

Cook Islands GEF National Dialogue

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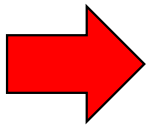


GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

QUIZ

How many GEF
implementing agencies
are there?

- a) 8
- b) 12
- c) 18
- d) 23



QUIZ

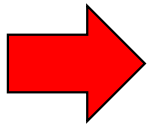
Who signs a GEF project Letter of Endorsement?

- a) GEF CEO
- b) Minister
- c) GEF Agencies
-  d) GEF Operational Focal Points

QUIZ

A Full-sized Project concept was Council approved in June 2023. When is the deadline for CEO Endorsement (full project approval)?

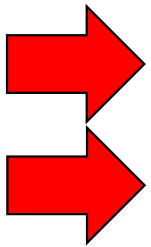
- a) December 2023
- b) June 2024
- c) December 2024
- d) June 2025



QUIZ

Which GEF Focal Areas are not part of STAR?

- a) Climate Change Mitigation
- b) Biodiversity
- c) Land Degradation
- d) Chemicals and Waste
- e) International Waters



A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Largest environmental multi-donor trust fund in the world

Financial mechanism of five international environmental conventions



18 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants**



**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

GOVERNANCE

GUIDANCE

ASSEMBLY

CONVENTIONS

CBD
UNFCCC
UNCCD
Stockholm (POPs)
Minamata

COUNCIL

32 Constituencies

SECRETARIAT

INDEPENDENT
EVALUATION OFFICE

STAP

TRUSTEE

ACTION

18 AGENCIES

COUNTRIES

Operational & Political Focal Points, Convention Focal Points, Government, Civil Society, Indigenous people, Private Sector

EXECUTING ENTITIES

GEF Country Focal Points

- Political Focal Point (PFP) & Operational Focal Point (OFP)
- Primary mechanism for country ownership in GEF partnership
- Organization and coordination among PFP and OFP determined by the country (i.e. no firm GEF requirement and every country organizes differently)
- OFP Letter of Endorsement must be signed for all GEF project concepts being submitted by GEF Agencies to the GEF Secretariat.



Political Focal Point (PFP) & Operational Focal Point (OFP)



Political Focal Point (PFP)

- Typically a high-level position within government
- Engages with the GEF partnership on GEF governance issues and policies
- Communicates with their regional GEF constituency
- Mainly participates during the GEF replenishment process and attends the GEF Assembly.

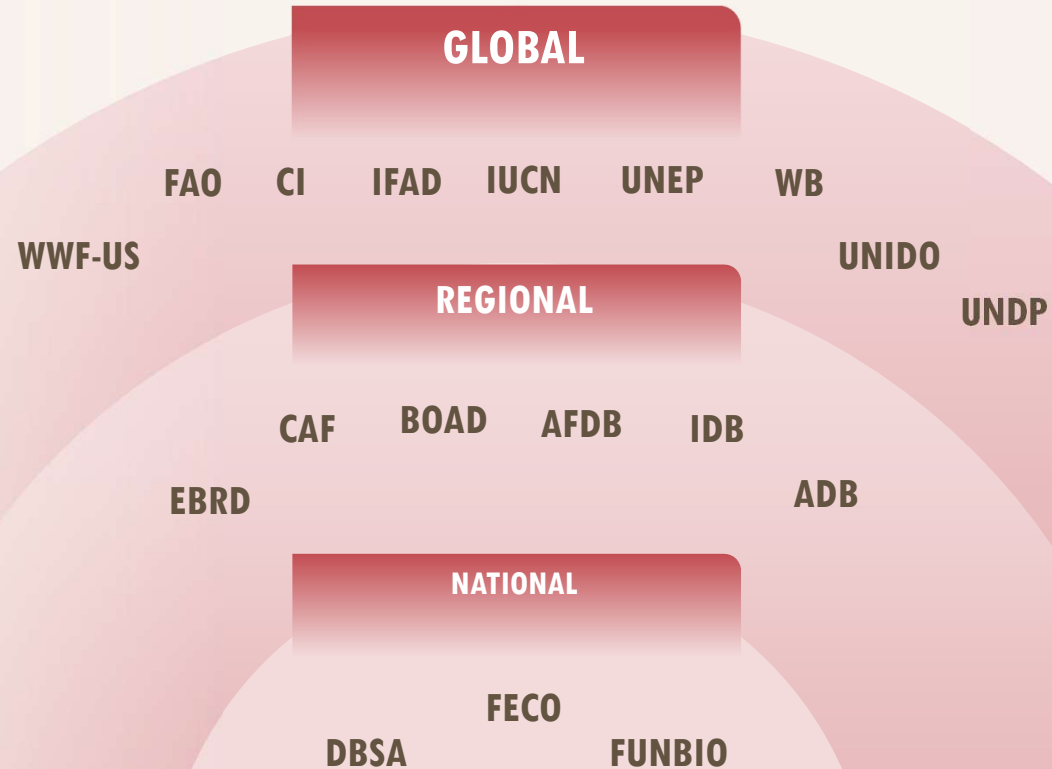
Operational Focal Point (OFP)

- Serve as main contact for GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies and national stakeholders
- Convenes GEF national steering committee (as appropriate) for transparent decision-making
- Engages with civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities
- Work with GEF Agencies through entire project cycle (concept until terminal evaluation).
- Signs OFP Letter of Endorsement

18 GEF AGENCIES

The GEF Agencies are the operational arm of the GEF.

They work closely with project proponents - often government agencies and other national organizations, including civil society organizations - to design, develop and implement GEF-funded projects and programs.



