



Safeguarding the Global Commons

The Seventh Replenishment of
the Global Environment Facility



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



We are at a Defining Moment

All life on Earth depends on clean air and water, biodiversity, and healthy forests, land, oceans and a stable climate. These global commons—the ecosystems, biomes and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system—are the very foundation of our global economy and modern society. Today, they are facing an all-too familiar tragedy of over-exploitation and rapid degradation.

Scientists warn that the “planetary boundaries”, that have ensured the stable conditions that have enabled all civilizations to form and prosper over the last 11,000 years are being strained, and in some cases, exceeded. Several of the planetary boundaries have already been breached.

Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, GEF

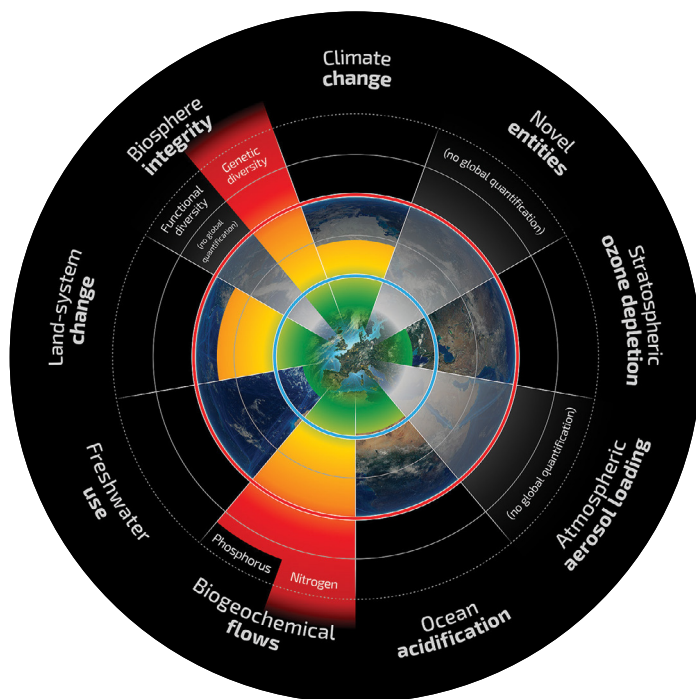
“If done right, we can turn the tragedy of the global commons into an opportunity. **Safeguarding the global commons is the wisest investment that can be made.** The GEF is ready to act as a catalyst to help make this happen.

Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research PIK

“It is time to re-evaluate our economic and political models for the Anthropocene. The starting point must be our very notion of the global commons. ...Industrial societies now wield astonishing power. **Earth's future is in the balance** and we must handle it with care and respect.

These include; biodiversity, now being lost at a rate unprecedented in the last 65 million years; land use change, where nearly a third of forest cover has been cleared worldwide and almost a quarter of the total land area under human use is being degraded; and climate, where the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide now exceeds 400 parts per million, its highest level in 800,000 years. Meanwhile greenhouse gases are also acidifying the oceans, changing their chemistry faster than at any point in perhaps 300 million years.

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




Source: Steffen et al. 2015. Planetary Boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet. Science Vol. 347 no. 6223

Business Risk Perceptions are Changing


Businesses are increasingly recognizing that a deteriorating global environment poses significant risks to prospects for future growth and prosperity.

In the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Risk report, environment-related risks feature among the top-ranked global risks. Specifically, four of the top five perceived risks in terms of impact identified in this year's report were environmental risks. Ten years ago, none of the top five risks were environmental.


Sunny Verghese, Co-founder and Group CEO, Olam International

 *The global agri-sector is at the nexus of some of the most intractable challenges the world faces—food, water, energy security, inclusive growth and sustainable growth. **Do we want to contribute to the problem or become part of the solution?***

Peter Bakker, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

*Business is in a unique position to observe and intervene in many issues facing the global commons—from reducing emissions and addressing climate change, to stopping ocean pollution and fixing broken food systems. Across the world, **companies are stepping up** to meet the challenge.* 

Paul Polman, Former CEO, Unilever

 *Transforming food systems, sustainable forest management, and cities is not only good for the planet and human well-being, but an **enormous business opportunity**. Business can help innovate, finance and scale solutions for environmental sustainability, which in turn can open up better and more inclusive growth opportunities.*

