2017, and it will continue decreasing by another 50% over the next five years. Despite this potential, scaling-up clean energy investment and deployment in developing countries still faces financial and operational barriers and challenges. This round table will engage ministers, private sector leaders, and prominent energy experts to discuss how innovative business models can be developed for promoting clean energy innovations.

ROUND TABLE 13 Conservation Finance

13

MODERATOR

Kenneth Lay, Senior Managing Director, The Rock Creek Group

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Jay Koh, Co-Founder and MD, The Lightsmith Group

Justin Mundy, Former Director, The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit

There is significant potential to increase private investments in conservation and ecosystem management from its current estimated level of about \$10 billion annually. By comparison, a recent survey conducted by the Global Impact Investing Network places the pool of impact investment capital at around \$114 billion, with over \$22 billion invested in 2016. This pool has grown significantly, increasing by 18% compounded annually between 2013 and 2015, but little has been directed at conservation and natural resource management. Enhanced use of blended finance may help unlock this potential, but this would require concerted effort to (i) develop and test innovative risk mitigation instruments to support blended finance models of public and private sector investments; and (ii) establish a track record of models demonstrating how such investments can be profitable/successful across a range of geographies and contexts. This round table will highlight growing private sector appetite for investment in conservation and natural resources management and how GEF can help crowd-in more investment. It will feature some of the innovative GEF non-grant project designs to spark the conversation on how countries can make use of these tools.

ROUND TABLE 14 Sustainable Drylands

14

MODERATOR

Dennis Garrity, UNCCD Drylands Ambassador and Former Director General, ICRAF


SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Joy Tukahirwa, Uganda Landcare Network

Mariem Dkhil, Director, Morocco Agricultural Credit

Intact dryland landscapes provide freshwater, food, fuel, and fiber, air and water purification, climate regulation, and habitats for wildlife. Governance challenges and inadequate land use practices, however, pose grave threats to these ecosystem services and is putting the health, livelihoods, and security of an estimated 1.5 billion people at risk. The international community is working to halt and reverse this through a commitment to land degradation neutrality (LDN). Yet due to the high levels of poverty in countries with a high percentage share of arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid drylands, there is a crucial need to integrate LDN priorities with food and water security, poverty reduction, income generation, and livelihood security. This round table will discuss potential opportunities for helping dryland countries advance LDN.





About the GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$17.9 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$93.2 billion in financing for more than 4,500 projects in 170 countries. Today, the GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office—Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank Group (WBG) and World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF-US).

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INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



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