CONVENTIONS



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants**



**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

GEF FOCAL AREAS

Climate change mitigation (CC)

Land degradation (LD)

Biodiversity (BD)

Chemicals and waste (CW)

International waters (IW)

GEF Cycles

GEF-8:

4-year

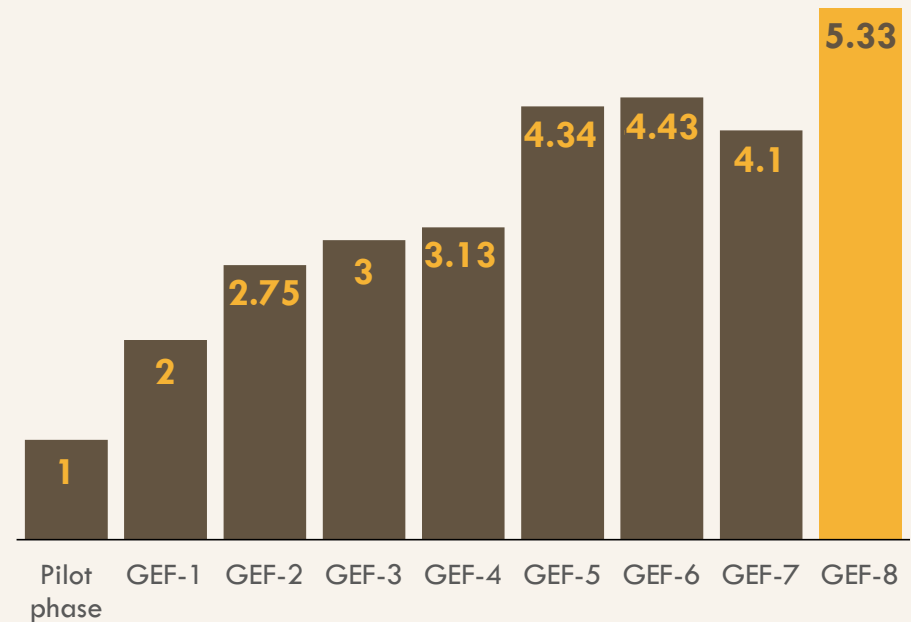
replenishment cycle
from July 1, 2022
to June 30, 2026

Country 'STAR'
allocation

\$5.33 billion






pledged by
39 donor nations

GEF Replenishment Cycles (billion USD)



GEF-8 SYSTEM OF TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES (STAR)

GEF-8 TRUST FUND (\$5.33B)

BIODIVERSITY	CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	LAND DEGRADATION	CHEMICALS & WASTE	INTERNATIONAL WATERS
				

GEF-8 STAR allocation (\$2.43B)

Integrated Programs Incentive & Contributions				
Enabling Activities, CBIT				
Global & Regional Set-aside				
Non-Grant Instrument (NGI)				
Small Grants Program (SGP)				
Innovations Window				

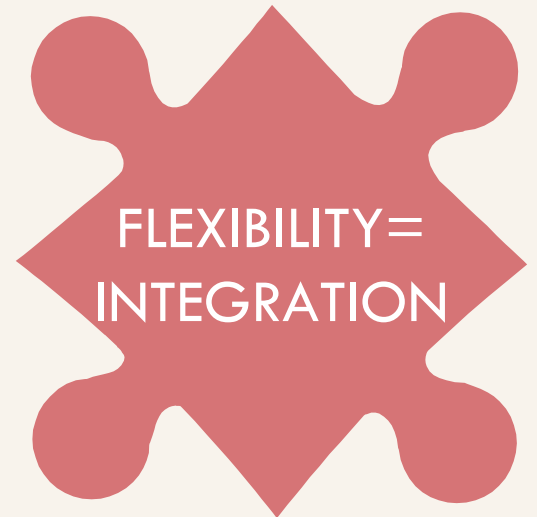
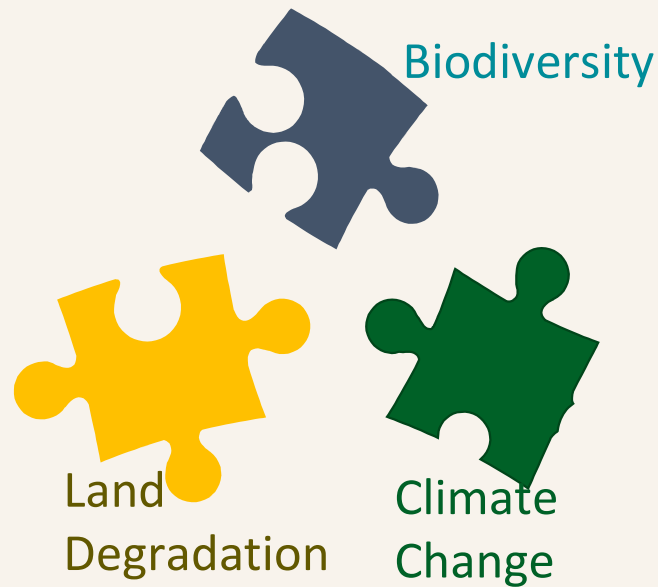
COUNTRY	BIODIVERSITY	CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	LAND DEGRADATION	TOTAL
Bangladesh	4.00	4.58	2.00	10.58
Bhutan	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Cambodia	4.65	2.00	3.14	9.80
China	43.64	47.02	3.03	93.68
Cook Islands	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Fiji	7.96	2.00	2.00	11.96
India	43.78	41.65	3.89	89.32
Indonesia	82.15	20.05	1.45	103.65
Kiribati	4.58	2.00	2.00	8.58
Low People's Democratic Republic	6.75	2.00	2.15	10.90
Malaysia	19.90	5.01	1.41	26.32
Maldives	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Marshall Islands	4.41	2.00	2.00	8.41
Micronesia (Federated States of)	5.15	2.00	2.00	9.15
Mongolia	4.72	1.60	3.77	10.08
Nauru	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Nepal	5.19	2.00	2.13	9.33
Nive	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Pakistan	5.74	7.35	4.68	17.77
Palau	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Papua New Guinea	25.04	2.00	2.00	29.04
Philippines	45.51	5.45	1.80	52.76
Samoa	4.00	2.00	2.00	8.00
Solomon Islands	9.33	2.00	2.00	13.33
Sri Lanka	13.91	2.04	3.05	19.00