From Economic and Social to Environmental Risks

Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Likelihood

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1st	Infrastructure breakdown	Blow up in asset prices	Asset price collapse	Asset price collapse	Storms and cyclones	Income disparity	Income disparity	Income disparity	Interstate conflict	Involuntary migration	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Extreme weather
2nd	Chronic diseases	Middle East instability	China economic slowdown	China economic slowdown	Flooding	Fiscal imbalances	Fiscal imbalances	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Involuntary migration	Natural disasters	Climate action failure	Climate action failure
3rd	Oil price shock	Failed and failing states	Chronic diseases	Chronic disease	Corruption	Greenhouse gas emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions	Unemployment	Failure of national governance	Climate action failure	Natural disasters	Cyberattacks	Natural disasters	Natural disasters
4th	China hard landing	Oil price shock	Global governance gaps	Fiscal crises	Biodiversity loss	Cyberattacks	Water crises	Climate action failure	State collapse or crisis	Interstate conflict	Terrorist attacks	Data fraud or theft	Data fraud or theft	Biodiversity loss
5th	Blow up in asset prices	Chronic diseases	Deglobalization (emerging)	Global governance gaps	Climate change	Water crises	Population ageing	Cyberattacks	Unemployment	Natural catastrophes	Data fraud or theft	Climate action failure	Cyberattacks	Human-made environmental disasters

Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Impact

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1st	Blow up in asset prices	Blow up in asset prices	Asset price collapse	Asset price collapse	Fiscal crises	Financial failure	Financial failure	Fiscal crises	Water crises	Climate action failure	Weapons of mass destruction	Weapons of mass destruction	Weapons of mass destruction	Climate action failure
2nd	Deglobalization	Deglobalization (developed)	Deglobalization (developed)	Deglobalization (developed)	Climate change	Water crises	Water crises	Climate action failure	Infectious diseases	Weapons of mass destruction	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Weapons of mass destruction
3rd	Interstate and civil wars	China hard landing	Oil and gas price spike	Oil price spikes	Geopolitical conflict	Food crises	Fiscal imbalances	Water crises	Weapons of mass destruction	Water crises	Water crises	Natural disasters	Extreme weather	Biodiversity loss
4th	Pandemics	Oil price shock	Chronic diseases	Chronic disease	Asset price collapse	Fiscal imbalances	Weapons of mass destruction	Unemployment	Interstate conflict	Involuntary migration	Natural disasters	Climate action failure	Water crises	Extreme weather
5th	Oil price shock	Pandemics	Fiscal crises	Fiscal crises	Energy	Energy price volatility	Climate action failure	Infrastructure breakdown	Climate action failure	Energy price shock	Climate action failure	Water crises	Natural disasters	Water crises

■ Economic
 ■ Environmental
 ■ Geopolitical
 ■ Societal
 ■ Technological

Source: World Economic Forum, *The Global Risks Report 2020, 15th Edition*

The World is Responding, but Time is Short

Up to now, the transition into the Anthropocene—momentous though it is—has been largely ignored, figuring little in public policy or the private sector discourse. Fortunately, there are signs that this is beginning to change.

The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the world's governments in the autumn of 2015, are designed to set development and growth on a new track, ending poverty and increasing prosperity, while safeguarding the global commons. So is the Paris Climate Agreement, struck the following December, which aims to bring net emissions of greenhouse gases down to zero in the second half of the century.

GEF-7 is the first replenishment of the GEF after these landmark agreements and another sign that the world is responding.

Multi-stakeholder sustainability platforms have also proliferated in recent years. Smart coalitions, nimble networks and productive partnerships are emerging everywhere, and becoming increasingly influential for systems change (see pages 8-9).

