

25  
years |   
gef

**SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

# **BUILDING LASTING PARTNERSHIPS**



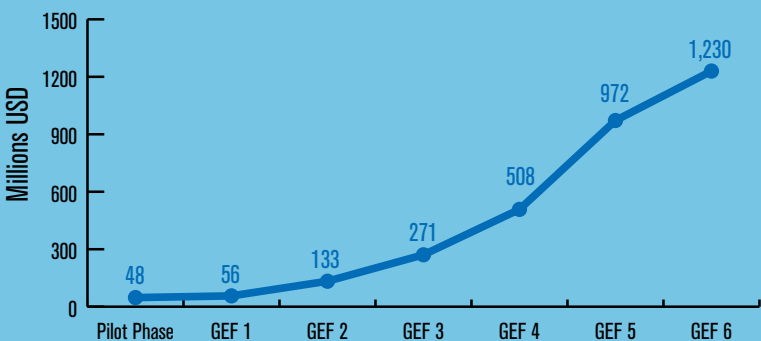
# Small Island Developing States and the Global Environment Facility: Building Lasting Partnerships

Since the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was founded 25 years ago, the GEF has been a strong partner and supporter of sustainable development for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The GEF has supported the development of the green economy in the SIDS because nowhere is the inextricable connection between people’s wellbeing and prosperity and the environment clearer than on small islands. At the same time, SIDS are faced with fundamental challenges from climate change and unsustainable natural resource use that must be tackled immediately.

The GEF has been given a mandate to protect the global commons—both by preventing environmental degradation and by preserving and protecting ecosystems and the environment. The prospects of achieving this goal are largely dependent on whether GEF investments will help change the tide for the SIDS. In the past two and a half decades, the GEF has supported projects in critical areas such as biodiversity, climate change adaptation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, land degradation, international waters, and chemicals management. In total, the **GEF has provided more than US\$1.23 billion to SIDS** countries, leveraging many times that amount in additional resources for sustainable development.

GEF funding serves as a catalyst that enables stakeholders to come together, including governments, development agencies, global environmental conventions, intergovernmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support major projects and programs. These partnerships are designed from the outset to last far beyond the life of a single project and often have impacts far greater than originally anticipated.

## CUMULATIVE GEF \$ IN SIDS



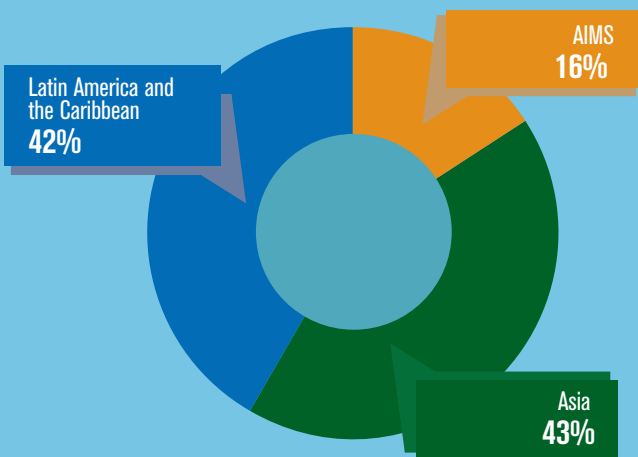


## GEF-6

### Record resources available for SIDS

The GEF's current four year funding cycle (GEF-6—2014–2018) is providing a record amount of resources to the SIDS. Overall, the total country allocations to SIDS in GEF-6 increased by nine percent over the levels in GEF-5. The GEF has made over \$256 million (USD) available through national allocations for SIDS to address pressing sustainable development challenges. Beyond country allocations, there are resources available from a special window for Chemicals and Waste, International Waters programs, the Sustainable Forest Management incentive program, and capacity development projects as well as additional support for fulfilling convention obligations.

### REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF GEF INVESTMENTS IN SIDS (1992-2016)





## RIDGE TO REEF

The small size of SIDS, remoteness, and limited natural resource base means that successful development requires an integrated approach. The size of most SIDS limits the area available for urban settlements, agriculture, mining, commercial forestry, tourism and other infrastructure. Most aspects of environmental management in SIDS are directly dependent on, or influenced by, the planning and utilization of land resources, which in turn are closely linked to coastal zone management and protection. The GEF is working with island countries in the Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean to tackle the food, water, energy and ecosystem nexus, through an ecosystem based approach known as Ridge to Reef. This approach is designed to reverse the degradation of coastal resources by finding ways to reduce the flow of untreated wastewater, chemicals, nutrients and sediments from land-based agriculture, forestry and development into catchment areas. Consequently, under a Ridge to Reef approach, Integrated Water Resource Management and Integrated Coastal Management plans come together to inform long-term sustainable use of the natural resources while limiting the impact on the fragile environment.

