



**gef** GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# GEF Strategy on Agriculture

## KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE

*Workshop on “Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management”*

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# Global Environment Facility: Overview

## 1- Financial Mechanism of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements



## 2- Global Partnership

- 183 countries
- GEF Focal Points
- Governance: GEF Council

## 18 Implementing Agencies



## 3- Track record of projects

- GEF created in 1991
- Over \$17.9 billion in grants + \$93.2 billion in co-financing
- More than 4,500 projects in 170 countries.

GEF 7 2018-2022:  
-> \$4.1 billion in grants

GEF7  
 Programming  
 Framework:  
 Agriculture  
 entry points

	Biodiversity Focal Area	Climate Change Focal Area	Land Degradation Focal Area	International Waters Focal Area	Chemicals and Waste Focal Area
	<b>Programming Areas to be addressed through Focal Area Investments</b>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity mainstreaming</li> <li>• Wildlife for sustainable development</li> <li>• Natural capital</li> <li>• Agrobiodiversity</li> <li>• Inclusive conservation</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Protected areas</li> <li>• Preventing species extinction</li> <li>• Biosafety</li> <li>• ABS</li> <li>• Enabling Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable energy</li> <li>• Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)</li> <li>• Enabling Activities (NCs, BURs)</li> <li>• Technology Transfer</li> <li>• NDC preparation and implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Creating Enabling Environments for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)</b></li> <li>• <b>Enabling Activities</b></li> <li>• <b>LDN Target setting</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities</li> <li>• Improve Governance in ABNJs</li> <li>• Enhancing Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial Chemicals</li> <li>• Agricultural Chemicals</li> <li>• LDC/SIDS support</li> <li>• Enabling Activities</li> </ul>
Impact Programs	<b>Objectives to be addressed through Impact Programs aligned with convention priorities</b>				
<b>Food, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage biodiversity in production landscapes</li> <li>• Harnessing biodiversity for sustainable agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land-based and value chain GHG mitigation (<i>sequestration and avoidance</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable land management</li> <li>• Diversification of crop and livestock systems</li> <li>• Restoration of degraded production landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated land and water management</li> <li>• Prevention of nutrient pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of POPs and relevant HHP's used in the global food supply chain, including agricultural plastics contaminated by these chemicals with alternatives, preferably non-chemical alternatives.</li> <li>• Disposal of obsolete agricultural chemicals that are POPs.</li> </ul>
Sustainable Cities Impact Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem values in urban planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban-related GHG emissions avoidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of production systems in urban and per-urban areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased pollution of rivers, deltas and coastal areas</li> <li>• Advance efficient water use and re-use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of POPs, ODS, and Mercury in built infrastructure, industry and products and materials used in cities.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of HCV forests</li> <li>• Manage biodiversity in forest landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of carbon-rich stocks</li> <li>• Forest related GHG emissions avoidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of dryland landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated land and water management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In forests where ASGM that uses mercury occurs, reduction or elimination of mercury in these areas.</li> </ul>

# Focal Areas Strategy

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- Land Degradation FA: Focus on LDN, improved land management in productive landscapes, supporting agricultural activities and providing CC benefits
- Biodiversity FA: Supports the management of the human-biodiversity interface, promotes policies, planning, incentives and practices that contribute to enhancing soil carbon stocks
- Climate Mitigation FA:
  - GEF-6: CCM FA supported activities to enhance soil carbon in the agro-sector (including agroforestry, climate smart ag., etc)
  - GEF-7: AFOLU sector financed through the CCM set aside for the Impact Programs. FOLUR IP and SFM/Drylands are good examples of GEF support to sustainable and resilient agriculture
- Private Sector (NGI Program): GEF-6 Junior Equity Investment in the *Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa*



# GEF-7 Impact Programs

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## Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR)

- Production landscapes critical for GEBs but where remaining forests are threatened by expansion of **commercial commodity** production
- Landscapes where production of globally **important food crops or livestock** creates high intensity negative externalities
- Landscapes that are highly degraded and in need of **restoration** for the ecosystem services they provide to agricultural production



# GEF-7 Impact Programs

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## Sustainable Forest Management

- Focus on **globally important forests** with regional ecosystem-scale approach to the entire Biome.
- **3 sub-programs:** Amazon, Congo Basin, Drylands
- **Strategy:**
  - Improve **forest governance** enabling environment, including land tenure
  - Support rational land use planning across **mixed-use landscapes**
  - Strengthen of **protected areas**
  - Support the **management of agriculture lands** to reduce pressure on nearby forests
  - Use **financial mechanisms and incentives** for SFM such as certification, REDD+ and other PES



# LDCF & SCCF

Large proportion of GEF's adaptation portfolio is focused on **highly vulnerable African LDCs** where agriculture often occurs in marginal and stressed lands, as well as **agriculture-dependent Asian LDCs**.

	LDCF	SCCF
Number of Projects	349	78
Total amount invested	1,650 mil	354 mil
% of activities attributable to agriculture-related projects	~30%	~25%
Ha. of land under improved climate-resilient management (largely agricultural systems)	3.36 mil	3.72 mil
Number of direct beneficiaries	21 mil	7 mil



# Co-benefits and synergies with multiple objectives

Integrated programming across different focal areas is key for the delivery of the GEF-7 Strategy across different Conventions. Priority is given to actions with multiple outcomes.



## gef CORE INDICATOR

1. Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (million hectares)
2. Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (million hectares)
3. Area of land restored (million hectares)
4. Area of landscapes under improved practices (million hectares; excluding protected areas)
5. Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million hectares; excluding protected areas)
6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e)
7. Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management
8. Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (thousand metric tons)
9. Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (thousand metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)
10. Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)
11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment



# Setting goals, measuring progress

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- **No specific mandate** or resource set-aside for agriculture separate from FAs and IPs. **Integration** as main goal.
- **GEF supports countries** in achieving their goals in the agri sector, as set out in their NDCs
- AFOLU sector's **Global Environmental Benefits: targets setting** negotiated during replenishment based on:
  - learning from **long past experience** in the AFOLU sector
  - **overall resources** made available by GEF contributors
  - increased **level of ambition through integration**
  - consideration of **importance of the sector in countries' NDCs**
- Measuring progress:
  - carbon benefits using **IPCC guidelines** (EX-ACT tool recommended)
  - **Indicator:** hectares of productive landscapes with improved practices (including sustainable and resilient agriculture, land restoration and water management)



# Challenges

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- Challenges: aligning different stakeholders in the national context (e.g. GEF OFP is Min. Environment and needs to coordinate with Min Agriculture or Finance, Energy, etc)
- Continue to promote integration in actions related to global environmental challenges
- Scale:
  - amount of resources available vs needed
  - transboundary coordination between countries on shared ecosystems/biomes
  - working along value chains with multiple actors
  - moving from project-based action to strategies for systemic changes/transformation of economic systems
- Effectively work with the private sector



# Conclusions

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- GEF supports **integrated solutions** to achieve multiple global environmental benefits
- **Soil** (carbon, health, fertility) is an important **cross-cutting dimension for multiple Conventions** for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism, including UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD. Countries are increasingly addressing this theme in an integrated fashion
- GEF stands ready to participate in the **work of the KJWA** in response to COP guidance



A close-up photograph of a smiling woman with dark skin, wearing a black headwrap and a blue patterned top. She is carrying a large bunch of green bananas on her head. A semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Thank you!', a horizontal line, and an email address. Two white work gloves are also visible within the circular graphic, one behind the other.

Thank you!

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