Nicholas Stern, Chair, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics

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*Protecting and nurturing our global commons and ecosystems is fundamental to sustainable growth and poverty reduction. No other kind of growth can last. **This is the growth story of the 21st century.** The next 15 years will decide the future of the world for the rest of the century and beyond.*

Christiana Figueres, Convener, Mission 2020

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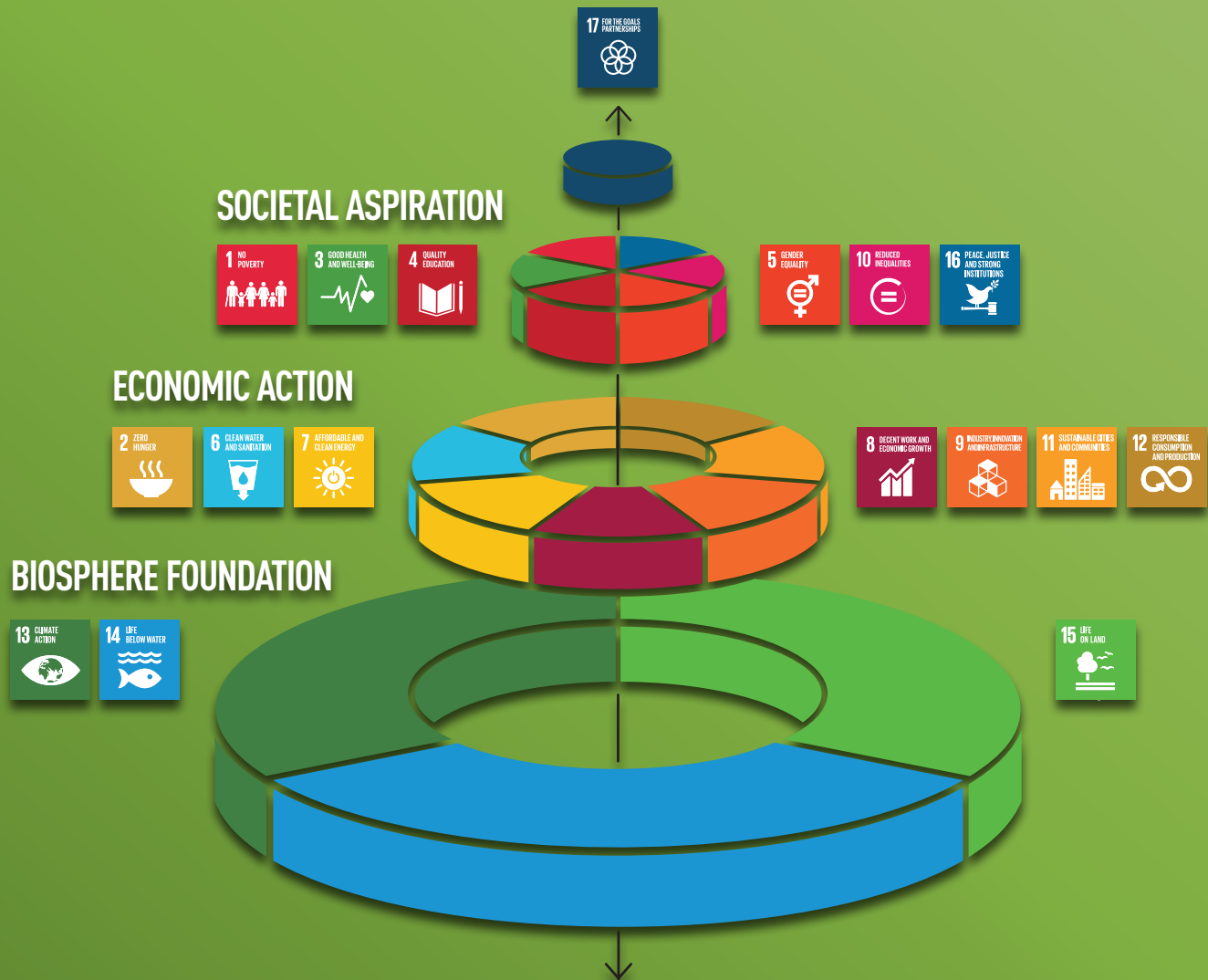
*If we are to achieve the Global Goals for sustainable development and deliver on the ambition of the Paris Agreement, **we must reach a climate turning point in 2020.***

Dominic Waughray, Managing Director, Centre for Global Public Goods, World Economic Forum

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*Addressing climate change, protecting the health of our ocean and biodiversity, stemming materials pollution and ensuring food and resource security are **wicked, interconnected global environmental challenges for our 21st century economy and society.** Addressing them effectively—and with the necessary urgency—requires unprecedented cooperation.*

The Global Environment Underpins the SDGs



This diagram is adapted from an original illustration created by the Stockholm Resilience Centre

GEF-7 is Focused on Supporting Transformation of Key Economic Systems

To stay within the planetary boundaries, a radical transformation of key economic systems will be required.

