

A Guide to the Global Environment Facility for NGOs

Index

List of acronyms	. 3
Foreword	. 5
Acknowledgements	. 7
Section I. The Global Environment Facility	8
The history of the GEF	. 8
The structure of the GEF	
The GEF via the numbers	. 17
Section 2. The global environmental scope of the GEF	21
Impact of GEF projects	23
Section 3. The Operational Programs	25
Biodiversity	. 27
Climate change	40
International Waters	52
Multi Focal Area	. 59
Persistent Organic Pollutants	62
Land degradation	66
Section 4. Building partnerships in projects	72
Choosing the appropriate type of project	
Section 5. Small Grants Programme (SGP)	75
Participating Countries	
The unique nature of the SGP management	
How to access to SGP funding	79
Section 6. Medium Sized Projects	83
Project idea	. 83
Project proposal	90
Project implementation	98
Checklist	98
Avoiding frequent weaknesses	100



The A to Z of the GEF

Section 7. Full Sized Projects	101
Project idea (pipeline entry)	101
Project proposal (Work Program inclusion)	103
CEO endorsement	
Project implementation	106
NGO Partnership in Full Sized Projects	
Section 8. Incremental Costs	
Calculating incremental costs	110
Section 9. Building partnerships in policy	112
How NGOs got involved with the GEF	113
The GEF-NGO Network	115
NGOs at the Council meetings	120
NGO Accreditation Process	
NGO accreditation form	125
Useful contacts	127
List of contacts	127
List of useful websites	127
Glossary	129
Credits	143





List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	
CBD	
CCD	
CEO	
COP	
CBO	
CPMT	, 6
CFP	
ExA	
FAO	
FSPs	
GEF	•
IA	,
IADB	
IFC	
IPCC	
M&E	
MSPs	S .
NC	National Coordinator
NSC	National Steering Committee
NGO	
OP	
PDF	,
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RFP	
SAP	
SGP	
SIDS	
	1 0

Index



The A to Z of the GEF

STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
UNDP	•
UNEP	, ,
UNFCCC	9
	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WB	•



The A to Z of the GEF

Foreword

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) helps developing countries fund projects and programs to address global environmental issues and sustainable development.

The GEF is the largest funder of projects designed to protect the global environment. Since its inception in 1991, the GEF has committed more than \$7.5 billion US dollars in grants and leveraged \$16 billion US dollars in co-financing for 1,900 projects in 140 recipient countries. The GEF has also provided more than 6,000 small grants directly to community based organizations (CBOs) and non governmental organizations (NGOs).

GEF projects are implemented through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, regional development banks, and other specialized United Nations agencies.

NGOs play a variety of important roles both in the development and the execution of GEF projects, as well as in influencing GEF policies.

At the project level, actions undertaken by NGOs have helped preserve biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect international waters, and ultimately, achieve sustainable development. By partnering with a government agency or accessing directly to its funds, NGOs have made a significant contribution to the GEF portfolio of projects.

At the policy level, NGOs contribute through a unique participatory mechanism, presenting case studies and influencing decisions at the Council meetings and through the GEF-NGO Consultations.

This Guide is intended to help NGOs understand how the GEF operates, how to access to its funds, and how to influence its policies. It is done by NGOs, for NGOs.

Also, this Guide is a work in progress as the GEF evolves and adopts new policies.

Index





One of the most significant new policies is the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF), adopted in September 2005. The RAF is a system for allocating resources to countries based on global environmental priorities and the capacity, policies and practices of countries relevant to successful implementation of GEF projects. The RAF will be operational in the GEF's Fourth Phase, starting July 2006, for biodiversity and climate change projects.

Updates and amendments to this Guide will provide information on how to access to GEF funding once the RAF is operational.





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This Guide is dedicated to the memory of Hutton G. Archer



Section 1. The Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides financing aimed at global environmental protection within a framework of sustainable development.

The GEF supports actions to address critical threats to the **global environment** by building capacity in recipient countries, and by influencing the behavior of governments, its Implementing and Executing Agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions and stakeholders. Through projects developed in more than 140 recipient countries, the GEF has proven that encouraging, building and strengthening partnerships is the most effective and cost-efficient way to achieve its objective.

The GEF is not a project financier, but a project co-financier providing "new and additional" funds to address global environmental issues. A key to understanding the GEF, and to assessing whether a project is eligible for GEF support, is the fact that the GEF co-finances projects—it does not finance them.

The GEF funds only the additional –or **incremental costs**—of activities that produce benefits to the global environment. All other costs of the project are considered to be baseline and must be covered from other sources. Commitments by multiple partners increase the chances for attaining permanent results.

Since its inception in 1991, the GEF has committed more than \$7.5 billion US dollars in grants and leveraged \$16 billion US dollars in co-financing for 1,900 projects in 140 recipient countries.

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