



# GEF-8 SCORECARD JUNE 2025



# ABOUT THE GEF-8 CORPORATE SCORECARD

The GEF-8 Corporate Scorecard is a comprehensive report on the performance of the Global Environment Facility during the GEF-8 period. In particular, the Scorecard reports on the progress made toward the achievement of the GEF-8 targets. It also looks at how the GEF is utilizing resources available for

its eighth replenishment cycle and making progress in the implementation of key policies. The Scorecard is published twice a year; this issue includes all projects approved from July 2022 to date, including the June 2025 Work Program.

## FOREWORD

This edition of the Corporate Scorecard marks the GEF's entry into the fourth year of its GEF-8 cycle with a record of delivery and ambition. Projects and programs under GEF-8 are on track to generate transformative results: protecting over 218.4 million hectares of critical ecosystems, restoring 8.6 million hectares of degraded land, avoiding 1905.4 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions, supporting transboundary cooperation in 40 shared water ecosystems, and eliminating 261.8 thousand tons of hazardous chemicals and waste.

High-impact investments are driving progress across all focal areas, with the GEF on course to achieve all ten of its environmental results targets. Eight targets are already over 75 percent achieved, and four—marine protected areas, greenhouse gas emissions, shared water ecosystems, and sustainable marine fisheries—have already been surpassed. Countries have accessed 75 percent of their allocated resources, and co-financing commitments have exceeded expected amounts.

Resource uptake across focal areas reflects both strategic demand and momentum. The chemicals and waste focal area leads with 81 percent of funds allocated—up from 69 percent just six months ago—followed by biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, and climate change. Regional progress is equally strong: Latin America and Africa have each utilized more than 75 percent of their allocations, while Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are at 68 percent and 73 percent, respectively.

The GEF continues to serve as a critical source of financing for global environmental priorities. Projects surpass Rio marker thresholds, with 83 percent of investments aligned with climate objectives, 72 percent with biodiversity, and 59 percent with land restoration. While shares for biodiversity and land restoration have slightly declined due to growing demand in chemicals and waste, these shifts reflect evolving priorities and strategic programming.

Co-financing continues to exceed GEF-8 targets, with over \$30.2 billion mobilized—equivalent to \$8.70 for every GEF dollar invested. Private sector contributions are projected to

reach nearly \$7.3 billion, while blended finance operations for nature and climate are generating a 19.2:1 co-financing ratio. Net of recurrent costs, the overall GEF-8 portfolio reflects a co-financing ratio of 6.6:1, outperforming benchmarks.

The Country Engagement Strategy remains central to quality programming. Thirteen regional GEF-8 Roll-out Workshops and Upstream Technical and National Dialogues in 65 countries have supported upstream engagement and country-driven planning, especially around Integrated Programs. Expanded Constituency Workshops are further amplifying these efforts, convening a broad mix of stakeholders—from governments and agencies to conventions and civil society—around integrated, cross-sectoral solutions.

Empowering women, engaging Indigenous Peoples, and mobilizing private sector participation are embedded in the GEF-8 approach to project design and delivery. Agencies have reaffirmed their commitment to inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout project preparation, laying the foundation for more sustainable and equitable outcomes.

Knowledge and learning remain strategic enablers of innovation. Key outputs of the Knowledge Management and Learning Strategy include new publications on sustainable land management, tools to support technology transfer and private sector engagement, and learning events on emerging priorities such as urban resilience and conflict sensitivity in project design.

Finally, as the GEF's mandate and visibility grow, strategic communications are more critical than ever. Through the implementation of its Communication and Visibility Policy, the GEF is amplifying its impact—sharing results through compelling storytelling, digital platforms, flagship publications, and global events that strengthen the voice and influence of the GEF partnership on the international stage.

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# 1. CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERATION OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Projects and programs deliver significant levels of expected results for GEF-8 against the Core Indicator targets, presented here along the results areas of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework and highlighting the contribution of Integrated Programs.

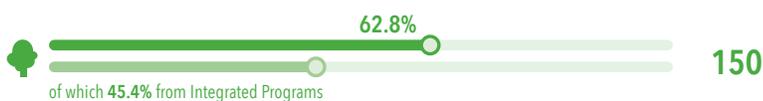
## CORE INDICATORS

## SHARE OF TARGETS

## GEF-8 TARGETS

### CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY

Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million hectares)



Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million hectares)



Area of landscapes under improved practices\* (million hectares)



Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million hectares)



### SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND

Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million hectares)



### REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e)



### STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management



Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)



### REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE

Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)



Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)



\*This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million hectares for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 48 percent of this sub-indicator target are achieved, including 16 percent from Integrated Programs.

The GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework is organized around five results areas, which group together Core Indicators on global environmental benefits, associated sub-indicators and sex-disaggregated metrics on direct beneficiaries.