Four systems are of particular importance: the food system, the energy system, the urban system, and the global production/consumption system which needs to become much more circular.

The necessity of making our societies and economies more sustainable is not only to avoid disaster, but to build lasting prosperity. Operating within planetary boundaries is not just the only way to ensure healthy economies but has the potential to provide much greater and better-shared growth. That's the opportunity of the commons.

The US\$4.1 billion GEF-7 program seeks to help catalyze economic systems change in order to tackle the major drivers of environmental degradation, consistent with the GEF2020 Strategy.

To help achieve this, the GEF has developed Impact Programs that focus on Food systems, Land Use, and Restoration, and on Sustainable Cities. A third Impact Program will address the drivers of forest loss and degradation in key biomes: the Amazon, the Congo Basin, and some important Dryland landscapes. Going forward, the GEF will also do more on other issues of growing international concern like the health of the world's oceans, as well as blended finance.

The GEF will support and strengthen platforms to bring all relevant stakeholders together around integrated responses, in line with countries' demand and commitment under the various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism.

Andrew Steer, President and CEO, World Resources Institute

“Four revolutionary shifts in social and economic life are needed to tame Bigfoot-style economic impacts and safeguard the global commons: transforming cities, re-thinking food and agriculture, decarbonizing energy systems, and transitioning from linear approaches to production, design, use and disposal of materials to circular economic models.”

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Co-chair, Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, and Former Finance Minister, Nigeria

*Financing the transition to a low-carbon economy is fundamental to securing a more sustainable, prosperous future. The strong support for the **GEF's new replenishment and strategy will help deliver transformation** and avoid the potentially enormous human and economic costs of congested cities, degraded agricultural and forest lands, and a changing climate. Crucially, some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are set to benefit from more GEF investment in the least developed countries.*

Many influential leaders expressed their support for the GEF-7 replenishment

The full list of testimonials can be found online here:
<https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-replenishment-testimonials>

GEF-7 Programming Priorities

In April 2018, 29 donors pledged \$4.1 billion for GEF-7 Programming Directions 2018–2022

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

- **FOOD, LAND USE AND RESTORATION**
\$430 mil
- **SUSTAINABLE CITIES**
\$155 mil
- **KEY BIOMES: AMAZON, CONGO BASIN AND DRYLANDS**
\$261 mil
- **BLENDED FINANCE**
\$136 mil
- **SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**
\$128 mil

Food

The world will require a 70% increase in food production to meet dietary demands from a world population of around 10 billion by 2050. At the same time, food production today is putting enormous strain on the global commons: agriculture is directly responsible for about ¼ of all GHG emissions; for more than 70% of freshwater use; and is responsible for more than 80% of tropical deforestation and habitat loss. Moreover, about 30% of all produced food is wasted, while hundreds of million people are malnourished. As shown in the recent EAT-Lancet report, without a radical transformation of the food system, neither the SDGs nor the Paris Agreement targets will be achievable.

It is positive that a growing number of action-oriented, multi-stakeholder platforms focusing on the 2020 food system are now emerging, like the Tropical Forest Alliance, the Food and Land Use Coalitions and others.

The GEF's new Food, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program—the single largest GEF-7 program, is seeking to help catalyze change by leveraging these initiatives. FOLUR focuses on (i) strengthening land use planning; (ii) taking a whole-of-landscape approach in specific jurisdictions that explicitly seek to balance production and protection objectives; and (iii) focusing on specific agricultural commodity value chains that have an outsized impact on the global environment, like soybeans, cattle, palm oil, rice and others. FOLUR recognizes that to be successful all stakeholders need to be engaged, including local and national governments, science and planners, and not least the private sector from small-scale local producers to global market leaders.

Cities

In the next 15 years, 70% of all new infrastructure to be built will take place in urban areas. Currently, cities emit more than 70% of global GHGs and are also particularly vulnerable to climate change (rising sea levels, storms, floods, heat waves). Low-carbon and resilient infrastructure could make a significant contribution to the global reduction of GHG emissions while enhancing urban development, by generating annual GHG savings of around 3.7 Gt by 2030. Additionally, changes in building efficiency could save cities an estimated US\$17 trillion globally by 2050.

