



**SUBMISSION BY THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TO THE STOCKTAKE ON PRE-2020  
IMPLEMENTATION AND AMBITION AT THE 24<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**OCTOBER 1, 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) welcomes the opportunity to submit information on the GEF's work of relevance to pre-2020 implementation and ambition for the consideration of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Katowice, Poland in December 2018, in line with decision 1/CP.23.

2. As an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC, as well as the Paris Agreement, the GEF has provided financing for country-driven climate change mitigation action from the GEF Trust Fund since its establishment in 1991. The GEF has also been supporting adaptation initiatives that address national priorities through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), established in response to guidance from COP 7 in 2001. Through these funds, the GEF has been supporting national and global efforts to help enable developing countries accelerate their national action and raise the level of ambition through the provision of financial, technological, and capacity-building support for the pre-2020 and post-2020 periods.

**SUMMARY OF SUPPORT**

3. As of June 30, 2018, the GEF has supported 944 climate change mitigation projects with more than \$5.6 billion in GEF funding in over 165 countries through the GEF Trust Fund. This funding leveraged over \$47 billion from a variety of sources, including GEF agencies, national and local governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations. During the sixth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-6), from July 2014 to June 2018, the GEF support to climate change mitigation amounted to approximately \$1.4 billion through 213 projects, leveraging over \$12 billion in co-financing and targeting greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 1.4 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over the lifetimes of these investments. Key mitigation sectors addressed by the GEF for the pre-2020 action include: energy efficiency, renewable energy, agriculture, forest and land use, urban and transport systems, among others.

4. In addition, the GEF has supported a total of 370 enabling activities with an additional \$467 million through the GEF Trust Fund since its establishment. These enabling activities include National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and

Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs). In GEF-6, support for enabling activities amounted to \$20 million.

5. In response to the COP 21 decision adopting the Paris Agreement, the GEF supported the establishment and operationalization of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), in order to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020, as a priority reporting-related need, including through voluntary contributions during GEF-6 and future replenishment cycles. As of June 30, 2018, the CBIT had supported 39 national projects and two global projects with \$53 million.

6. The GEF has supported climate change adaptation projects and enabling activities, with \$1.25 billion for 265 projects through the LDCF and \$350 million for 78 projects through the SCCF. These numbers include support for the preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) in 51 countries. The LDCF also supports the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Key sectors addressed in NAPA implementation project support as of 2016 included: agriculture, water resource management, climate information systems, natural resource management and fragile ecosystems, disaster risk management, and infrastructural development.

#### **SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS**

7. The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating these into action. In addition, the GEF continues to encourage countries to align their GEF programming with national priorities as identified in their policies and plans, their (intended) Nationally Determined Contributions ((I)NDCs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), and TNAs, where they exist, and to continue to promote synergies across focal areas. The LDCF supports the implementation of the NAPA and NAP process in the least developed countries (LDCs), and elements of the LDC work programme.

8. At COP 19, Parties requested developed countries, the operating entities of the financial mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so to provide support to activities in relation to the domestic preparations for INDCs. In response, the GEF helped countries initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their INDCs through support to 46 countries and the addition of an INDC support element to the Global Support Program for NCs and BURs, including guidance materials, methodologies, tools and technical backstopping.

9. The GEF has also supported the preparation and implementation of NAMAs through its resources for climate change mitigation projects. In GEF-6, three countries utilized GEF support for the implementation of their NAMAs.

#### **SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

10. The transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technologies has been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment. The Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer, launched in 2008, has supported TNAs, pilot priority technology projects linked to TNAs, and the dissemination of experiences. This program was followed

by the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, launched in 2010, which aimed to scale up technology transfer activities supported under the Poznan Program through support for climate technology centers and a climate technology network; piloting priority technology projects; public-private partnerships for technology transfer; TNAs; and the GEF as a catalytic supporting institution for technology transfer.

11. Progress made in these two programs and lessons learned in the implementation of projects have been regularly shared with Parties through the GEF reports to the COP and participation in international meetings. During GEF-5 (July 2010 to June 2014) and GEF-6, building on the successful contributions of these programs, the GEF supported regional climate technology network and finance centers and a global project to support the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) as well as national climate technology activities through mitigation and adaptation projects with technology transfer objectives. Furthermore, in GEF-6, 22 additional TNAs, primarily in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and LDCs, were supported.

#### **SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING**

12. Capacity-building is a key theme of GEF projects, embedded in the design of both climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The GEF reports to the UNFCCC through its capacity-building portal on its support for the fifteen priority areas for capacity-building identified in decision 2/CP.7. In the last four calendar years (2014 to 2017), the GEF has reported close to \$665 million towards capacity-building activities through more than 300 projects financed by the GEF Trust Fund. In particular, these GEF projects have supported institutional capacity building, enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment, development and transfer of technology, and the preparation of NCs and BURs.