## CONSERVING AND SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY

VALUE

	<b>Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million hectares)</b>	<b>94.2</b>
	- of which newly created (million hectares)	6.7
	- of which under improved management effectiveness (million hectares)	87.5
	<b>Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million hectares)</b>	<b>124.2</b>
	- of which newly created (million hectares)	22.3
	- of which under improved management effectiveness (million hectares)	100.0
	<b>Area of landscapes under improved practices* (million hectares)</b>	<b>134.6</b>
	- of which under improved management to benefit biodiversity (million hectares)	88.6
	- of which that meets third-party certification (million hectares)	2.7
	- of which of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided (million hectares)	2.8
	Terrestrial OECMs supported (million hectares)	14.9
	<b>Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million hectares)</b>	<b>65.6</b>
	Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations (count)	302,082
	Marine OECMs supported (million hectares)	10.4
	<b>People benefiting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)</b>	<b>30.6</b>
	- of whom women	15.6

## SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND

	<b>Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million hectares)</b>	<b>8.6</b>
	- of which degraded agricultural land under restoration (million hectares)	3.5
	- of which forest and forest land under restoration (million hectares)	2.7
	- of which natural grass and woodlands under restoration (million hectares)	1.9
	- of which wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration (million hectares)	0.5
	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (million hectares)	40.4
	<b>People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (million)</b>	<b>10.4</b>
	- of whom women	5.6

\*The indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' contributes to this Core Indicator. It is located under the 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' results area.

## REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS

VALUE

	<b>Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>1,905.4</b>
	– of which carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (million metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,328.1
	– of which emissions avoided outside of the AFOLU sector (million metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	577.3
	Energy saved (gigawatt hours)	114,692.6
	Installed renewable energy capacity (megawatts)	3,812.8
	<b>People benefiting from climate change mitigation support (million)</b>	<b>18.9</b>
	– of whom women	9.9

## STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

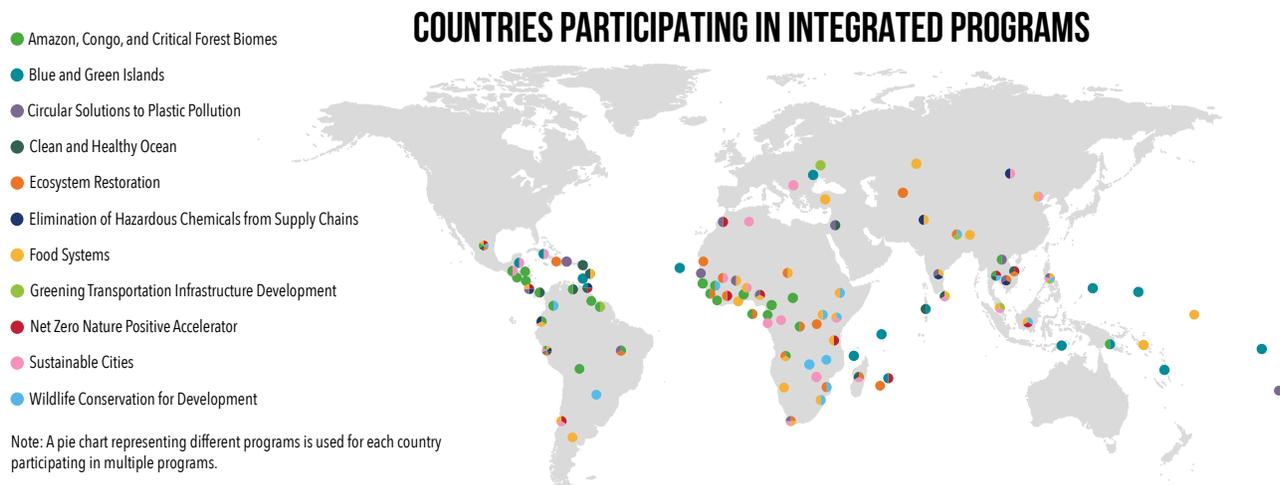
	<b>Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)</b>	<b>40.0</b>
	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program formulation and implementation (1 Low – 4 High)	2.1
	Level of regional legal agreements and regional management institution(s) to support its implementation (1 Low – 4 High)	2.3
	Level of national/local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (1 Low – 4 High)	1.8
	Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products (1 Low – 4 High)	1.6
	<b>Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)</b>	<b>3.7</b>
	Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia (number)	11.0
	<b>People benefiting from transboundary water management (million)</b>	<b>7.1</b>
	– of whom women	3.8

## REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE

	<b>Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)</b>	<b>261.8</b>
	– of which persistent organic pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type) (thousand metric tons)	157.8
	– of which mercury reduced (thousand metric tons)	1.0
	– of which hydrochlorofluorocarbons reduced/phased out (metric tons)	6.2
	– of which highly hazardous pesticides eliminated (metric tons)	96.8
	Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (number)	39.0
	Low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing, and cities (number)	32.0
	POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided (thousand metric tons)	601.7
	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	4,447.5
	<b>Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air (metric tons)</b>	<b>21.0</b>
	Emission control technologies/practices implemented (number)	24.9
	Avoided residual plastic waste (thousand metric tons)	4,682.7
	<b>People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (million)</b>	<b>66.1</b>
	– of whom women	35.8

## 2. INTEGRATED AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Integrated Programs are poised to deliver environmental benefits on a large scale in GEF-8. To date, a total of 98 countries are participating in these programs, with some in more than one program.