STAR COUNTRY ALLOCATION SYSTEM

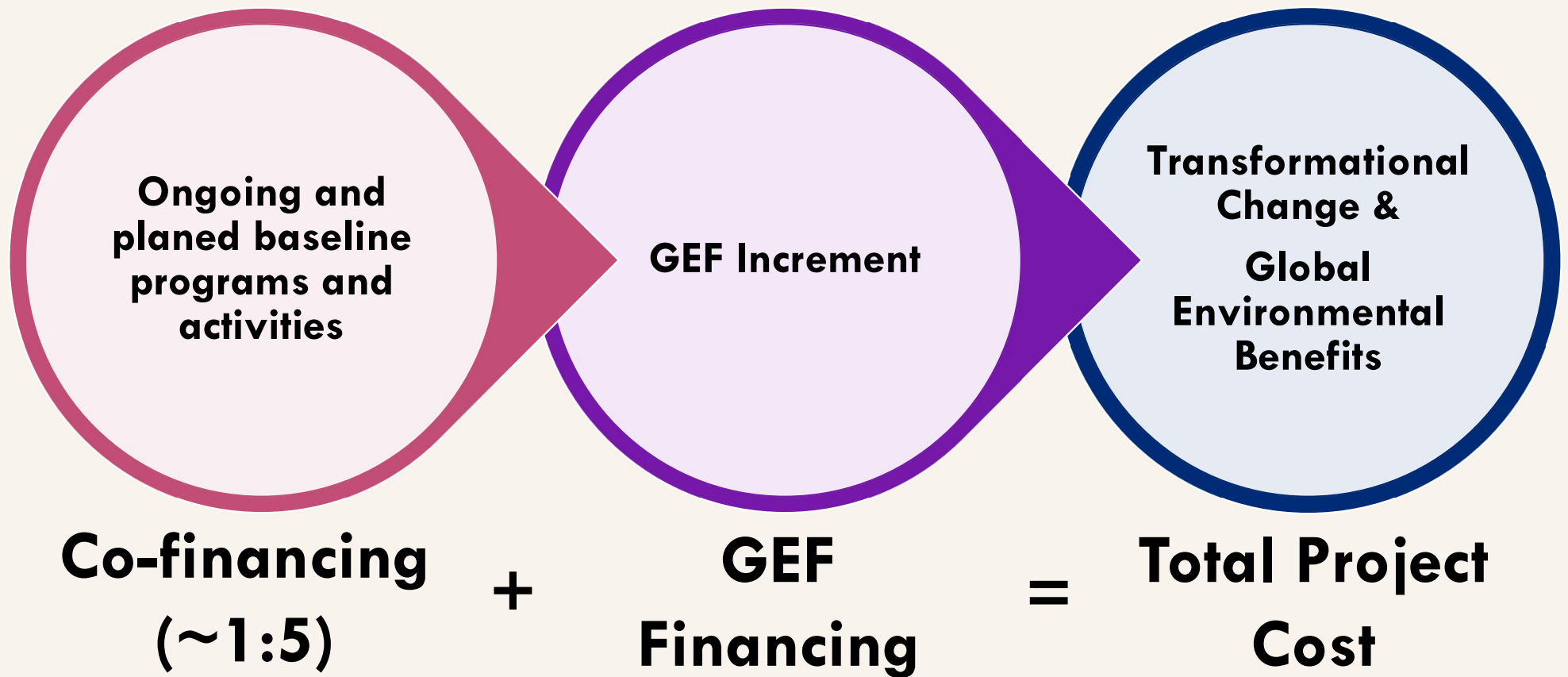
Countries can move STAR allocated resources across the 3 focal area lines



**FULL
FLEXIBILITY**



GEF Project Design: Incremental Cost Reasoning



OPERATIONS

Full-Sized Project (FSP): over US\$2M

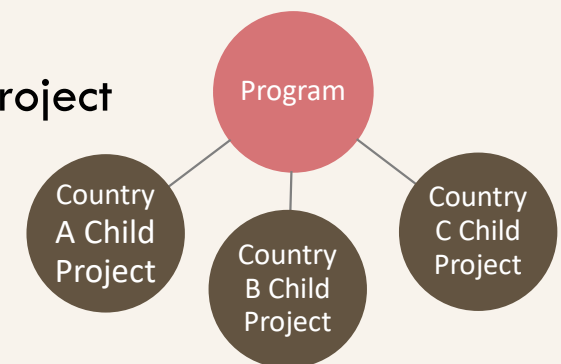
Approval by **Council** (twice a year & intersessional by mail)

Medium-Sized Project (MSP): US\$2M or less

Approval by **GEF CEO** (on a rolling basis)

Program: longer term and strategic arrangement of individual interlinked projects that aim at achieving large-scale impact

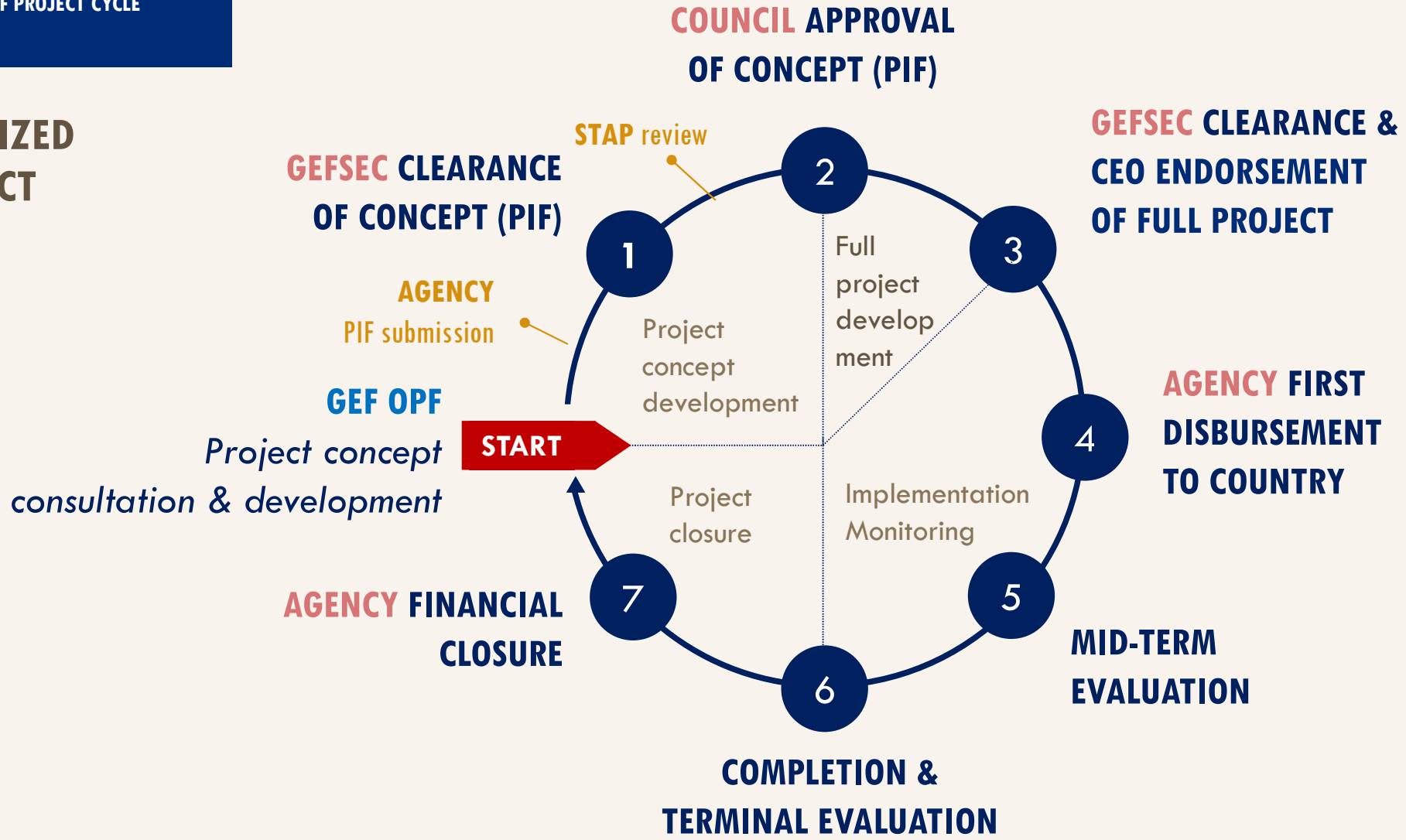
Child Project: an individual project under Program