13. For adaptation projects, over \$300 million have supported capacity-building activities in 127 projects primarily focused on institutional capacity building; capacity building for implementation of adaptation measures; enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; and research and systematic observation, including meteorological, hydrological and climatological services.

14. Under the CBIT, countries have identified national priorities for responding to the Paris Agreement transparency requirements set forth in Article 13 and are utilizing CBIT support to address relevant capacity and institutional needs. Projects are focusing on addressing long-term capacity needs, enhancing coordination at the national level, helping to inform national policy development, and supporting planning and decision-making processes based on more sound and timely data.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS WITH NON-STATE ACTORS**

15. The GEF supports multi-stakeholder alliances to preserve threatened ecosystems on land and in the oceans, build greener cities, boost food security and promote clean energy for a more prosperous, climate-resilient world. Through platforms and partnership opportunities with the private sector and other non-state actors, the GEF can play a catalytic role for systemic change in efforts focused on value chain approaches, production and consumption patterns, and integrated urban planning. The UNFCCC has recognized the need

to engage subnational and local governments as key players in addressing Convention objectives. One key example is the GEF's work on sustainable cities, which has engaged subnational entities alongside major international networks and technology providers to advance urban sustainability. This initiative is also expected to generate significant climate mitigation benefits and other global environmental benefits at the city and subnational levels.

#### **CO-BENEFITS ACROSS OTHER FOCAL AREAS**

16. The GEF has a unique mandate across multiple multilateral environmental agreements. The GEF has a formal mandate as a financing mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UNFCCC, the Minamata Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and it supports countries with economies in transition in their implementation of the Montreal Protocol. These responsibilities are often mutually supportive and makes the GEF uniquely placed to harness synergies across the different Conventions in line with a more holistic, systems-based approach.

17. Through the application of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee Rio Markers for Climate across the GEF Trust Fund, significant mitigation and adaptation co-benefits from projects in other focal areas, including land degradation, sustainable forest management, chemicals and waste, and international waters, have been identified. On average, 60 percent of the GEF Trust Fund's annual approvals are climate-relevant.

18. In addition, for adaptation, approximately 50 percent of NAPA implementation projects supported by the LDCF to date contributed to land degradation and biodiversity protection. Ninety-five percent of LDCF projects align to some extent with expanding synergies with other GEF focal areas. Almost a quarter of the projects intentionally contribute to multiple multilateral environmental agreements and mainstreaming into national and subnational policy, planning, financial and legal frameworks, according to the 2016 independent evaluation.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

19. In the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement, the GEF along with the LDCF and the SCCF, were designated to serve the Paris Agreement. The GEF-7 period (2018-2022) coincides with a key phase in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

20. The GEF-7 resource allocation framework includes \$802 million for climate change mitigation, comprising of \$511 million of country allocations and \$291 million of set-aside resources. The GEF-7 Programming Directions builds upon focal area investments on renewable energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon transport and cleantech innovation, as well as on impact programs aiming to transform urban, food and land-use systems by integrating priorities across multilateral environmental agreements to deliver multiple global environmental benefits. In GEF-7, countries will also continue to have access to resources for NCs, BURs, TNAs for SIDS, and CBIT support, while country allocations will be available to deliver on other enabling activities in line with COP guidance.

21. The new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF for the period 2018-2022 aims to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries, and support their efforts to enhance adaptive capacity, in alignment to the Paris Agreement's global goal on adaptation. Supporting countries to strive for a higher level of ambition in climate action is an important feature of the strategy, particularly through the LDCF support. The new adaptation strategy builds on the GEF's comparative advantages, including its ability to offer integrated solutions; focus on innovation; demonstrated track record of delivering results, which has been evaluated to be highly effective and impactful with value for money; and country driven-ness with operational experiences in all LDCs, complemented with global and regional support.

22. Building on the ongoing active collaboration among the operating entities of the financial mechanism, the GEF and Green Climate Fund are also strengthening partnership for coordinated engagements and programming at the country level, outreach, and sharing of experiences and lessons learned. These measures are expected further enhance complementarity and financial leverage.

23. Through an enhanced focus on capturing, monitoring and reporting results across the GEF portfolio while promoting integration, multiple benefits, and simplification, the GEF-7 results architecture aims to better capture the value of synergies across the GEF's different areas of work. It also aims to enable the GEF to begin to capture more systematically the socio-economic co-benefits of its projects and programs.

24. All GEF projects must continue to demonstrate alignment to national priorities including in national climate strategies and plans, NDCs, TNAs, NCs, and BURs, as appropriate.