### PROGRAMMED FINANCING AGAINST GEF-8 RESOURCES FOR INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

98.5%

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS	Countries	SIDS	LDCs	Total Financing (\$m)
Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes	28	5	10	306.6
Blue and Green Islands	15	15	2	135.6
Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution	15	2	4	107.9
Clean and Healthy Ocean	14	4	1	112.4
Ecosystem Restoration	20	2	13	205.0
Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains	8	1	1	51.3
Food Systems	32	3	9	281.5
Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development	5	1	1	26.8
Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator	12	2	1	110.0
Sustainable Cities	20	2	3	169.5
Wildlife Conservation for Development	15	-	7	150.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,657.0</b>
<b>PROGRAM</b>				
Global Programme to Support Countries to Upscale Integrated Electric Mobility Systems	9	4	4	28.3
Global Clean Hydrogen Programme	9	-	-	16.5
Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) Program	5	-	-	29.4
Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP)	Global	-	-	26.5
Global Electronics Management (GEM) Program	16	6	-	67.3
Transformation Approach to Large Scale Investment in Support of the Implementation of the GGWI	9	7	-	43.9
Global Elimination Program for PCB (GEP-PCB)	6	-	2	48.9
Integrated Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Tourism (iCOAST)	14	6	-	91.7
Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus (FARM+)	8	-	2	60.0
Global Microfinance Initiative for Locally Led Action	7	-	2	10.0
Global elimination of mercury in non-ferrous metals initiative - GEMINI	6	-	1	65.7

Notes: 'Total' reflects unique count of countries. Some countries are part of both the SIDS and LDC country groups. Total financing includes projects financing, agency fee, PPG, and PPG fee.

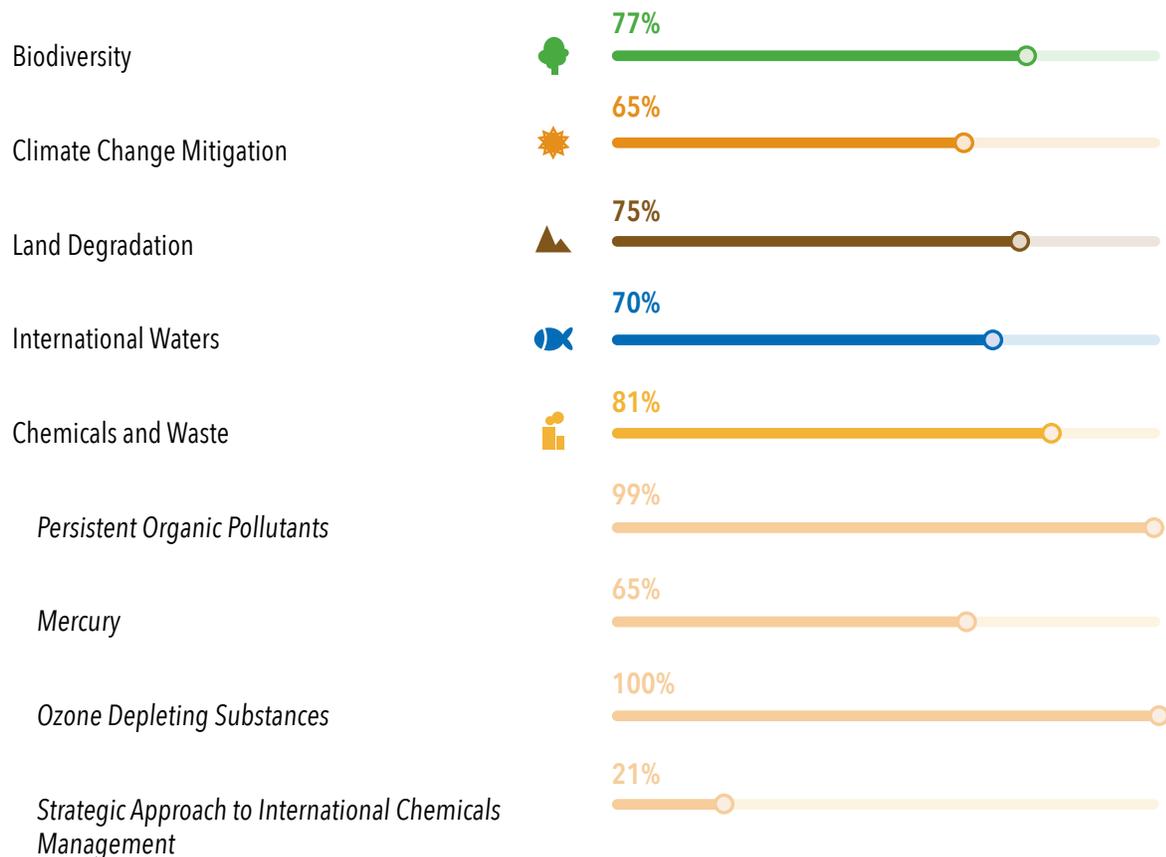
### 3. PROGRAMMING BY FOCAL AREA

This section summarizes the progress made in programming GEF-8 resources to date. It provides a cumulative summary of GEF-8 utilization of funds against the programming envelopes established during the GEF-8 replenishment.

