



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
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# **The GEF at 20**

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- Mission and Mandate of the GEF
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# Mission

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new, and additional, grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits.

- **Unites 182 countries;** of which approximately 155 are recipients, in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.
- Today , the GEF is the **largest public funder of global environmental projects**.



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# Mandate and Role of the GEF

- An independently operating financial organization, the GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

## **GEF is a financial mechanism for the:**

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
  - Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
  - Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD);
  - Stockholm Convention for Persistent Organic Pollutants.
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- The GEF collaborates closely with other treaties and agreements to reach common goals (International Waters, Montreal Protocol).



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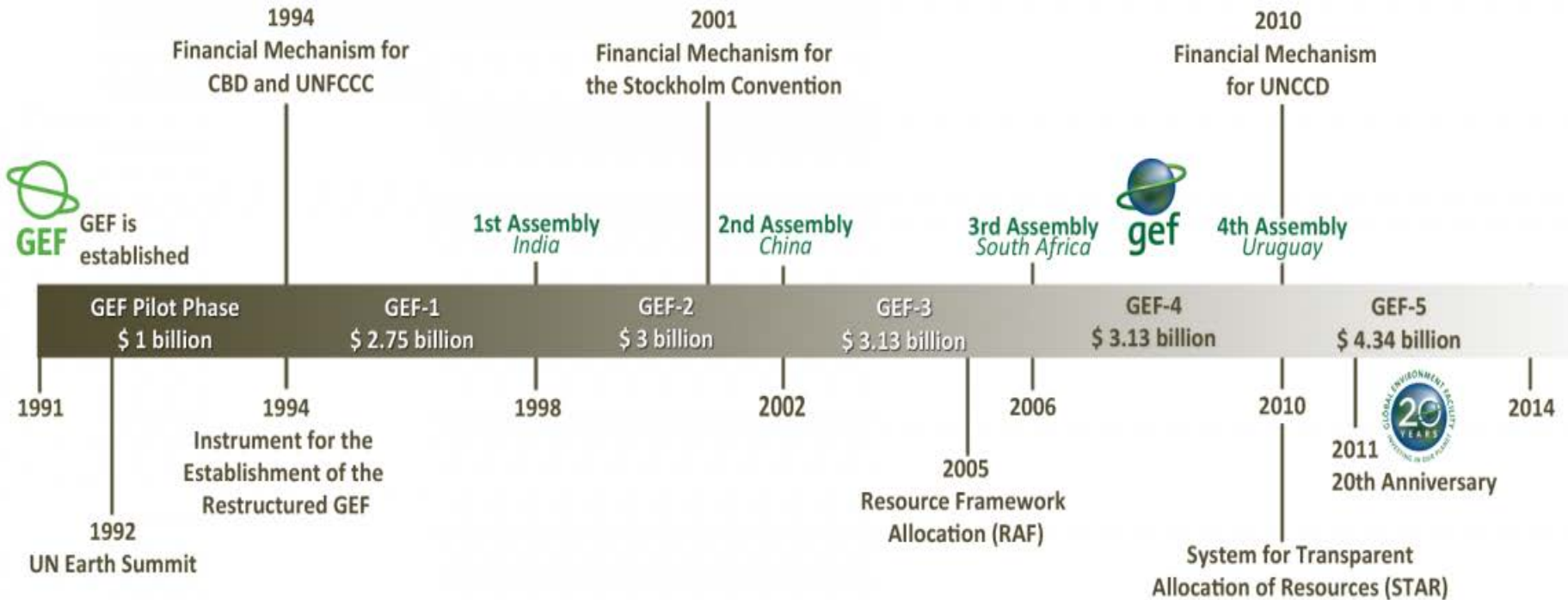
# Mandate and Role of the GEF - continued

- **An integrated approach to sustainable development :**
  - Financial mechanism for major global environmental conventions;
  - Work across multiple issue areas and forums;
  - Management of several funds.
- **Links Local with Global:**
  - GEF advances sustainable development in individual nations while improving the global environment for all.
- **Complements Existing Aid Programs:**
  - GEF is not a substitute for regular development finance.
- **Leverages Additional Investment:**
  - GEF seeks co-finance, replication, and follow-up investment: the trust fund cannot solve all global environmental problems.



