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# Accessing GEF Funds

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# GEF Financing

## GEF Financing:

- The objective of GEF financing is to provide resources to recipient countries to meet the agreed incremental cost of activities that generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) in line with the mandate of the GEF.
- The GEF funds a broad array of project types that vary depending on the scale of GEF resources, the project needs and the issue addressed. In order to be approved, each project follows a specific project cycle.



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# Who can apply?

- Each GEF country member has designated an officer responsible for GEF activities, known as GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), who plays a key role in assuring that GEF projects are aligned to meet the needs and priorities of the respective country.
- A GEF country member government can apply if:
  - a. It is in conformity with the eligibility criteria decided by the CoPs of each convention (Instrument, 9a)
  - b. It is eligible to borrow from the World Bank (IBRD and/or IDA) or if it is an eligible recipient of UNDP technical assistance through its country Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) (Instrument, 9b).
- Or any eligible individual or group may propose a project – via GEF OFP.



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# Eligibility of Project Proposal

In order to be taken into consideration for GEF financing, a project proposal has to fulfill the following criteria:

- It is undertaken in an eligible country and is consistent with country's national priorities and programs.
- It addresses one or more of the GEF Focal Areas, improving the global environment or advance the prospect of reducing risks to it.
- It is consistent with the GEF operational strategy.
- It seeks GEF financing only for the agreed incremental costs on measures to achieve global environmental benefits
- It involves the public in project design and implementation.
- It is endorsed by the government(s) of the country/ies in which it will be implemented.



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# Types of Trust Fund

Currently, the GEF manages the following Trust Funds:

1. **GEF Trust Fund**: this is the main trust fund that is replenished by donors every four years. This trust fund is governed by the GEF Council which approves projects in a work program twice a year during Council meetings and a number of intersessional work programs approved by mail.
2. **LDCF/SCCF Trust Fund**: the priority of this trust fund is adaptation; governed by the LDCF/SCCF Council; LDCF projects are approved by its Council on a rolling basis and by mail; SCCF projects are approved by its Council following the cycle of the GEF Trust Fund. Both LDCF and SCCF projects similar operations process and guidelines.
3. **NPIF** (The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund) was approved by GEF Council in its 40<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting May 24-26, 2011. This fund is also governed by the GEF Council and follows the same project cycle and operational procedures as the GEF Trust Fund.



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# Types of GEF Projects

Project processing steps and documentation are determined by the type of the project, which is a function of project size. All projects fall under one of the following project types.

## **Full-Sized Projects:**

- Projects with a GEF project grant  $>$  \$2 million;
- Go through each step of the GEF Project Cycle;
- Subject to all the Project Review Criteria.

## **Medium-Sized Projects:**

- Projects with a GEF project grant  $\leq$  \$2 million;
- Are processed in an expedited manner with CEO approval delegated by the Council;
- Subject to all the Project Review Criteria similar to the FSPs.



# Types of Projects (continue...1)

## Enabling Activities

- Provide financing for the preparation of a plan, strategy, or program to fulfill commitments under a global environmental convention or report to a relevant Convention;
- The GEF currently finances enabling activities related to the conventions on biodiversity, climate change, persistent organic pollutants and land degradation;
- If total cost of financing is within the ceiling approved by Council, they are approved following the expedited procedures;
- If total cost of financing is above the ceiling, they may be processed through the regular GEF project cycle as full-sized projects.

**Programmatic Approaches:** Currently two types: (a) Accessible to all GEF Agencies, and (b) Accessible to a GEF Agency with a Board that approves projects. PA operational procedures are currently under review by the GEF in consultation with Agencies.

**Public Private Partnerships:** A special type of programmatic approach available only through Banks and only for loans, investments, or other non-grant instruments



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# Accessing the GEF Trust Fund

Two ways to access the GEF Trust Fund:

- **Traditional Mode**: Project concepts may be developed by governments, non-governmental organizations, communities, the private sector, or other civil society entities, and must respond to both national priorities and GEF focal area strategies and objectives, and must satisfy eligibility requirements under the Conventions. Project proponents work closely with national GEF Operational Focal Points (who formally endorse project concepts) and the GEF Agency, to develop concepts and move through the project cycle and are approved either by the GEF Council or the GEF CEO, depending on the type of project.
- **Direct Access Mode**: Project proponents work directly with the GEF Secretariat without going through a GEF Agency, though following the same project eligibility and focal area strategic objectives.



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# GEF Direct Access

- New initiative approved by the GEF Council in its June 2010 meeting;
- Countries can access GEF resources directly from the GEF Secretariat without going through a GEF Agency;
- Two types of activities are eligible for direct access:
  - a) Preparation of a National Portfolio Formulation Document;
  - b) Preparation of Reports to Conventions where the country has as an obligation to the various environmental conventions.

Reports to Conventions include the following focal areas:

- a) Biodiversity: National Reports/update of NBSAP
- b) Climate Change: National Communications
- c) POPs: National Implementation Plan
- d) Land Degradation: LD Enabling Activities



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# Traditional Mode: GEF Project Cycle

Traditional mode of accessing the GEF Trust Fund follows the GEF project cycle for the different types of projects.

## **For Full-sized Projects:**

- Council approval of the work program, consisting of PIFs cleared by the CEO;
- CEO endorsement of the final project document;
- Approval of the project by the GEF Agency and implementation start;
- Completion of implementation, terminal evaluation and financial closure.



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# Traditional Mode: GEF Project Cycle

(continue.....1)

## For Medium-sized Projects:

### Single-step approval:

- CEO approval of final MSP document;
- Agency's own internal approval and implementation starts.

### Two-step step approval:

- If PPG is requested, submit PIF & PPG for CEO approval;
- CEO approval of final project document;
- Agency's own internal approval and implementation starts.



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# Traditional Mode: GEF Project Cycle

(continue.....3)

## Programmatic Approaches:

- Programs Accessible to all GEF Agencies
  - ✓ Council approves a program document (PFD);
  - ✓ Agencies prepared projects under the program and submit these projects for work program inclusion;
  - ✓ After projects are well-prepared, they are submitted for CEO endorsement;
  - ✓ Agencies approve the project and start implementation
- Programs Accessible to a GEF Agency with a Board that approves projects.
  - ✓ Council approves PFD;
  - ✓ Agencies prepare projects under the program and submit the projects for CEO endorsement;
  - ✓ Agencies approve the projects and start implementation.



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# Traditional Mode: GEF Project Cycle

(continue.....2)

For Enabling Activities (two paths):

Traditional mode through a GEF Agency:

- Agency submits EA proposal for CEO approval;
- Agency follows its own internal approval procedure and implementation starts.

Direct Access (follow direct access policy):

- Country submits EA proposal directly to the GEF Secretariat for CEO approval;
- All projects are processed following the WB operations policies and procedures;
- CEO and government representative sign Grant Agreement and implementation starts.



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# STAR (System of Transparent Allocation of Resources)

- STAR is the current mechanism by which scarce GEF resources are allocated based on a series of indices relevant to focal areas and countries; factors taken into consideration in calculation included the following: available GEF resources, country scores, adjustment for floors and ceilings, determine flexibilities for countries.
- The Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) was adopted for GEF-4 as a system targeted to global environmental benefits;
- The STAR updated the RAF and was implemented for GEF-5; STAR implementation began in July 2010
- Currently, three focal areas are subject to STAR allocation: BC, CC & LD
- Available GEF resources are divided among focal areas including the three STAR focal areas, 20% of the three STAR focal area resources are “set aside” for cross cutting programs such as global and regional projects, SFM.



# Thank you for your attention

## Questions?



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