#### GEF TRUST FUND

##### FOCAL AREAS

##### UTILIZATION RATE



##### NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT PROGRAM



##### INNOVATIONS WINDOW

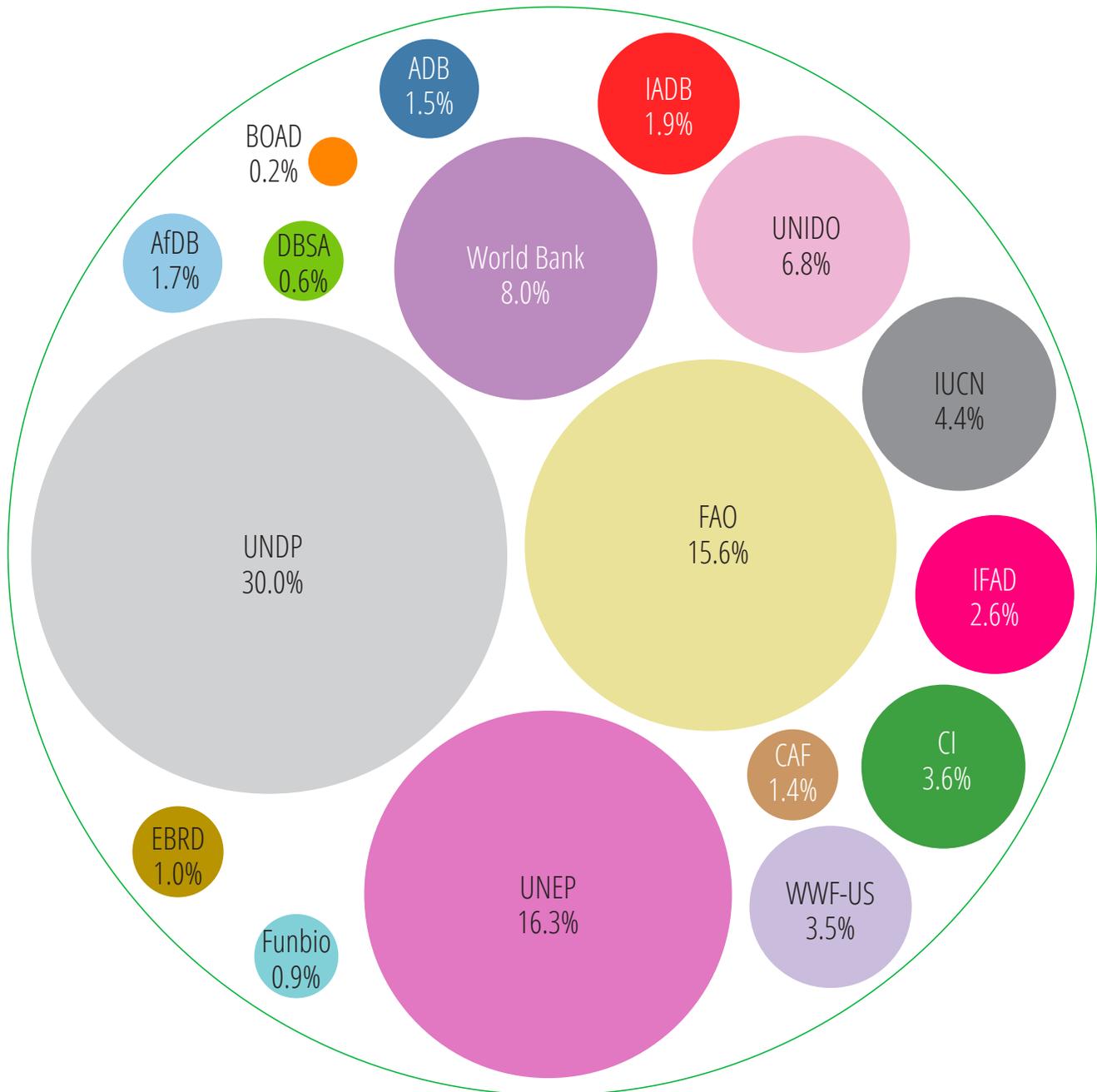


##### SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM



## 4. PROGRAMMING BY GEF AGENCY

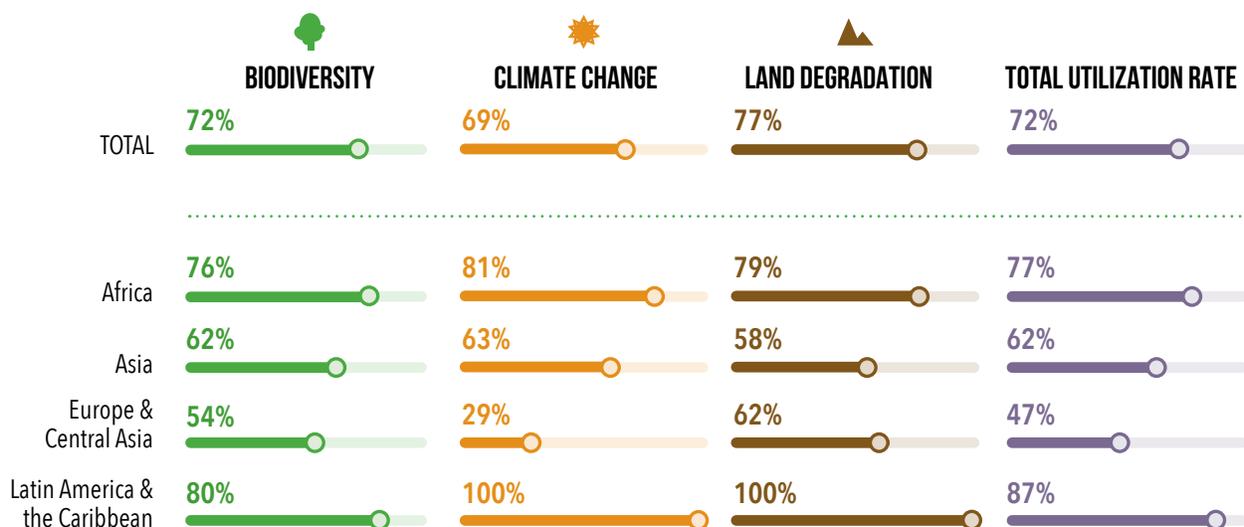
GEF agencies submit new projects and programs in GEF-8 in response to country demand. The data shown here reflects the respective agency share of cumulative programming in GEF-8.



