

GEF Funding Windows & Project Cycle Elements

March 2024



Global Environment Facility (GEF) in a nutshell

1) Financial Mechanism of the Environmental Multilateral Agreements



2) Global Partnership

184 countries

GEF Focal Points



18 Implementing Agencies



3) Track Record

- GEF created in **1991**
- **Over \$20 billion in grants + \$88 billion in co-financing**
- More than **5,000 projects in 170 countries**

+ Private sector, civil society, academic institutions

GEF Operational Focal Points



⊖ Focal Points

Each of the GEF member countries has designated government officials responsible for GEF activities and they serve as the liaison with the Secretariat and the GEF Agencies.

There are two types of GEF Focal Points: political and operational. All of the GEF member countries have Political Focal Points, while only recipient countries eligible for GEF support have Operational Focal Points.

GEF Political Focal Points focus mainly on governance, including policies and decisions, and relations between member countries within their constituencies. Usually, they are the ones who follow the Council discussions and represent their countries at the Assembly.

GEF Operational Focal Points are responsible for operations of GEF activities within their countries. This includes reviewing and endorsing project proposals to ensure they are in line with national priorities and strategies.

- [List of Focal Points](#)

GEF-8: Healthy Planet, Healthy People

Unified action towards 2030 Goals and Commitments



FOCAL AREAS

Biodiversity

Climate change
mitigation

Land
degradation

International
waters

Chemicals and
waste

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

Food Systems

Landscape Restoration

Sustainable Cities

Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes

Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution

Blue and Green Islands

Clean and Healthy Ocean

Greening Infrastructure Development

Net-Zero, Nature-Positive Accelerator

Wildlife Conservation for Development

Elimination of Harmful Chemicals from Supply Chains

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Mobilizing the Financial
Sector for Environmental
Goals through Blended
Finance

Community Action for
Global Transformation -
Small Grants Program
and Beyond

CROSS-CUTTING

Circular economy • Nature-based solutions • Gender responsiveness • Resilience • Private sector engagement

LAND DEGRADATION FOCAL AREA

GOAL

To avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation, desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Major objectives

Sustainable land management.
Landscape restoration.
Address Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), particularly in drylands.
Improve the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN.

Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Specific objective on addressing DLDD issues.
Increased emphasis on land-based interventions for drought mitigation.
Support for UNCCD Enabling Activities on top of STAR allocations

GEF-8 FINANCING TABLE



FOCAL AREA	US\$ Million	% of Total
Biodiversity	1919	36.0%
Climate Change Mitigation	852	16.0%
Land Degradation	618	11.6%
Chemicals and Waste	800	15.0%
International Waters	565	10.6%
TOTAL FOCAL AREA RESOURCES	4753	89.2%
Non-Grant Instruments Window	195	3.7%
Innovations Window	12	0.2%
Small Grants Program	155	2.9%
Country Engagement	28	0.5%
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	5143	96.5%
Corporate Budgets	187	3.5%
GRAND TOTAL	5330	100.0%