**PROJECT
MODALITY**

GEF PROJECT CYCLE

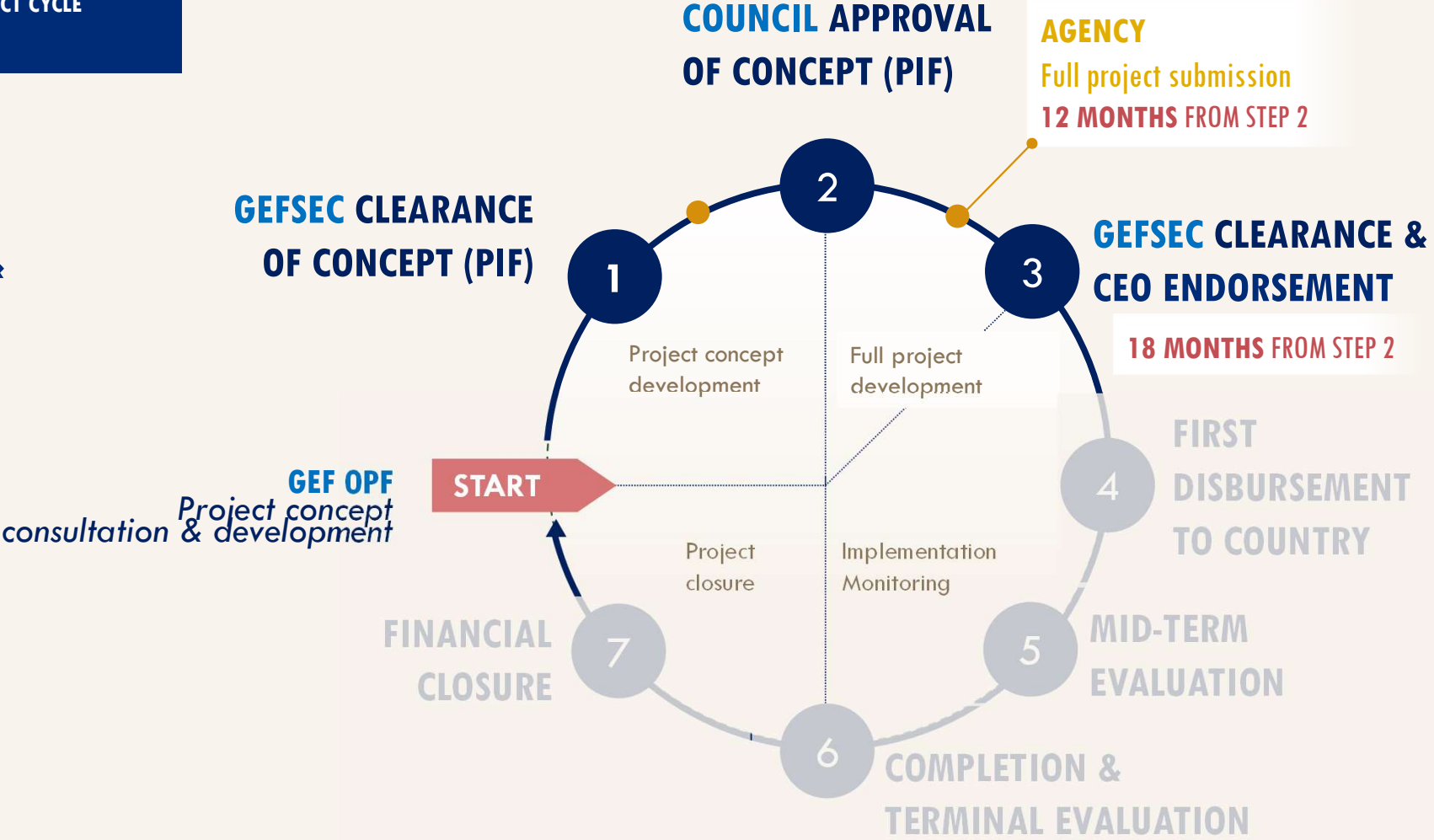
FULL-SIZED PROJECT CYCLE



GEF PROJECT CYCLE

REVIEW & APPROVAL PROCESS & TIMELINE

FULL-SIZED PROJECT



GEF OPF
*Project concept
consultation & development*

**GEFSEC CLEARANCE
OF CONCEPT (PIF)**

**COUNCIL APPROVAL
OF CONCEPT (PIF)**

AGENCY
Full project submission
12 MONTHS FROM STEP 2

**GEFSEC CLEARANCE &
CEO ENDORSEMENT**

18 MONTHS FROM STEP 2

**FIRST
DISBURSEMENT
TO COUNTRY**

**MID-TERM
EVALUATION**

**COMPLETION &
TERMINAL EVALUATION**

**FINANCIAL
CLOSURE**

OPERATIONS

Separation of Project Implementation & Execution

Project Implementation entails the **oversight** of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards & requirements.

18 GEF Agencies

Project Execution refers to the **management & administration** of the day-to-day activities of projects in accordance with a specific project agreement with a GEF Agency.