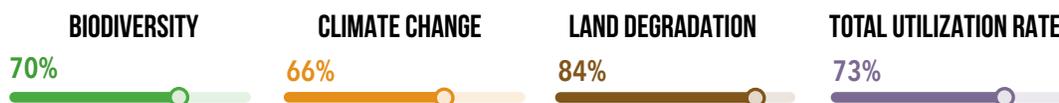
## 5. SYSTEM FOR TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Utilization of resources allocated to countries under the System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) is increasing across the three focal areas it covers—biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation—and in every region.

### GEF GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS



### LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

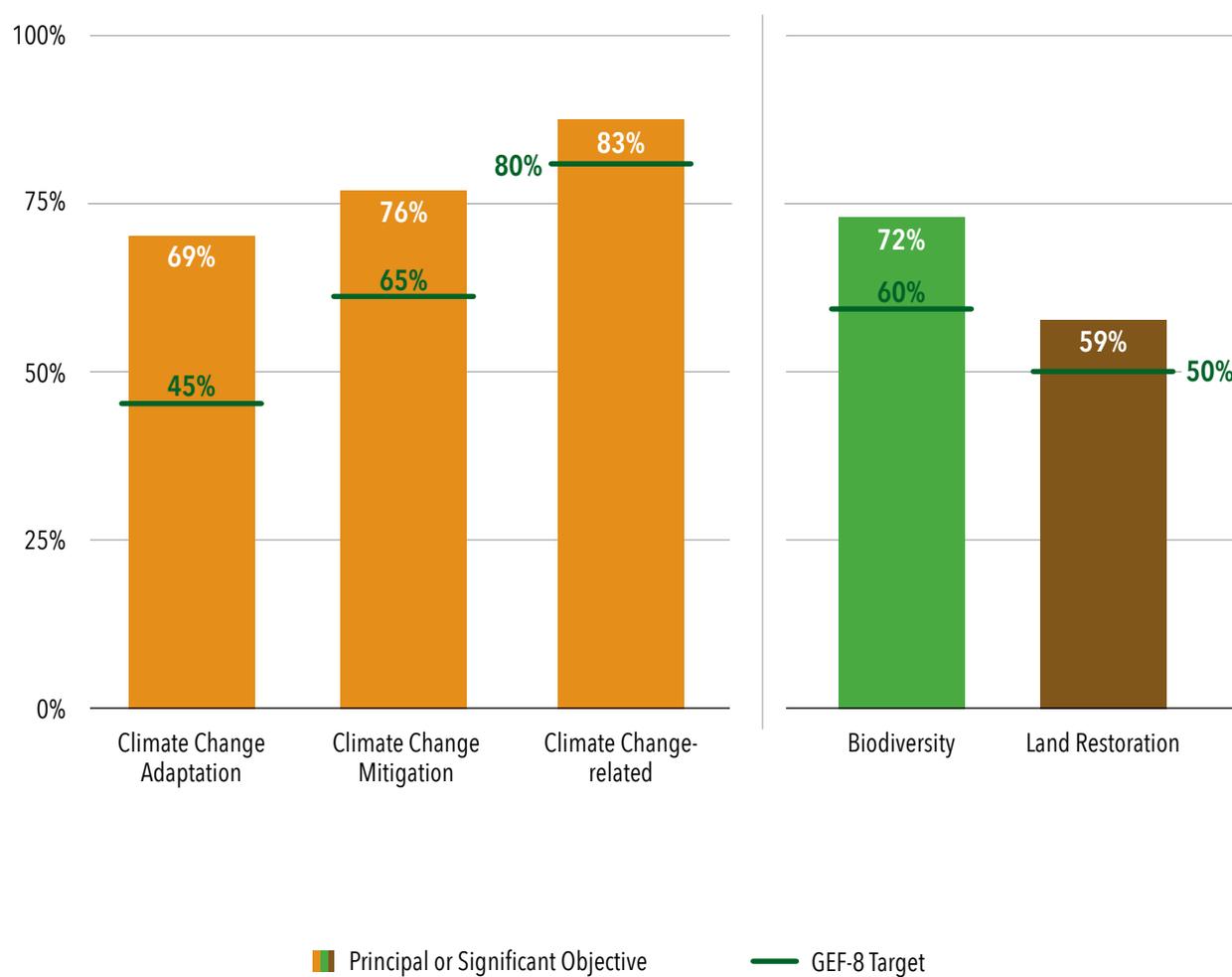


### SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)



## 6. BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, AND LAND DEGRADATION FINANCING

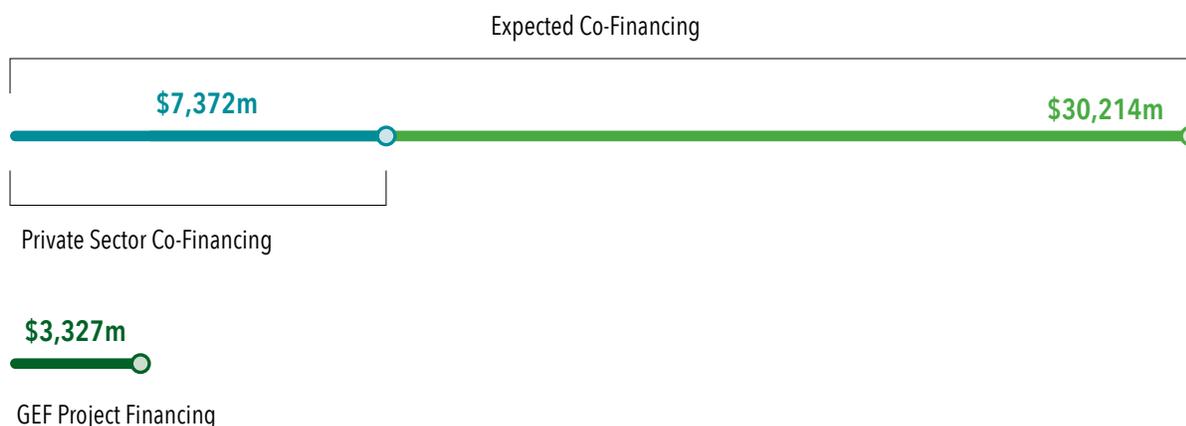
GEF financing contributing toward biodiversity, climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation, and land degradation as a principal or significant objective is tracked against indicative targets, consistent with the OECD DAC Rio marker methodology. Climate-related financing refers to any GEF investment considered as principal or significant for climate change adaptation and/or mitigation.



## 7. CO-FINANCING

The Policy on Co-Financing sets out a goal for the overall GEF portfolio to reach a ratio of Co-Financing to GEF Project Financing of at least 7:1, and for the portfolio of projects and programs approved in Upper-Middle Income Countries and High-Income Countries that are not Small Island Developing States or Least Developed Countries to reach a ratio of investment mobilized to GEF Project Financing of at least 5:1. Co-Financing means financing that is additional to GEF Project Financing, and that supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project or program and the achievement of its objectives. Investment Mobilized means Co-Financing that excludes recurrent expenditures. Enabling Activities qualify for full agreed costs funding from the GEF; there is no co-finance requirement for Enabling Activities.

