



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO and the Global Environment Facility – GEF

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

What is the Global Environment Facility - GEF?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a partnership of 18 entities, including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national organisations and international non-governmental organizations, among others, which is working with 183 countries to address the most pressing environmental challenges related to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals and international waters.

The GEF provides grants to enable countries to address these challenges, while contributing to their development goals, such as food security.

Since 1992, the Facility has provided more than USD 17 000 million in grants and has mobilized USD 88 000 million in funding for over 4 000 projects in 170 countries.

Countries that want to access the Global Environment Facility can apply through accredited agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). To do so, it requires the National Designated Authority of the Government to prioritise the implementation of these projects.



Why work with FAO?

FAO and the GEF have been working together for more than two decades on the critical nexus between the environment and agriculture. As the world's leading specialized agency for food, agriculture and rural development, FAO puts 75 years of experience in this field at the service of countries. FAO has high-quality technical capacities to work on climate-smart agriculture as well as food, livestock, fisheries, forestry and rural development. These comparative advantages make it a strategic partner in supporting countries in accessing GEF projects.

In the last 12 years, FAO and the GEF have implemented more than **180 projects** in over **120 countries**, benefiting more than 4.6 million people, creating more than 350 000 jobs in rural communities, safeguarding the biodiversity of 189 vulnerable marine ecosystems, and rescuing nearly a thousand crop varieties and animal breeds and species from extinction.

As of April 2018, the FAO/GEF portfolio worldwide was worth USD 732 million, with 20 percent of the projects being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Results in Latin America and the Caribbean

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, FAO has created a highly specialized team dedicated to working with GEF projects. Currently, FAO is implementing 27 projects in Member Nations, which received GEF funding for a total of USD 105 million. Besides, 24 other projects are in different stages of preparation and together represent USD 95 million. In total, 30 countries of the region have received FAO support to design, apply for and implement projects with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

What do I do if I want my government to access GEF resources through FAO?

It's simple: contact the FAO National Representation in your country.

FAO and GEF: impact in numbers



187

PROJECTS

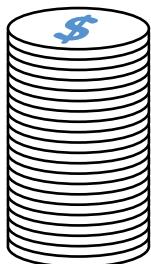


123

COUNTRIES

90

PROJECTS WITH ACTIVELY ENGAGED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES



3.7

THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS IN CO-FINANCING

732

MILLION IN GEF GRANTS



BENEFITED

4.6

MILLION WOMEN AND MEN



350 000

JOBS CREATED FOR THE RURAL POOR

IMPROVED **LAND MANAGEMENT** OF:

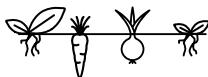
11.5

MILLION ha OF PROTECTED AREAS



12

MILLION ha OF AGRICULTURE LAND



CONSERVED

821

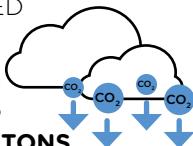
GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT LOCAL VARIETIES, TRADITIONAL CROPS AND ANIMAL BREEDS



MITIGATED

532

MILLION TONS OF CO₂eq



SUSTAINABLE MANAGED

OVER **2 000** ha

OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATERS

SAFELY DISPOSED

6 859

tonnes

OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND WASTE



PROTECTED

189

VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS



Climate-smart livestock in Ecuador



With a contribution of USD 3.8 million from the GEF, FAO has supported the government of Ecuador in reducing soil degradation, increasing its adaptation to climate change and mitigating its greenhouse gas emissions through climate-smart livestock production.

The project established 37 rural schools in which more than 1 000 producers participated, and its actions covered 33 000 hectares. With the application of climate-smart livestock practices, the project achieved an 18 percent increase in productivity and a 20 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, measured on 165 farms.



Improving the land in Mexico



One of the most severe problems faced by agriculture in Mexico is the deterioration of soil quality. The ProTierras Project of the Mexican government faced this challenge in the states of Hidalgo, Oaxaca and Zacatecas.



Thanks to ProTierras, 96 000 hectares have land management plans for a sustainable land management with a micro-catchment approach; 1 196 producers were trained in sustainable land management; 8 362 hectares were intervened with works and investment by the project partners; 963 hectares were reforested; 135 investment projects were made by public programs implemented in 25 localities, with a total investment of USD 4.8 million.

Chile

takes care
of its forest
ecosystems



Forests are one of Chile's greatest assets. To protect this vital source of rural employment, ecosystem services and resources, the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment System on Forest Ecosystems project, financed by the Global Environment Facility and supported by FAO, has made it possible to create a system for evaluating and monitoring the country's native forests with the purpose of promoting sustainable forest management.

This new system encompasses indicators of biodiversity, biophysical condition of forests, and socio-economic considerations and it covers the entire country. This project made it possible to include, for the first time, an inventory of southern Chile islands, incorporating an additional 3.5 million hectares into the system.

The monitoring system was incorporated as a regular program of the Chilean State, with its own budget allocation; which is a significant impact of the project.

Building Resilience Haiti

To strengthen Haiti's resilience to natural disasters, FAO worked with the country's government and the GEF to promote sustainable and climate-resistant practices, drought-tolerant crops, conservation agriculture, and practices that combine forestry and agriculture.

The project reached 5 000 households and succeeded in promoting conservation agriculture and the cultivation of a local drought-tolerant variety of lima bean. 346 000 fruit and forest trees were planted, and 256 tonnes of climate-resistant crop seeds and 1.7 million cuttings of sweet potato and cassava were distributed to Haitian families.



150 leading farmers were trained as extension agents; 12 groups of small-scale seed producers were created and equipped. The project also established 130 locally adapted model farms that focus on climate-smart agricultural production.



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