

**Title:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

## Background

The rate of natural resource depletion and climate change is increasing. The pressure on resources is set to increase further in the coming decades as the result of three global 'megatrends': meeting the needs of a 2 billion increase in global population by 2050; a rapid increase in the global middle class by 3 billion in just the next two decades; and a rapid growth in urbanisation. These trends influence a range of drivers which affect global capacity to meet a doubling in demand for food, energy, human habitat, transportation, and others that together create direct pressures on the global environment.

These trends have a powerful impact on those living in developing countries, where for example natural assets are estimated to form 30% of the asset base, as opposed to 2% in high income OECD countries. Climate change too is resulting in disproportionately negative consequences for the most economically vulnerable, with 98% of the 2.7 billion people affected by climate shocks since 2000 based in developing countries. The GEF has a wide-ranging portfolio of activities to work towards mitigating these challenges. It is also the financial mechanism for a number of UN conventions:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury

## Theme

The GEF is a Multilateral Trust Fund, which addresses inter alia **Mitigation, Adaptation, Forestry and Energy**.

## Local Context

So far, the GEF has funded projects in at least 165 developing countries.

## What is being done?

DFID has provided £210 million for the 6<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the GEF 6 programme, to be paid in yearly installments until FY17/18.

GEF's niche in the international climate finance architecture is to pilot and build capacity for new approaches to integrate sound environmental management into sustainable development. Its unique mandate to cover all the major global environmental issues enables it to promote integrated solutions. New technologies and approaches are supported to help countries innovate, and to demonstrate tangible results capable of replication by country governments. GEF support also aims to help developing countries improve their technical, institutional and financial capacity to manage ecosystem goods and services sustainably. Direct benefits for poor communities include access to forest products and stabilisation of agricultural land prone to desertification, access to cleaner energy, and improved prospects for women and girls.

The GEF programming pipeline now comprises nearly 3000 projects, developing or scaling up responses on a diverse range of themes:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Chemicals & Waste
- Land
- International Waters
- Sustainable Management of Forests (REDD+)

### Expected Results for the 6<sup>th</sup> GEF replenishment [not UK attributed]

Below are the expected results are from the 6<sup>th</sup> GEF replenishment (total value of contributions \$4.43 billion). This replenishment window runs from 2014 until 2018.

Result Areas	Targets
1. <b>Climate Change</b> : Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO2 equivalent mitigated
2. <b>Biodiversity</b> : Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares
3. <b>Land degradation</b> : Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forests)	Improved management/ productivity in 120 million hectares
4. <b>International waters</b> : Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems	Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems under sustainable management in at least 10 freshwater basins;
5. <b>Persistent Pollutants</b> : Increase phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides) Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury Phase-out of 300 tons of ODP (HCFC)

### Links to Further Info

[GEF Home Page](#)