Supported by global city networks, such as C40, ICLEI and UCLG, cities are increasingly seeking to move to low-carbon and resilient trajectories.

Building on the GEF's existing sustainable cities program, which was launched during GEF-6, the GEF will further strengthen its support for transformation of the global urban system in the coming years. The new GEF-7 Sustainable Cities Impact Program will support mayors to focus on comprehensive city planning, avoid uncoordinated, free-standing investments, and will support rapid sharing of experience and good practice among cities through the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities.

Circular Economy

Today's economies are dominated by linear approaches to the way products are manufactured, used and disposed of, which means we extract natural resources, process them into products and packaging, and sell the products to consumers who ultimately dispose of them. In the last four decades, global materials use has tripled, from 23.7 billion tonnes in 1970 to 70.1 billion tonnes in 2010. What results from our linear "take-make-waste" industrial production and consumption systems is immensely unsustainable material resource use and productivity waste that is leading to widespread degradation and accumulation of waste and toxic materials in the environment.

The global focus on accelerating a move towards a circular economy has sharply increased in recent years, spurred on in particular by the political attention given to plastic pollution in the ocean. The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) is one promising initiative to bring countries and industry players together around efforts to tackle this issue. Launched by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE) focuses on a broader range of industries, for example consumer electronics to deal with e-waste, bringing together both regulators and industry.

The GEF will step up its investments in circular economy initiatives in the coming years, building on our experiences from, such as, in Nigeria (e-waste) and from the GEF-GOLD program that seeks to eliminate mercury from artisanal gold mining.

Energy

Decarbonization of the global energy system is critical to limit future global temperature increases to 1.5–2 °C, in line with the Paris Agreement. The energy system represents 68 percent of global GHG emissions, and despite recent improvements only 23 percent of energy is provided by renewables today; and 1 billion people still lack access to electricity. By 2040, energy demand is projected to increase by 30 percent. In the face of these trends, deployment of renewable energy needs to accelerate sharply, as do energy efficiency improvements, all while increased energy demand—including from what is needed to close the electricity gap, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia—is being met.

The rapid decline in the cost of renewables, coupled with continued progress in global energy efficiency, give reasons for optimism about the energy transformation, although the speed of change remains too slow to meet global targets. Further acceleration in technological advancements is required.

In the coming years, the GEF will tightly focus its energy investments in four areas: (i) decentralized renewable energy with energy storage; (ii) electric mobility; (iii) accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and (iv) cleantech innovation. In addition, the GEF will emphasize efforts to further mainstream the necessary energy transition into national or countries' sustainable development strategies.

An aerial photograph of a dense, vibrant green forest. A winding river, with a slightly lighter greenish-blue hue, meanders through the landscape, creating a series of curves and loops. The forest appears thick and continuous, with varying shades of green indicating different types of vegetation or perhaps just the play of light and shadow. The river is a prominent feature, cutting through the heart of the forest.

Biomes

Rapid development and competing land uses have cut wide swaths through the world's forests, undermining vital environmental services, such as the maintenance of biodiversity, climate stability, carbon storage, integrity of land, and delivery of fresh water. The livelihood of an estimated 1.6 billion people are also under threat.

The GEF's new Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program will address the drivers of forest loss and degradation in key biomes: the Amazon, the Congo Basin, and some important Dryland landscapes. In these globally important ecosystems, there is an opportunity to change the future development trajectory from natural resource depletion and biodiversity erosion, to one based on natural capital management and productive landscapes.

The Amazon is home to over a quarter of the world's terrestrial species, accounts for about 15% of global terrestrial photosynthesis, provides a major carbon sink, and drives atmospheric circulation and precipitation across South America and beyond. Conserving the Amazon biome is therefore of critical global, regional and local importance.

The Congo Basin is still in relatively good health. However the vast natural resources are facing unsustainable exploitation, through mining, agriculture (palm oil, coffee, cocoa, rubber), oil extraction, commercial logging, charcoal production, and bush meat hunting.

Drylands contain some of the most fragile and threatened ecosystems on the planet, including over one quarter of global biodiversity hotspots. The SFM impact program will focus specifically on three dryland regions: the Miombo and Mopane ecosystems of southern Africa, the savannas of west Africa and the temperate grasslands, savannas and shrublands of Central Asia.