National government, CSOs, and other organizations identified by government

Fiduciary Standards & Agency Fee Policy mandate **separation** of implementation & execution functions to:

- avoid conflict of interest
- promote country ownership
- build capacity of national executing entities



Questions?



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



GEF-8 Strategy and Programming Directions

GLOBAL RESPONSES AND COMMITMENTS

to seek bold results by
2030 and beyond

Commitment to prevent, halt and reverse the **degradation of ecosystems** - 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes into restoration

High ambition coalition commitment to bring 30% of **land and oceans** under protection

Commitments by countries representing ~45% of the world's emissions to achieve **carbon neutrality** by 2050

Sustainably manage 100% of the **ocean** area under national jurisdiction by 2025

Phase out **POPs** controlled by the Stockholm Convention with time bound phase out dates during the period 2025 – 2036

Develop the Task Force on Nature-related **Financial Disclosures**

Phase out of **mercury** in products and industrial process by 2025

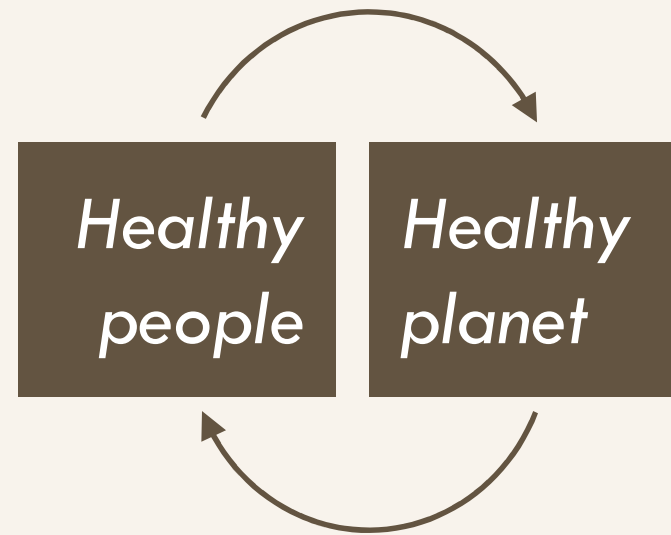


A longer-term vision for the GEF

To halt nature loss and ensure that the world is nature-positive by 2030 and carbon neutral and pollution-free by 2050



GEF-8 embracing a post-COVID-19 framework



...protecting nature and restoring health of the environment that can and needs to underpin the health and well-being of human societies.

GEF-8: HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY PEOPLE

Unified action towards 2030 Goals and Commitments

FOCAL AREAS

Biodiversity

Climate change mitigation

Land degradation

International waters

Chemicals and waste

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

Food Systems

Ecosystem Restoration

Sustainable Cities

Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes

Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution

Blue and Green Islands

Clean and Healthy Ocean

Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development

Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator

Wildlife Conservation for Development

Elimination of Harmful Chemicals from Supply Chains

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Mobilizing the Financial Sector for Environmental Goals through Blended Finance

Community Action for Global Transformation - Small Grants Program and Beyond

CROSS-CUTTING

Circular economy • Nature-based solutions • Gender responsiveness • Resilience • Private sector engagement

GEF-8 TARGETS

CORE INDICATOR	GEF-8 TARGETS	EXPECTED IP CONTRIBUTION (%)
CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY		
1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management	150 million ha	49
2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management	100 million ha	48
4 Area of landscapes under improved practices	195 million ha*	51
5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity	70 million ha	69
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND		
3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration	10 million ha	64
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS		
6 Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated	1,850 million metric tons of CO ₂ e	51
STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT		
7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	18
8 Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels	2.1 million metric tons	1
REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE		
9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced	300 thousand metric tons	17
10 Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced	5,900 grams of toxic equivalent	33



FOCAL AREAS

Sri Lanka

GEF-8

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GEF FOCAL AREAS

Climate change mitigation (CC)

Land degradation (LD)

Biodiversity (BD)

Chemicals and waste (CW)

International waters (IW)

BIODIVERSITY

GOAL

Globally significant biodiversity conserved, sustainably used, and restored.

Major objectives

To improve conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural ecosystems.

To effectively implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols.

To increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity.

Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Comprehensive implementation support for the Global Biodiversity Framework

Integrated landscape/seascape management.

Domestic resource mobilization.



LAND DEGRADATION

GOAL

To avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation, desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Major objectives

Sustainable land management.
Landscape restoration.
Address Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), particularly in drylands.
Improve the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN.

Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Specific objective on addressing DLDD issues.
Increased emphasis on land-based interventions for drought mitigation.



CLIMATE CHANGE

GOAL

Support developing countries to make transformational shifts towards net-zero GHG emissions and climate-resilient development pathways.

Major objectives

1. Innovation, technology transfer, and enabling policies for mitigation options with systemic impacts.

- 1.1. Accelerate the efficient use of energy and materials.*
- 1.2. Enable the transition to decarbonized power systems.*
- 1.3. Scale up zero-emission mobility of people and goods.*
- 1.4. Promote Nature-based Solutions with high mitigation potential.*

2. Enabling conditions to **mainstream mitigation concerns** into sustainable development strategies.

- 2.1. Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT.*
- 2.2. Support relevant Convention obligations and enabling activities.*

CHEMICALS AND WASTE

GOAL

Prevent pollution from harmful chemicals and waste particularly POPs and Mercury.

Major objectives

Policy reform to cleaner chemistry and eliminate existing waste.

Preventing a future build up of harmful chemicals and waste in the environment.

Eliminating harmful chemicals and waste in current waste streams and that are stockpiled in existing infrastructure and processes.

Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Focus on gaps preventing sound management and to prevent a future buildup of chemicals in the environment

Harmonized approaches across jurisdictions to allow transparency in supply chains



INTERNATIONAL WATERS

GOAL

Supporting nations in transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems through 3 step process:

- *Assess ecological & socioeconomic conditions*
- *Agree on a regional strategic action program (SAP)*
- *Implement the SAP*

Major objectives

Support **Large Marine Ecosystems** to accelerate Blue Economic Development.

Advance management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (**ABNJ**).

Enhance water security in **freshwater** ecosystems.

Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

GEBs:

New or improved marine protected areas (**MPAs**)

More sustainable **fisheries** and aquaculture

Reduced **pollution**, including from wastewater, agricultural run-off and plastics

Strengthened **collaboration** among countries with shared water body

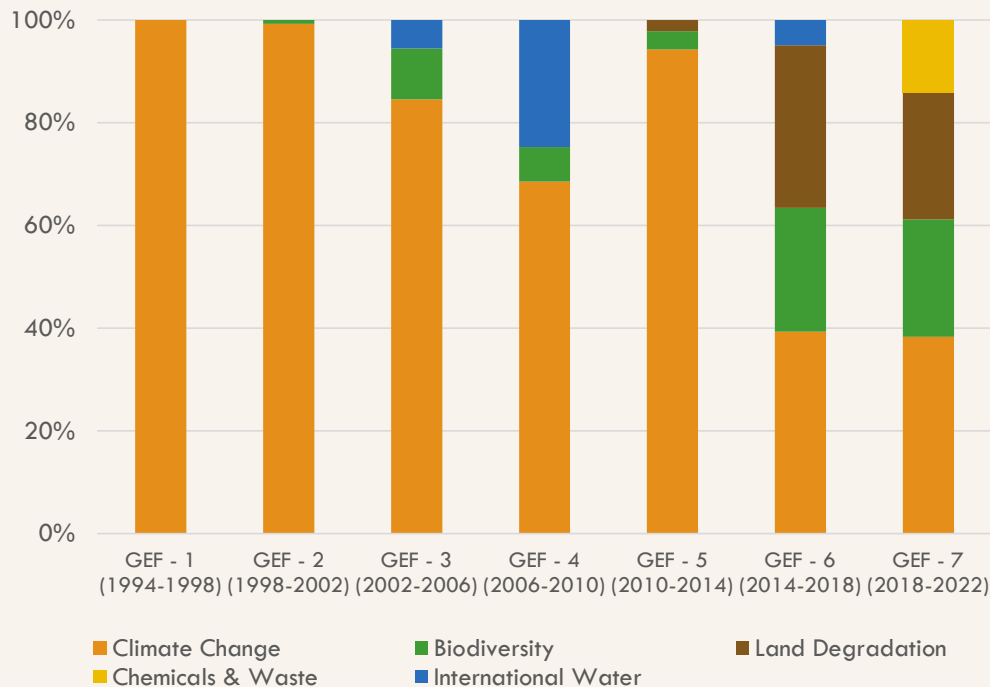
Blended Finance Global Program (Non-Grant Instrument)

Goal

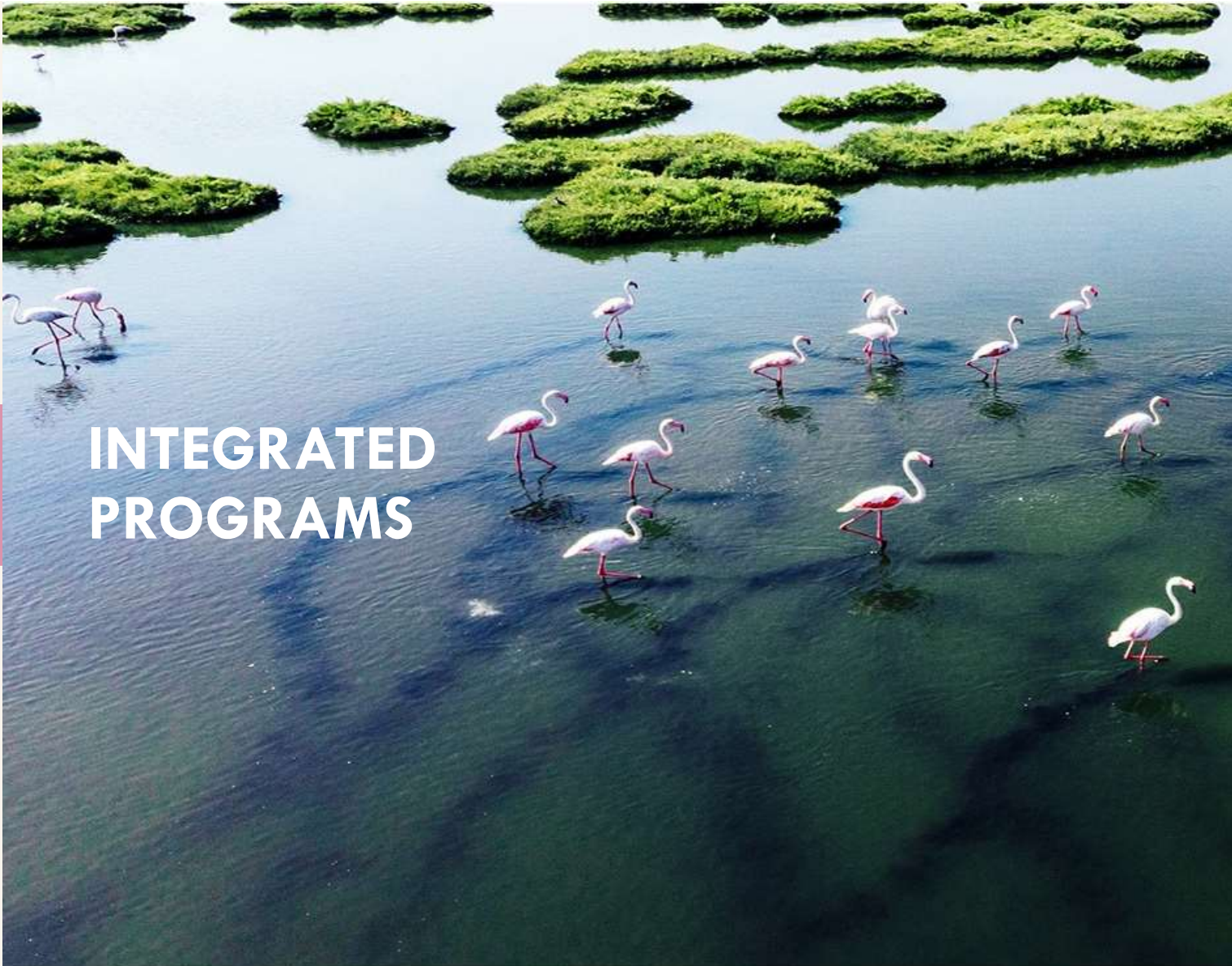
Mobilize private sector investment in projects with high potential to generate GEBs

Definition

Investment has potential for generating reflows



- **GEF has been a leader in Blended finance since its inception.** Initially focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency but lately moving to “frontier” areas such as land degradation, biodiversity, and international waters **where private sector investment is more scarce.**
- In GEF-7, the blended finance initiative became the **Non-Grant Instrument Program (NGI Program)** with USD 136 million allocated and **USD 122.6 million awarded** for 10 projects with co-financing ratio of 20:1
- In GEF-8, the allocation is **USD 196 million.**
- **There is high demand for blended finance.** GEF agencies propose investments to access more than four times available funding; selection is highly competitive.



INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

GEF-8

GEF-8 INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

Pathway to Transformative Change for Blue and Green Recovery

Integrated programs are defined by sharing several of the following characteristics:

- 1** **Integration** of focal areas and approaches
- 2** Deliver **multiple** global environmental benefits
- 3** Complement country-level investments with **transboundary** action and impact at regional or global scales
- 4** Promote global **platforms** for coordination and technical support to country projects
- 5** Provides incentives for **country** participation
- 6** Delivers more **outcomes** than individual projects on same topic

GEF-8 INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

TIMELINE

10 out of the 11 IPs have already selected lead agencies and identified participating countries.

*The **Clean and Healthy Ocean IP** released a call for proposals for Lead Agency on **April 14, 2023 until May 15, 2023**.*

The window for countries to submit Expressions of Interest will be in September – October 2023

Clean and Healthy Ocean

Food Systems

Ecosystem Restoration

Sustainable Cities

Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes

Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution

Blue and Green Islands

Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development

Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator

Wildlife Conservation for Development

Elimination of Harmful Chemicals from Supply Chains

CLEAN AND HEALTHY OCEAN

GOAL

Curb untreated wastewater and runoff pollution from agriculture, industry, and municipal sources into ocean

Targeting low-oxygen hypoxic zones within Large Marine Ecosystems

Major objectives

Global attention to the impacts of nutrient pollution into ocean

National coordinated and coherent policy formulation

Mobilization of financing, especially infrastructure improvements

Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Nutrient loads from land-based sources of pollutants reduced

Integrity of the highly biodiverse coastal zone.

Key marine and coastal biodiversity protected.

Climate change resilience in coastal ecosystems.

Sustainable and innovative policies and investments in nutrient reduction, incl. NBS.



COUNTRY FACTSHEET COOK ISLANDS

Up to date as of March 17, 2023

Country Focal Points

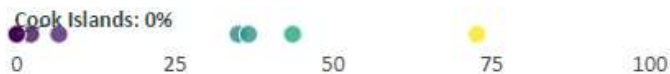
Operational Focal Point	Political Focal Point
Mr. Halatoa Fua Director National Environment Service	Ms. Tapaeru HERRMANN Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GEF-8 Allocations and Commitments

Cook Islands has utilized 0 percent of its STAR resources and has **\$8 million available for use** out of its \$8 million allocation. This utilization rate is lower than the average of GEF countries standing at 1.4 percent.

Utilization of STAR resources

Each dot represents the share of allocated STAR resources utilized by country.



Utilization of resources in \$m by focal area.



GEF Small Grants Program (SGP)



- A flagship corporate program of the GEF
- Demand-driven grants to local communities
- Direct financing and capacity development to CSOs and CBOs
- Local conservation, development, and livelihoods results
- Global Environmental Benefits

SGP Eligibility for potential grantee partners

Are you an NGO/CBO in an SGP participating country?

[Click here for a list of SGP countries](#)

YES

Does the proposed project correspond to one of our areas of work – GEF focal areas- and is aligned with the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) of your country?

[Click here to see our areas of work. Go to your country page to see the CPS](#)

YES

Is your organization:
a) a non-government organization
b) a community-based organization
c) a grassroots organization?

YES

You are eligible for funding from SGP

<https://sgp.undp.org/>

COOK ISLANDS

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT

2016

Start Year

16

Number of GEF Projects

US\$ 714,100

GEF Grant Amount

US\$ 30,420

Co-Financing in Cash

US\$ 362,944

Co-Financing in Kind

-

Non-GEF Grant Amount

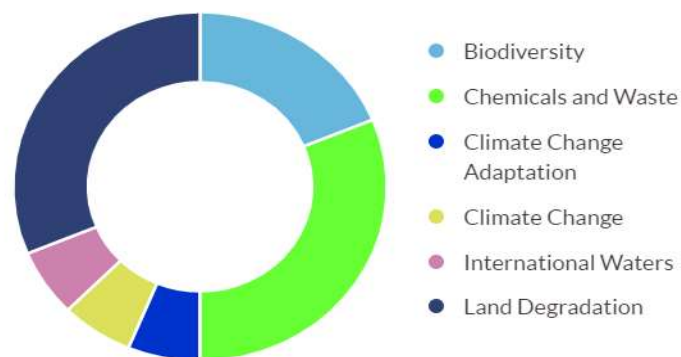
-

Number of Non-GEF Projects

16

Total Number of Projects

COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BY AREA OF WORK



CONTACT

Patience Vainerere-Maoate

National Coordinator

Email: vpatience@redcross.org.ck

Address

Ara Metua Road,,KiiKii

Source: <https://sgp.undp.org/component/countrypages/?view=countrypages&Itemid=152>

* Source: SGP Annual Monitoring Process, 2022



New Features SGP in GEF-8

- **Open up SGP implementing roles of SGP Core**
- **Eliminate the SGP upgrading country policy**
- **Recalibrate cost efficiency measures and reporting**
- **Launch novel two new CSO Initiatives, focused on youth, women and IPLCs**

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM (SGP)

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

US\$155 Million



SGP CORE
US\$ 135M

CSO INITIATIVES
US\$ 20M

Resources will be operationalized through two tranches split 50/50

- 1st tranche open to UNDP only
- 2nd tranche open later during the GEF-8 period once selection of new Agencies process is completed

1

All countries can access SGP Core Resources

2

SGP Core Resources are allocated **equally**
\$937,500

3

Countries are encouraged to utilize **STAR**



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2.0

SGP 2.0 CSO INITIATIVES

MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE

Support Microfinancing Institutions to facilitate microenterprises' access to finance for climate and environmental solutions

- **Pilot new GEF models** to engage and support civil society actors to catalyze environmental actions and solutions

CSO CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Support competitive opportunities for local civil society organizations to access financial and technical resources to scale up innovative environmental solutions

- **Support innovation** of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in LDCs and SIDS
- **Capitalize on expertise** of the GEF expanded Agency network and specialized organizations

