
Since its establishment in 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 505], GEF had allocated $9.2 billion, supplemented by more than $40 billion in co-financing, for over 2,700 projects in more than 165 countries. During that period, GEF made more than 12,000 small grants directly to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations through its Small Grants Programme.

During the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, GEF financed 202 projects for a total of $3.03 billion, investing $552.37 million in GEF resources and mobilizing an additional $2.479 billion in co-financing from development partners. GEF approved 93 new projects in the climate change mitigation focal area; approximately $260 million in GEF Trust Fund resources was allocated to the projects, supplemented by an additional $1.585 billion in co-financing. It approved 67 projects in the biodiversity focal area, allocating $147 million in GEF funding, supplemented by $465 million in co-financing. GEF approved 16 new projects in the Pops focal area, allocating some $55 million for the projects, supplemented by $136 million generated in co-financing. In the international waters focal area, six new projects were approved, along with two other multi-focal projects with international waters components. Total allocations for those projects amounted to $22 million, supplemented by some $78 million generated in co-financing. GEF approved one new project in the ozone-depletion focal area, allocating some $9 million in GEF funding, supplemented by $12 million in co-financing; and one new project in the land degradation focal area, allocating approximately $3 million in GEF funding, supplemented by $5 million generated in co-financing. Fifteen multi-focal area projects were also approved by GEF; some $55 million in GEF funding was allocated for such projects, supplemented by $197 million in co-financing.

GEF, in its July report to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [FCCC/CP/2010/5], stated that negotiations for the GEF-5 replenishment concluded on 12 May, with 35 donors pledging $4.34 billion for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2014. Total new donor funding increased by 54 per cent over GEF-4. The GEF Council approved the GEF-5 replenishment agreement at its special meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in May. Its policy recommendations centred on enhancing country ownership and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the GEF network. At its June meeting, the GEF Council approved implementation measures for key GEF-5 reforms.

The fourth GEF Assembly was convened in Punta del Este from 25 to 26 May. It discussed two areas of reform: enhancing country ownership and improving GEF effectiveness and efficiency. The Assembly approved two amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, revising the process for the appointment of the GEF Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson and lengthening the term of that official to four years; and confirming the availability of GEF to serve as a financial mechanism for UNCCD.

In December [UNEP/GC.26/12], the UNEP Executive Director reported on the amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility. By a December note [UNEP/GC.26/INF/15], he submitted to the UNEP Governing Council documentation supporting the information provided in the report, including a letter from the GEF Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson requesting the Executive Director to facilitate the adoption of the amendments and report on progress.

**International conventions and mechanisms**

In a December note [UNEP/GC.26/INF/21 & Corr.1], the Executive Director explained the distribution and evolution of managerial and administrative authority in respect of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) administered by UNEP. He stated that UNEP provided treasury and other secretariat services to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and administrative services to MEAs relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its co-located agreements, as well as the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the regional seas programmes and associated conventions. Although the Executive Director had taken steps to augment UNEP administrative accountability and capacity, including through the creation of an Office of Operations, the majority of the central administrative services provided to those MEAs were through the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). The management and administrative relationship between UNEP and MEAs, however, had experienced considerable difficulty. In 2009, the Executive Director initiated the update of the administrative and accountability arrangements governing the UNEP relationship with MEAs. In the financial report and audited financial statements for