



The Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility was established to forge international co-operation and finance actions to address critical threats to the global environment. Launched in 1991 as an experimental facility, GEF was restructured after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Currently GEF projects address six global environmental issues:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- International Waters
- Land Degradation
- The Ozone Layer
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

GEF Member Countries include developing and developed countries, as well as those with economies in transition. Each country has a GEF representative known as a Focal Point. The GEF Council is the main governing body, it is comprised of 32 members who represent GEF member countries. The GEF Assembly is comprised of all the countries that are members of the GEF, and it meets once every four years to review the policies and operations of the GEF.

GEF projects are managed by the GEF Implementing Agencies:

- the United Nations Environment Programme
- the United Nations Development Programme
- the World Bank

GEF funds a variety of project types:

- Small Grants Programme (grants of up to \$100,000)
- Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs, less than \$1 million GEF support, with expedited procedures)
- Full-size projects (more than \$1 million GEF support, must be approved by the GEF Council)
- Project preparation grants (through the Project Preparation and Development Facility, PDF)
- Enabling Activities (help countries to prepare national inventories, assessments, strategies and action plans in connection with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on POPs)
- Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Program (projects that demonstrate a positive environmental impact and have basic financial viability)

GEF funds are contributed by donor countries. In 2002, 32 donor countries pledged \$3 billion to fund operations between 2002 and 2006.

NGO participation

NGOs play a variety of important roles both in the development and in the execution of GEF projects, thus their participation is crucial not only at the project level but also at the policy levels of the GEF. Therefore NGOs have agreed to form the so-called GEF NGO network. The network is represented in the GEF decision making events (Council Meetings, General Assembly) by the Regional Focal Points (RFPs).

The regional focal points should serve to coordinate GEF-related NGO activities in the regions in cooperation with the Central Contact Point. Specific responsibilities include:

- (1) Provide regional notification of upcoming GEF-NGO Consultation and GEF Council meeting and distribute relevant documents;
- (2) Coordinate nomination and selection of regional delegates for the GEF Consultation and Council meetings and forward information to Central Contact Point;
- (3) Liaise regularly with Central Contact Point on matters of relevance to NGOs including information exchange, input into GEF policy documents, document distribution, GEF-NGO Consultation logistics and agenda development;
- (4) Collect, coordinate, and provide a brief report on regional concerns relevant to the upcoming GEF meeting to the Central Contact Point for distribution to Consultation participants;
- (5) Report back to the region and interested parties on GEF Council meeting through the distribution of the NGO report on the GEF Council meeting.

Currently CEEWEB serves as the Regional Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe (contact person: András Krolopp, krolopp@ceeweb.org)

LINKS

Global Environment Facility: www.gefweb.org

Small Grants Programme: <http://www.undp.org/sgp/>

Medium-Sized Projects: http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Medium-Sized_Project_Proposals/MSP_Guidelines/msp_guidelines.html

Enabling Activities:

http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Enabling_Activity_Projects/enabling_activity_projects.html

Non-governmental organisations: http://www.gefweb.org/Partners/partners-Nongovernmental_Organ/partners-nongovernmental_organ.html