### GEF FINANCING VS. CO-FINANCING



### INDICATIVE RATIOS OF RESOURCES MOBILIZED TO GEF PROJECT FINANCING IN GEF-8 (X:1)

	LATEST	AMBITION
Co-Financing	8.7	7.0
Investment Mobilized in UMICs and HICs That Are Not SIDS or LDCs	6.6	5.0
Co-Financing of Non-Grant Instrument Projects	19.2	

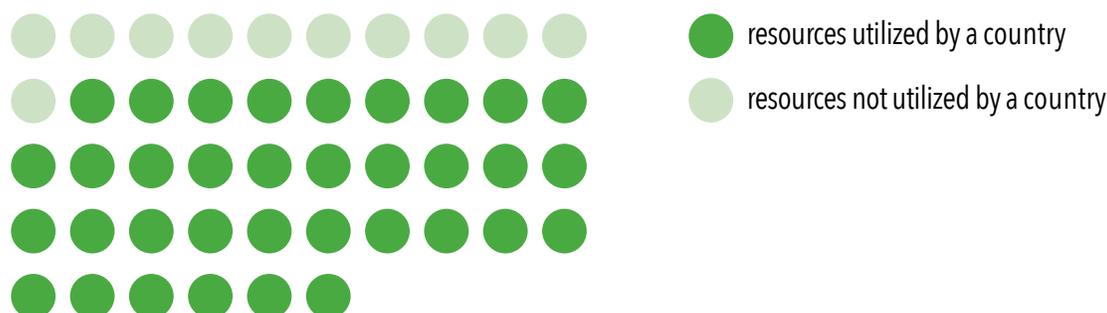
## 8. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The GEF-8 Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) results framework is linked to the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Core Indicators track the progress in Adaptation Benefits, including beneficiaries disaggregated by gender. This section depicts the expected results from approved projects and programs.

### USE OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND

Resources approved to date in GEF-8 amount to \$618.2 million.

Out of 46 Least Developed Countries, 35 have used LDCF resources (Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Togo, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia).



### USE OF SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

Resources approved to date in GEF-8 amount to \$42.5 million.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CORE INDICATORS

Core Indicator	Total
Direct beneficiaries (million) - of whom women	20.9 11.0
Area of land managed for climate resilience (million ha)	5.7
Coastal or marine area managed for climate resilience (million ha)	2.0
Policies, plans, and frameworks that will mainstream climate resilience	1,768
People trained or with awareness raised (million) - of whom women	4.0 2.0
Private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	3,629

## 9. GENDER EQUALITY

Without greater equality between men and women, the world will not meet its environment objectives. That's why the GEF is making sure that projects are gender informed, giving women and men equal opportunities to contribute and benefit from them.