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# Timeline



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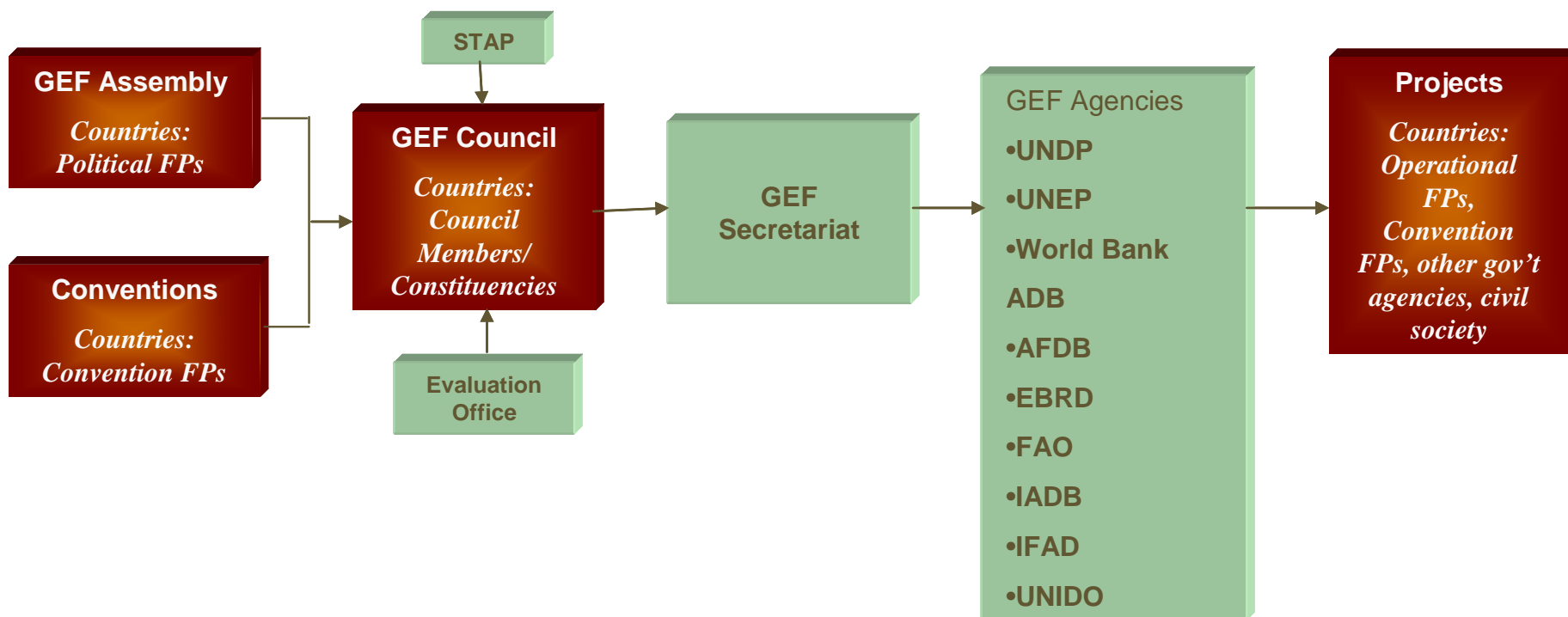
## Strategic Guidance



## Operations



## Action



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# Initial Thematic Focal Areas

- **Climate Change**
- **Biodiversity,**
- **International Waters,** and
- **Ozone Depleting Substances:** Support countries with economies in transition to implement Montreal Protocol.



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# Additional Thematic Focal Areas

- **Land Degradation:** *Financial Mechanism for the UNCCD.*
- **Persistent Organic Pollutants:** *Financial Mechanism for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** *Manages the LDCF and SCCF.*
- **Sustainable Forest Management:** *Multiple benefits relating to biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation.*
  - *GEF a close collaborator with UN Forum on Forests*
- **Chemicals Management, including Mercury:** *Funding for Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management and early action related to Mercury convention negotiations.*



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# Additional Funds Managed by the GEF

- The GEF also operates four additional funds:
  - **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF);**
  - **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF);**
  - **Adaptation Fund (AF);**
  - **Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF)**



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# Governance

## Governing Structure

- Composed of the Assembly, the Council, the Secretariat, ten Agencies, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), and the Evaluation Office.

## The Assembly

- Composed of all 182 member countries, or Participants.
- Meets every three to four years at the ministerial level to review the general policies and operations of the GEF and consider, for approval by consensus, amendments to the GEF Instrument on the basis of the recommendations by the Council.