### Protected areas

GEF supports strengthening the fundamental aspects linked to the sustainability of protected area systems: long-term finance, biological and ecological diversity, and building the necessary capacity that leads to effective management. GEF will continue to promote the participation and capacity building of indigenous peoples and local communities, especially women, in the design, implementation, and management of protected area projects through established frameworks such as indigenous and community conserved areas. GEF will also promote protected area co-management between government and indigenous peoples and local communities where such management models are appropriate.







## Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Due to high energy costs, improving energy efficiency in SIDS is a high priority. In parallel, shifting SIDS' energy mix towards renewables may enhance energy security and enable SIDS to lower their GHG emissions. In addition to supporting enabling conditions and convention obligations, GEF climate change mitigation programs include removing barriers to clean energy deployment through supportive policies and strategies, investing in clean energy access, accelerating low emission technology innovation and uptake by enhancing technical and financial capacities to stimulate renewable energy project development, enhancing carbon stocks, and improving agricultural management practices. In coordination with global efforts on energy efficiency certification for greening the supply chain and appliance efficiency standards, the GEF is ready to support SIDS in all areas of efficiency. Energy efficiency projects can include lighting, air conditioning, refrigeration, motors, and building codes.

SIDS also need a reliable, sustainable, low-cost, low-carbon energy supply. GEF support for renewable energy may be utilized to minimize key barriers to renewable energy deployment, including: support for energy access initiatives at the local level; support for policy and strategy frameworks to enhance integration of renewable options into energy supply systems; and enhancement of technical and financial capacities to stimulate renewable energy project development.

For renewable energy, potential project components include: medium and small-scale hydropower; on-shore wind power; geothermal power and heat; bio-energy systems using biomass from wastes and residues; and solar photovoltaic systems and concentrated solar power. The GEF will also support SIDS that strive to coordinate clean energy policies with relevant policies in other areas, such as agriculture, rural development, health, poverty eradication, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as energy security.





## Adaptation

Climate change will have severe impacts on SIDS given that they are often geographically isolated, located in regions prone to natural disasters, low-lying and densely populated. These unique characteristics make SIDS amongst the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change.

The GEF adaptation program is working to address climate change impacts through a range of interventions in vulnerable development sectors, including agriculture, disaster and coastal management, natural resources management, and health. To date, through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), the GEF has built an active portfolio of projects across SIDS in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia.

In GEF-6 the following areas will be prioritized:

- Promoting food security, as most SIDS are dependent on imported food and confronted with growing food prices globally. SIDS need to put innovative farming practices in place to cope with climate change while enhancing productivity;
- Promoting access to insurance, as SIDS will need inventive, state of the art insurance products that will help them to reduce the risks of loss and damage resulting from climate change;
- Strengthening the systematic observation networks and climate information services; and
- Enhancing capacity to address medium- and long-term adaptation needs, as SIDS need to mainstream adaptation planning into national sustainable development planning, in order to build medium- and long-term resilience to climate change.

## THE PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE (PACC)

REGIONAL PROJECT IS ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF 13 PACIFIC SIDS TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN SELECTED KEY SECTORS BY INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS AND ADAPTATION MEASURES INTO RELEVANT DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PLANS.



## Chemicals and Waste

Toxic chemicals and waste present particular acute challenges to SIDS' fragile ecosystems. There are a number of opportunities for SIDS to access GEF resources in GEF-6 to manage and reduce harmful chemicals and waste. As part of the GEF-6 strategy, the chemicals and waste focal area has created a specific program for LDCs and SIDS to address the needs of these countries. The chemicals and waste program will enable SIDS address and manage persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury and the associated wastes. This program will allow SIDS to have projects in areas such as the demonstration and transfer of effective and, where appropriate, innovative environmentally safe chemical and waste reduction and elimination technologies. In addition to the specific program for LDCs and SIDS, SIDS can also access the funding for other applicable programs in the chemicals and waste strategy.

## Invasive Alien Species

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are the primary cause of species extinctions on island ecosystems. If left unchecked, IAS can degrade critical ecosystem services on islands, such as the provision of water and the productivity of coastal areas. The GEF will support the implementation of comprehensive prevention, early detection, control and management, while emphasizing a risk management approach that focuses on the highest risk invasion pathways. Targeted eradication will be supported in specific circumstances where proven, low-cost, and effective techniques can result in the extermination of targeted IAS and the survival of globally significant species and/or ecosystems.

## SELECTED PACC PROJECT RESULTS



SUPPORTING 40,000  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
TO IMPLEMENT CONCRETE  
ADAPTATION MEASURES  
IN CROP PRODUCTION  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT



STRENGTHENING  
THE CAPACITIES OF  
150 GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTIONS IN  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION



DEVELOPING 20  
NATIONAL POLICIES,  
PLANS OR FRAMEWORKS  
FOR ENHANCED  
ADAPTATION

## ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are: Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office - Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank (WB), World Wildlife Fund US (WWF-US).