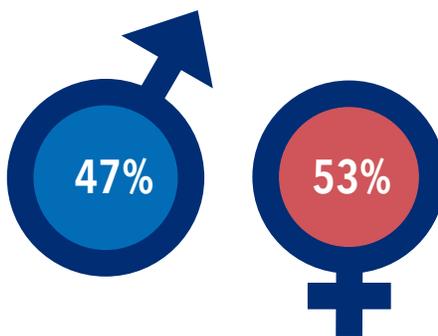
### QUALITY AT ENTRY OF GEF-8 PROJECT CONCEPTS

Percentage of projects that considered gender issues at the initial project design

100%



### PERCENTAGE OF ANTICIPATED GEF BENEFICIARIES THAT ARE FEMALE AND MALE



## 10. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

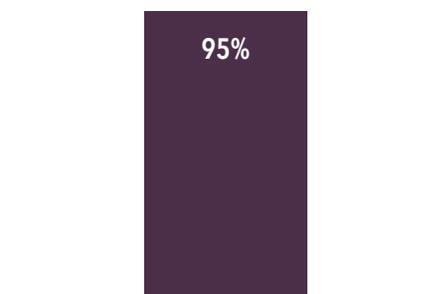
Including stakeholders—civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and the private sector—in preparing projects and defining their expected roles during implementation is key in strengthening the overall impact of a project. The data show that over three-quarters of projects consulted and took into account civil society and the private sector in their design. Not all projects have Indigenous Peoples or private sector as stakeholders. Therefore, the percentages are expected to be lower than those reported for civil society.

### CONSULTATION IN PROJECT IDENTIFICATION



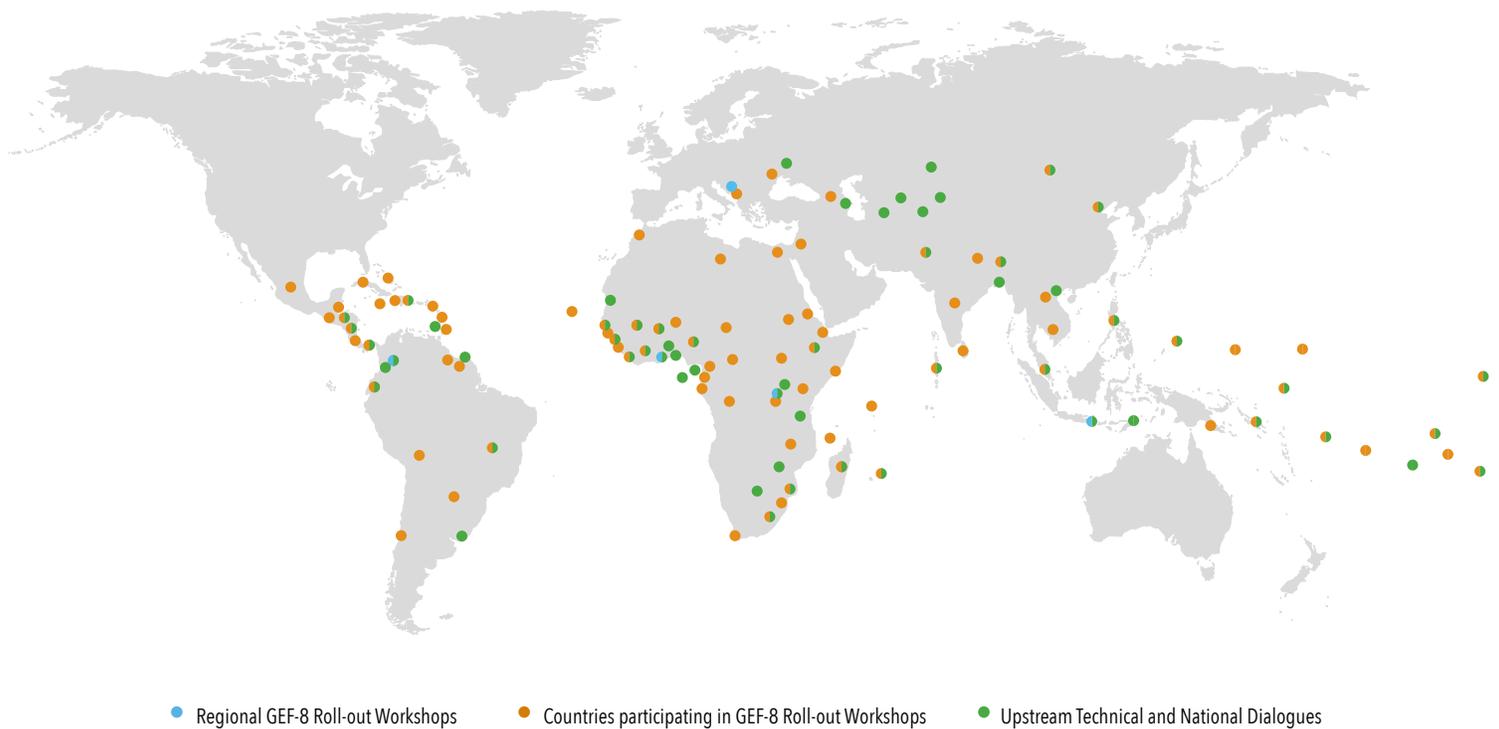
- Private Sector
- Civil Society Organizations
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