COUNTRY ALLOCATED FUNDING: STAR – GEF 8

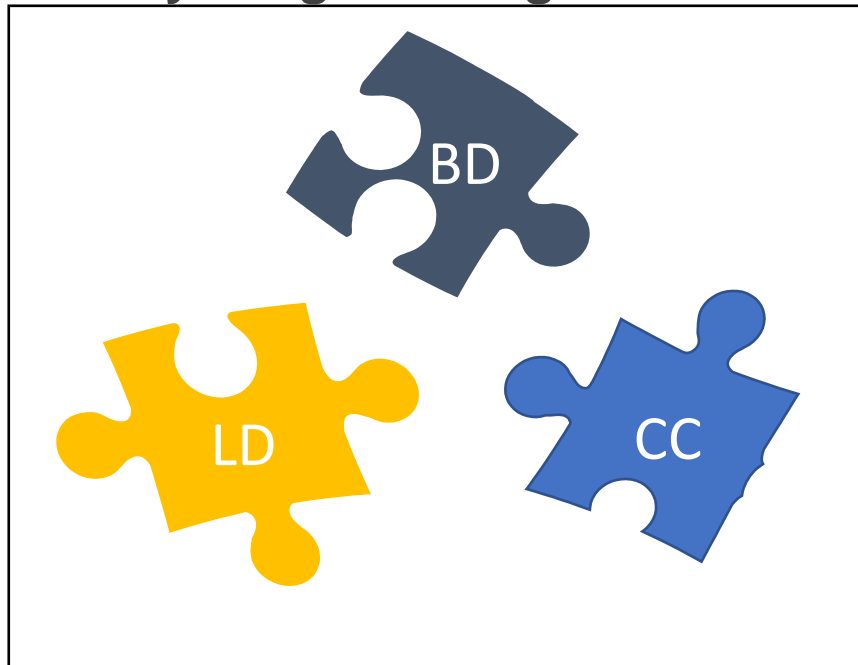


STAR = System for Transparent Allocation of Resources

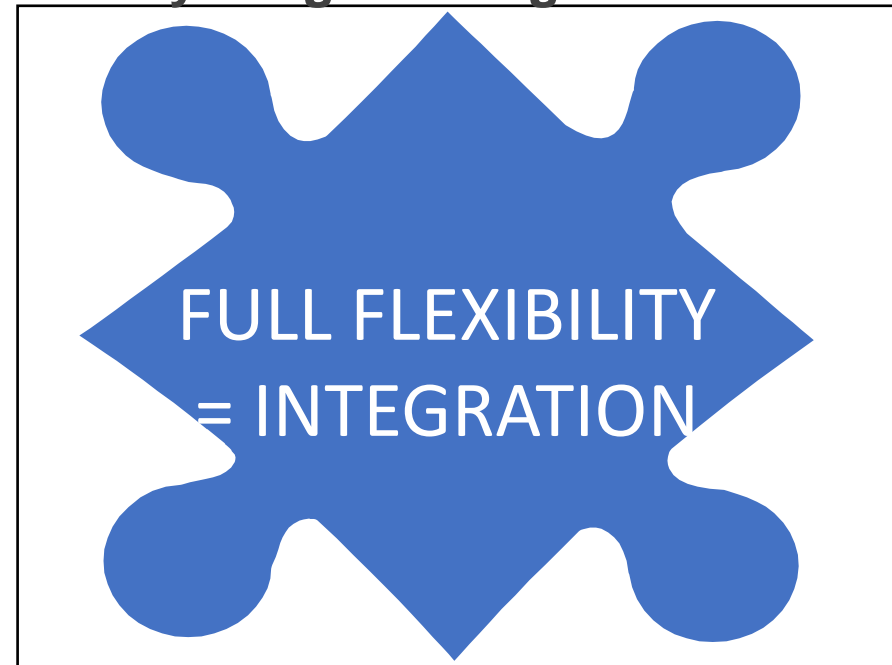
<https://www.thegef.org/publications/system-transparent-allocation-resources-star>

- GEF-8: Moving to More Flexibility in STAR programming

Country Programming



Country Programming



GEF Funding Modalities

Full-sized Project (FSP)

GEF project financing > 5 million US\$

Medium-sized Project (MSP)

GEF project financing \leq 5 million US\$

Program (PFD)

Set of national (child) projects that are linked and coordinated under a programmatic approach to achieve large-scale impacts

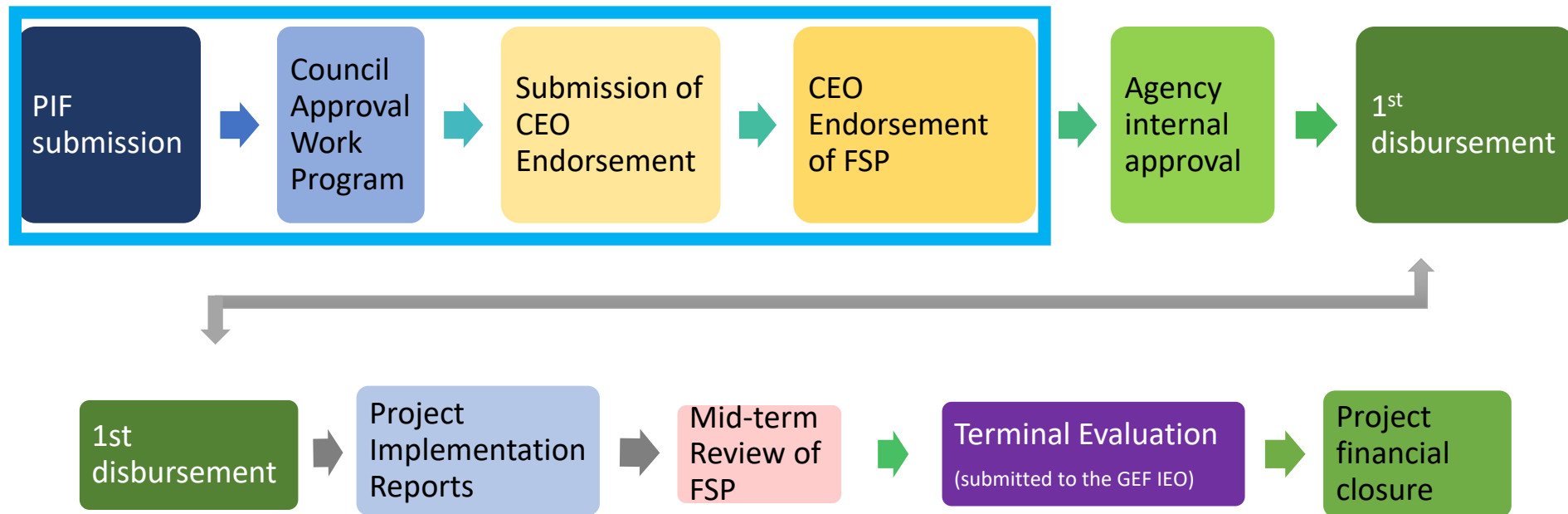
Enabling Activity (EA)

GEF financing for the preparation of a plan, strategy or report to fulfill commitments under a Convention

Example: GEF Project Cycle-Full-sized projects (FSP)



Project Preparation



=> Project Implementation

Important References

- GEF-8 Programming Directions: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-r-08-29-rev-01>
- GEF-8 Integrated Program Briefs: <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/gef-8-moving-toward-equitable-nature-positive-carbon-neutral-and-pollution>
- GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF for the GEF-8: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-ldcf-sccf-32-04-rev-01>
- General information on GEF project eligibility and access to funding: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/how-projects-work>
- Guidelines on Project and Program Cycle Policy: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf
- GEF-8 STAR allocations: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-63-inf-05>

Thank you!

For further information, contact the LD Team:



Ulrich Apel- Land Degradation Lead;
Europe, Central Asia, Middle East & Asia Regions
uapel@thegef.org

Asha Bobb-Semple – Environment Specialist, SIDS Lead
(Caribbean, Pacific and AIS) abobbsemples@thegef.org

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy- Senior Environment Specialist,
Africa Region jsinnassamy@thegef.org

Pascal Martinez – Senior Environment Specialist, Latin America Region
pmartinez2@thegef.org