Small Grants Core Program

Landscape and Seascape Approach

Thematic Priorities

- Community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species
- Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries and Food Security
- Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-Benefits
- Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management
- Catalyzing Sustainable Urban Solutions

Aligned with
GEF-8
Strategy
and
Impact
programs

Cross-cutting priorities

- Enhance social inclusion and engagement of IPLC, women and youth
- Facilitate Government-CSO-Private Sector collaboration
- Support capacity building
- Advance knowledge management and learning



GEF Integrated Projects & Programs

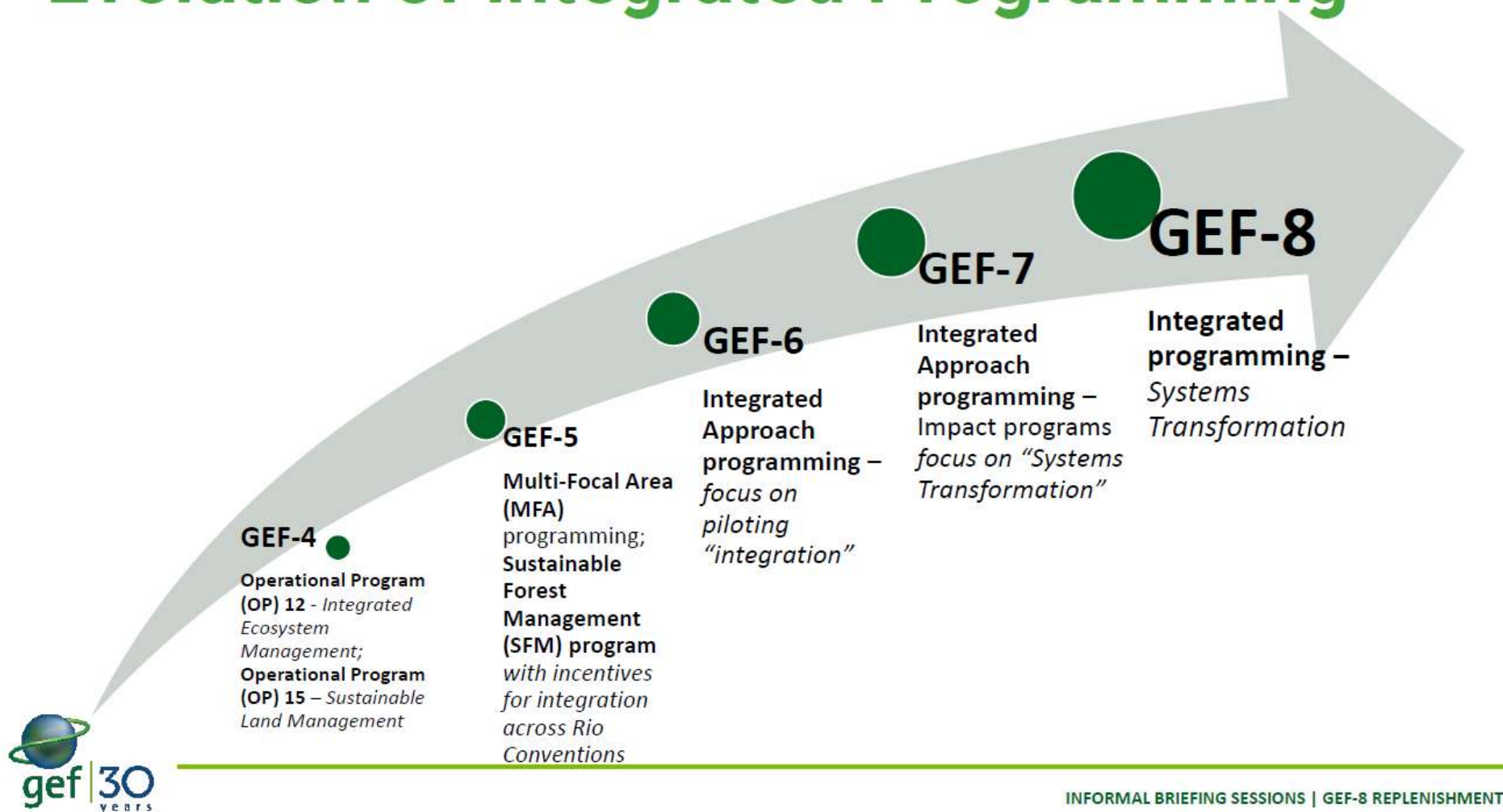
GEF-8 Integrated Programming - Pathways to Transformative Change for Green and Blue Recovery

Integrated programs are defined by sharing several of the following characteristics:

- Integration of actions across sectors; *or* Integration of resources across GEF focal areas; *or* Integration across supply chains; and
- Deliver multiple global environmental benefits; and
- Address drivers of environmental degradation at global or regional scales; and
- Complement country-level investments with transboundary action and impact at regional or global scales; and
- Mobilize diverse coalition of stakeholders from relevant sectors for system transformation; and
- Promote greater private sector engagement; and
- Foster knowledge sharing and learning.



Evolution of Integrated Programming



Lessons

- Harnessing **synergies** and managing **negative tradeoffs**: *GEF Focal Areas and MEAs (BD, CCM, and LD)*
- **Complexity** in tackling systemic drivers: *nature of issues, institutions, policies, etc.*
- Advancing a **Theory of Change** helps to anchor and foster innovation
- **Program-level** Results Framework: *“whole” > “sum of parts”*
- **Governance** and **coordination** fosters integration across **multiple** dimensions: *geographical, sectoral, supply chain, value chain*
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships**: going beyond the traditional entities and crowding-in private sector
- Addressing **cross-cutting GEF** priorities: resilience, gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement, private sector
- Framework for **Knowledge Exchange and Learning**: *“platforms,” “hubs,” and “Communities of Practice”*



GEF-8 FOCUS ON INTEGRATION FOR IMPACT AND SCALE

Pathway to Transformative Change for Blue and Green Recovery

Country projects and portfolios should focus on maximizing these characteristics:

Integration of actions across sectors, focal areas, or drivers

Address drivers of environmental degradation at global or regional scales;

Avoid leakage and promote policy coherence

Work across scales and sectors

Transformative Investments

Promote greater private sector engagement;

Innovate and take measured risk for higher return

Ensure Durable Outcomes

Design for resilience in the face of uncertainty

Build Institutional and financing to sustain impact