### PLANNED PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT DURING IMPLEMENTATION



# 11. COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Country Engagement Strategy (CES) empowers countries to improve portfolio progress and maximize the impact of GEF resources, including through capacity strengthening activities, upstream country engagement and country-specific knowledge activities. To date, 13 Regional GEF-8 Roll-out Workshops and 63 Upstream Technical and National Dialogues helped countries identify programming priorities for GEF-8. The online GEF calendar provides information on CES events.



## ADDITIONAL COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY 2022 INCLUDE:

- 63 Constituency Meetings
- 7 Expanded Constituency Workshops
- 3 Introduction Seminars
- 1 Regional Meeting
- 9 LDCF/SCCF Regional Adaptation Workshops

# 12. COMMUNICATIONS



Number of times GEF is mentioned in English, Spanish, and French language online media.



Number of news and feature stories, press releases, blogs, publications, videos, and stories from partners posted on the GEF website.



Number of times visitors viewed pages on the GEF website and videos on the GEF YouTube channel.



Number of subscribers to the GEF newsletter and announcements campaign list.



Total number of followers of GEF social media accounts: X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and BlueSky.

In June 2023, the GEF Council adopted a new Policy on Communication and Visibility to raise awareness about the institution’s leadership in financing environmental action in developing countries and ensure strong, clear, and consistent communication across, and beyond, the GEF partnership.

The policy responds to the need to ensure that donors, recipient countries, and other stakeholders see the value and impacts of GEF-funded activities and initiatives. It outlines a set of guiding principles and requirements for how and when all recipients of GEF funding must describe the organization’s role and contribution to project and program outcomes.

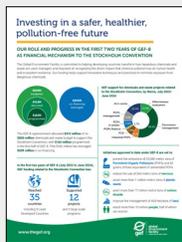
The GEF Secretariat has taken steps to disseminate and foster understanding of the policy to help ensure the GEF, its decisions, actions, and impacts are widely known. These include:

- Publicizing the policy via the GEF website, newsletter, and in a Communications Toolkit which has been widely shared with stakeholders.
- Distributing the policy to members of a new, informal, GEF Project Communicators Network, a growing community of communication specialists working on GEF-funded projects and programs at the country level.
- Highlighting the policy at GEF workshops, other stakeholder events, and at agency communicators retreats.

## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS



**Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF**



**How the GEF Is Investing in a Safer, Healthier, Pollution-free Future**



**GEF Project Postcards**



**The Least Developed Countries Fund in Numbers**



**The Special Climate Change Fund in Numbers**

# 13. KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING

## LEARNING EVENTS

The GEF Secretariat organizes learning events to foster knowledge sharing, strengthen collaboration, and harness the latest advances in science on the global environment. This period featured the following events covering several globally significant topics.

### Expert Workshops

#### Advancing the Integrated Approach for Transformative Change in Tropical Forest Biomes Technical Workshop (Panama)

Established a framework for learning and knowledge sharing to drive transformative change in primary tropical forests, focusing on framing conceptual issues, defining threats, exploring innovative finance solutions, and fostering synergy across regional platforms and relevant GEF-8 Integrated Programs.

#### GEF Experts Workshop on Advancing the Integrated Approach to Achieve Resilient Food Systems in Africa (Nairobi)

Synthesized scientific and practitioner knowledge addressing climate and environment and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa; explored knowledge and lessons from the integrated approach pilot; and identified critical gaps and limitations for advancing transformative change in the status and progress within the agroecosystems in the region.



#### The Sustainable Cities Learning Workshop (Paris)

Explored global research on urban systems transformation, discussed urban sustainability efforts and the Sustainable Cities Program's experiences, and identified future opportunities to achieve environmental and sustainability goals for greater collaboration in knowledge management and future projects.

### GEF Webinar Series

- **Lessons Learned from the Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Assistance Facility**
- **The Hotspot Stoplight Tool - Building the Evidence Base to Optimize Urban Growth and Minimize Environmental Risk**
- **Living Planet Report 2024 - Navigating Tipping Points for a Sustainable Future**
- **Conflict-sensitive Approaches - Integrating Conflict Sensitivity into Project Design in FCV Contexts**
- **Conflict-Sensitive Approaches - Adaptive Management of the Projects in Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations**

## UPDATED GEF INTRODUCTION E-COURSE



The introductory e-course on the GEF was updated and relaunched in collaboration with the World Bank Open Learning Campus. It provides an overview of the GEF's mission, institutional structure, and programming under GEF-8, including funding modalities, cross-cutting priorities, and Integrated Programs.

# [www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) includes several multilateral funds working together to address the planet's most pressing challenges in an integrated way. Its financing helps developing countries address complex challenges and work towards meeting international environmental goals. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$26 billion in financing, primarily as grants, and mobilized another \$153 billion for country-driven priority projects.



global  
environment  
facility  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

June 2025

978-1-959919-01-8