



**Global
Environment
Facility**

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NEWS RELEASE

GEF Approves 25 Projects with Total Value of Nearly \$1B

Washington, D.C., May 21, 2004 -- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved \$233.4 million in grants for 25 projects. These projects, contained in GEF's new work program, are in keeping with the GEF's mandate to fund initiatives designed to improve the global environment. With cofinancing of \$3 for every \$1 of the grant approved, the projects have a total value of almost \$1 billion—\$980.7 million to be exact.

This allocation, added to the \$381.8 million voted by the GEF over the past three work programs, takes the total grants approved during the 2004 fiscal year to more than \$615 million, compared with an average of about \$450 million for each of the previous five years. This "robust allocation," as the GEF work program document calls it, has much to do with a number of projects reaching approval stages after making their way through the pipeline. Another growth factor is the addition of land degradation as a sixth GEF focal area.

"This work program reflects the further maturing of the GEF's status as the pre-eminent source of grants for the improvement of the world's environment," said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Len Good. "But it also represents the fruit of an incredible process of cooperation involving governments of both developing and developed countries as well as intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and, increasingly, the private sector."

Private-sector engagement is reflected in 11, or 44 percent, of the projects. This engagement is evident in projects in all geographical regions in which GEF projects are located.

The private-sector contribution includes \$57 million in cofinancing. Altogether, cofinancing is responsible for 76 percent of the total cost of the projects.

Six of the 25 projects demonstrate another form of partnership—the involvement of at least two of GEF’s Implementing Agencies or Executing Agencies. One of them, a project to strengthen global capacity to sustain transboundary waters, brings together all three implementing agencies—the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.

Stakeholder participation is another example of partnership in the work program. In the design of the Vietnam-based *Energy Efficiency Public Lighting Project*, for example, numerous stakeholders from a broad range of organizations were consulted through a market survey, interviews, roundtable discussions, and a logical-framework-analysis workshop.

GEF’s growing commitment to capacity building is epitomized in such endeavors as the global project, *LDC and SIDS Targeted Umbrella Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management*. This project will assist 50 least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) to complete their National Action Programs under the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification. Their capacity for sustainable land management will be strengthened where necessary. Capacity building also remains a key element in GEF’s role in helping to implement the environmental action plan developed under the New Partnership for African Development, which incorporates African leaders’ vision for poverty eradication and sustainable growth and development.

Other characteristics of the work program are:

- ◆ The capacity of project initiatives to survive after project funding ends;
- ◆ The possibility of replicating successful endeavors in the same country or elsewhere;
- ◆ Responsiveness to national and regional policies;
- ◆ Innovative approaches;
- ◆ Risk management;
- ◆ Appropriate financing modalities;
- ◆ Meeting GEF strategic priorities; and
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track success and capture lessons yielded during project implementation.

The 25 projects approved by the GEF Council are as follows:

Biological Diversity

- **Regional (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon):** Conservation of Transboundary Biodiversity in the Minkebe-Odal
- **Regional (Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica):** Integrated Ecosystem Management in Indigenous Communities
- **Cambodia:** Establishing Conservation Areas through Landscape Management in the Northern Plains of Cambodia
- **Russian Federation:** Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity Management
- **Uruguay:** Integrated Natural Resources and Biodiversity Management
- **Cameroon:** Forestry and Environment Sector Program

Climate Change

- **Bulgaria:** Energy Efficiency Project
- **China:** Heat Reform and Building Energy Efficiency Project
- **Egypt:** Solar Thermal Hybrid Project
- **Lesotho:** Renewable Energy-based Rural Electrification
- **Malaysia:** Building-Integrated Photovoltaic Technology Application Project
- **Philippines:** Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Initiative
- **Swaziland:** Energizing Rural Transformation
- **Vietnam:** Energy Efficiency Public Lighting Project
- **Zambia:** Renewable Energy-based Electricity Generation for Isolated Mini-grids

International Waters

- **Global:** Strengthening Global Capacity to Sustain Transboundary Waters: The International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW: LEARN) Operational Phase
- **Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago):** Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean

- **Regional (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine):** Control of Eutrophication, Hazardous Substances and Related Measures for Rehabilitating the Black Sea Ecosystem, Tranche 2

Ozone Depletion

- **Regional (Bulgaria, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland):** Total Sector Methyl Bromide Phase-out in Countries with Economies in Transition

Multi-focal Area

- **Regional (Niger, Nigeria):** Integrated Ecosystem Management of Transboundary Areas between Niger and Nigeria - Phase I: Strengthening of Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Collaboration and Pilot Demonstrations
- **Chad:** Community-based Integrated Ecosystem Management Project under PROADEL
- **Kenya:** Western Kenya Integrated Ecosystem Management Project

Land Degradation

- **Global:** LDC and SIDS Targeted Umbrella Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management
- **Burundi:** Agricultural Rehabilitation and Support Project

Persistent Organic Pollutants

- **Global (Philippines):** Program to Demonstrate the Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede the Successful Implementation of Available Non-Combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants

For more information on these projects, please visit www.theGEF.org.

About the GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), an international financial organization with 176 countries as members, acts as a major catalyst for improving the global environment. GEF's mandate is to make the connection between local and global environmental challenges and between national and international efforts to conserve biodiversity, reduce the risks of climate change, protect the ozone layer, clean up international waters, combat land degradation, and phase out toxic organic pollutants. In 13 years, GEF has grown from a pilot program to the largest single source of funding for the global environment.

GEF's implementing agencies—the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U. N. Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank—share credit for GEF's measurable on-the-ground achievements in 1,400 projects in more than 140 nations. To date, \$4.5 billion committed by GEF has leveraged an additional \$14.5 billion in cofinancing. GEF has also made more than 4,000 small grants, up to \$50,000 each, directly to nongovernmental organizations and community organizations.