## The Council

- Main governing body of the GEF: 32 Members appointed by constituencies of GEF member countries: 14 from donor constituencies and 18 from recipient constituencies.
- Meets bi-annually.
- Responsible for developing, adopting and evaluating the policies and programs for GEF-financed activities, as well as reviewing and approving the work program.



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# Historic Reforms (GEF1 - 4)

- **Country Ownership**
  - GEF Resource Allocation Framework puts countries in driver's seat;
- **Expansion of Agencies**
  - Expansion from 3 to 10 agencies enables GEF to tap a wealth of skills and comparative advantages to help countries.
- **Increased Efficiency**
  - Streamlining of Project Cycle: Reduced time to develop and approve projects from 44 months to 16 months;
- **Enhanced Ability to Target and Manage for Results**
  - Transformation of GEF Focal Area Strategies to better target GEF resources.
  - Creation of GEF Evaluation Office (2003);
  - State-of-the-art Monitoring and Evaluation-Policy;
  - Implementation of GEF Results Based-Management Framework;
  - Improved alignment with national priorities in programming.



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# Key Achievements

- Provision of **\$10.5 billion in grants** and **leveraging \$51 billion in co-financing** for over **2,700 projects** in over **165 countries**.
- Creation or management of over **2,302 protected areas** covering more than **634 million hectares (1.5 billion acres)**.
- A key player in phasing out **ozone depleting substances**.
- GEF investments expected to directly reduce **2 billion** tons of greenhouse gas emissions and to catalyze an additional emission reduction of **9.8 billion** ton through transformation of markets.
- **\$430 million**, financing concrete **adaptation** action in more than **135 projects** covering over **90 developing countries** and economies in transition.
- Largest investor in multi-country collaborations on **shared water systems** including **30** river and lake basins, **5** groundwater basins, and **20** of the planet's **64** large marine ecosystems.
- Environmentally sound disposal of at least **38,000 tons** of PCB-related waste, and **20,000 tons** of obsolete pesticides.
- More than 14,000 **small grants** directed to civil society and community based organizations, totaling \$634 million through the Small Grants Programme.



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# Reforms during GEF-5

- Enhancing Country Ownership
  - Expansion of GEF Agencies to include National Agencies
  - Direct access to countries for certain activities.
  - Improved resource-allocation system (renamed STAR - *System for Transparent Allocation of Resources*), with ability for small countries to program flexibly.
  - Investment in country-driven programming and capacity to engage with the GEF (e.g. country-support program and National Portfolio identification)
- Improving Value-for-Money
  - Continued project cycle streamlining (down from 44 months to 16 months)
  - Greater reliance on programmatic approaches rather than projects.
  - Enhanced focus on cross-focal area synergies and multiple environmental benefits – e.g. projects that deliver BD, LD, CC-M, and CC-A, benefits.
  - Strengthened Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and Results-based Management Framework, including knowledge management.
  - Deepening partnership with Conventions, civil society, and private sector (new private sector strategy).



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# Fragmentation of the International Finance Landscape

- World Bank established two Climate Investment Funds for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.
- Similar Funds exist as Regional Banks, UN Agencies and Bilateral Aid Agencies dealing with Climate.
- Yet, Governments decided to establish the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** aimed at mitigating and adapting to Climate Change.



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# How to Handle Fragmentation: A Strategic Way Forward

- There is a need for a Short to Medium Term approach that sets the stage for a Long-term strategy.

## Short to Medium Term approach:

1. Establish some order in the multiple funding mechanism
2. Strengthening existing mechanism
  - Regularity in funding flows;
  - Reform of governance processes.
3. Establish the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** as virtual ‘funds of funds’ that coordinates across all existing Funds, including tracking private sector investments.



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## Long Term Strategy:

1. Establishment of a 'Green Bank':
  - Green Bank should be established as a subsidiary of an existing institution.
  - Green Bank would compose of the GEF, Climate Investment Funds and Adaptation Fund as funding windows.



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A globe of the Earth is the central focus, held gently by several hands of diverse skin tones. The globe shows the continents of North and South America in shades of green and yellow, set against a deep blue ocean. The hands, ranging from light to dark skin, are positioned around the globe, symbolizing global unity and care. The background is a clear blue sky with a few wispy white clouds.

**Thank you for your attention**