Oceans

Ocean ecosystems are under unprecedented pressures from climate change, acidification, habitat loss, pollution, overfishing, shipping, and seabed mining. It is estimated that the resources within the exclusive economic zones of the world's ocean represent a value of \$12 trillion annually in market and non-market ecosystem goods and services. These services include providing livelihoods, food security, climate regulation, shoreline storm protection, carbon sequestration, and recreational opportunities for billions of people.

Urgent action is needed to improve management of ABNJ area that covers 40% of the planet, as the open oceans increasingly are threatened by over-fishing of iconic pelagic migratory species, ocean energy facilities, bottom trawling on seamounts, pollution, extraction of minerals and hydrocarbons.

In GEF-7, investments will be strengthening Blue Economy opportunities through three areas of strategic action: i) sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems; ii) catalyzing sustainable fisheries management; and, iii) addressing pollution reduction in marine environments including marine debris, particularly plastic litter pollution. The GEF will also renew its efforts within the ABNJ space.

Blended Finance

With the private sector's increased interest in "green" finance as part of a growing commitment to clean energy, reducing risks to supply chains, preserving access to natural resources, and sharing responsibility for the global commons, leveraging the estimated \$300 trillion in assets held by the sector has become crucial. Blended finance combines the power of development finance and private capital to reduce risks and increase opportunities for private investors. Efforts such as the Meloy Fund as well as the establishment of the Seychelles Sovereign Blue Bond show that blended efforts can work well, often leveraging more financing than a regular development project. Using this approach to catalyze the required redirection of finance for achieving the protection of our global commons is paramount.

Under GEF-7, the GEF will increase its support for blended finance. The GEF partnership will continuously innovate, keep track of global trends in blended finance and seek increased number of projects in the area of natural resources management. Specific emphasis will be placed on investment platforms, such as the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC) platform that provides integrated grant and non-grant investment services to facilitate rapid scaling of investment beyond one-by-one projects. The goal of the GEF-7 in this area is to create and participate in platforms where several constraints in conservation finance, such as small size, lack of capacity, and perceived risks are collectively addressed and attract private investments to natural resource management at scale.

Building a Movement for the Global Commons

In October 2016, some 200 leading environment, development and system thinkers met in Washington, DC, to discuss how mobilization of leadership, technology, science, innovation and communication can help bring about the transformation in economic systems that the planet needs.

The Dialogue was convened by the GEF and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in partnership with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) Environmental Systems Initiative.

Following the meeting, many senior figures contributed to an article series in the online Guardian newspaper focusing on the state of the commons and how to reverse trends. (see right).

More recently, a pioneering, international effort has been undertaken to establish an Earth Commission, a group of leading scientists and experts who will analyze the latest science to publish reports defining the conditions for a stable planet.

The insights of the Earth Commission will be central for informing the work of a new Science Based Targets Network developing methodologies for companies and cities to set specific science-based targets to guide policies and practice.

Both the Earth Commission and the Science Based Targets Network are parts of the Global Commons Alliance, a network of organizations aiming to ensure our planet remains habitable.

But, we need to do more. Future events and activities need to position the global commons narrative as a vital framework for leadership and decision making in the 21st century. We need to identify opportunities for accelerating systems transformation through technology, systems leadership and finance.

Thought Leaders on the Global Commons

Articles by the following authors in the Guardian online series can be found at thegef.org/globalcommons

- **Inger Andersen, Former Director General, IUCN**
- **Peter Bakker, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development**
- **Daniella Ballou-Aares, Partner, Dalberg Global Development Advisors**
- **Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation**
- **Kathy Calvin, President and CEO, UN Foundation**
- **Daniel C. Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University; Co-author Green to Gold**
- **Sofia Faruqi, Manager, New Restoration Economy, World Resources Institute; Eriks Brolis, Conservation Business Lead, The Nature Conservancy;**
- **Christiana Figueres, Former Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Convener, Mission 2020**
- **José Maria Figueres, Former Co-chair of the Global Ocean Commission and Co-founder of Ocean Unite**
- **J. Carl Ganter and Eileen E. Ganter, Co-founders, Circle of Blue**
- **Antonia Gawel, Head of the Circular Economy Initiative at the World Economic Forum; Mathy Stanislaus, Policy Advisor to the World Economic Forum Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy**
- **Luc Gnacadja, Former Executive Secretary, UN Convention to Combat Desertification**

We invite all to join and contribute.

For more information: thegef.org/globalcommons
globalcommonsalliance.org

- Celine Herweijer, Partner, Innovation and Sustainability; Will Evison, Assistant Director, PwC;
- André Hoffmann, Vice-Chairman, Roche Holding Ltd.
- Jonathan Horrell, Director Global Sustainability, Mondeléz International
- Rupert Howes, CEO, The Marine Stewardship Council
- Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, GEF
- Mary Ellen Iskenderian, President and CEO, Women's World Banking
- Jeremy Jackson, Senior Scientist Emeritus, Smithsonian Institution, Professor Emeritus, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Cecily Joseph, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility, Symantec
- Yolanda Kakabadse, Former President, WWF International
- Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow and Co-director, Global Economy and Development Programme, Brookings Institute
- Naina Lal Kidwai, Member of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate
- W. John Kress, Distinguished Scientist and Curator of Botany, Smithsonian Institution
- Peggy Liu, Chairperson, JUCCCE
- Carlos Lopes, Professor, University of Cape Town and Member, Global Commission on the Economy and Climate
- Thomas Lovejoy, Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University
- Chris Luebke, Arup Fellow and Director; Jonelle Simunich, Senior Strategist, Global Foresight, Research and Innovation, Arup
- Amy Luers, Executive Director, Future Earth
- Mark Malloch-Brown, Chair of the Business and Sustainable Development Commission
- Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada
- Henry McLoughlin, Director, Corporate Development; Dipender Saluja, Managing Director, Capricorn Investment Group
- Andreas Merkl, Former President, Ocean Conservancy
- Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Director General/Deputy CEO; Caroline Zimm, Research Assistant, Transitions to New Technologies, IIASA
- Carlos Nobre, Member, UN Scientific Advisory Board for Global Sustainability; Juan Carlos Castilla-Rubio, Chairman, Space Time Ventures
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Co-chair, Global Commission on the Economy and Climate
- Jeremy Oppenheim, Programme Director, Business and Sustainable Development Commission
- Laura Phillips, Senior Vice President for Global Sustainability, Walmart Inc.
- Paul Polman, Former CEO, Unilever
- Kevin Rabinovitch, Global Vice-President, Sustainability, and Chief Climate Officer, Mars, Inc.
- N.H. Ravindranath, Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Kate Raworth, Author, Doughnut Economics, Senior Visiting Research Associate, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University
- Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research PIK
- Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- Paul Simpson, CEO, CDP
- Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Director, Refining and Bank Products, Argor-Heraeus SA
- Andrew Steer, President and CEO, World Resources Institute
- Nicholas Stern, Chair, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at LSE, and President, British Academy, IG Patel, Professor of Economics and Government, London School of Economics and Political Science; Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, GEF
- Per Espen Stoknes, Chair, Centre for Green Growth, Norwegian Business School
- Jahda Swanborough, Lead, Environment Initiatives, World Economic Forum; Aengus Collins, Practice Lead, Global Risks, World Economic Forum
- Ralph Thurm, Managing Director; Bill Baue, Senior Director, Reporting 3.0
- Nigel Topping, CEO, We Mean Business
- Keith Tuffley, Former-CEO, the B Team, CEO, NEUW Ventures
- Sunny Verghese, Co-founder and Group CEO, Olam International
- Mathis Wackernagel, CEO and Co-founder, Global Footprint Network
- Dominic Waughray, Managing Director, Centre for Global Public Goods, World Economic Forum
- Fokko Wientjes, Vice President, Nutrition in Emerging Markets & Food Systems Transformation, Royal DSM
- Park Won-Soon, Mayor of Seoul and President of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability
- Elizabeth Yee, Vice-President, City Solutions, 100 Resilient Cities
- Durwood Zaelke, President, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development

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 close to **\$20 billion** in grants and mobilized an additional **\$107 billion** in co-financing for more than **4,700 projects** in **170 countries**. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to nearly 24,000 civil society and community initiatives in 128 countries.

About the GEF

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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