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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. www.thegef.org

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FOREWORD



ADRIANA DINU Photo by Christian Henry Wright.

2015 was a very important year for our planet! It was the year when world leaders collectively agreed to guide development towards more inclusive, resilient and sustainable pathways.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – agreed by nearly 200 nations in September 2015 – is built on a vision that connects people with the planet; development with the environment. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals will guide growth in ways that aim to end poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment. In December 2015, the same government leaders adopted the Paris Agreement, committing to zero net emissions of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century.

We must now take collective and coordinated action if we are to achieve the ambitious goals set by these new global agreements. Doing so will ensure inclusive development within planetary boundaries!

Our key partner in this journey continues to be the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF is a critical instrument in financing sustainable development given its ability to 'join the dots' between different international environmental conventions to address the drivers of environmental degradation. By investing in the environment with the GEF, UNDP is assisting developing countries in catalyzing multiple development benefits. Projects that focus on addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, or persistent organic pollutants, for example, also address critical development issues such as food security, poverty, and health. One issue cannot be sustainably tackled without investing in the others.

This eighth annual performance report demonstrates how investments in the environment in 141 countries are already delivering development benefits. Many of the reported results are being scaled up and replicated in other countries. South-South cooperation is also taking place. In addition, we are pleased to report that progress is being made to integrate gender equality into important policy frameworks as outlined in the Gender in Action section of this report.

I am inspired each and every day by the outstanding commitment of all of you involved in the work outlined in this report. Thank you, everyone! Indeed, the progress underway is a testament to your desire to make change happen now, and to deliver value for money to those who support us in this mission.



Adriana Dinu **Executive Coordinator** UNDP Global Environmental Finance Unit Sustainable Development Cluster Bureau for Policy and Programme Support **UNDP**

Alignment of Our Work with the Sustainable Development Goals



UNDP-GEF AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE ENERGY SERVICES

SCALING UP
CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION AND
MITIGATION

SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT OF
ECOSYSTEM GOODS
AND SERVICES

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE IMPROVED
WATER AND
OCEAN
GOVERNANCE











INTRODUCTION

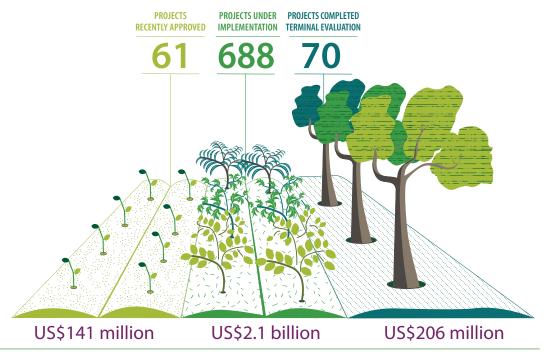
This eighth annual performance report has three primary goals: one, to provide a snapshot of progress made toward multiple development and environment benefits by projects in each region in 2015 - see Demonstrating Impact; two, to highlight progress made in addressing women, work and the environment - see Gender in Action; and three, to demonstrate the services UNDP provides to the vertical funds that it is accredited to, in particular the Global Environment Facility family of funds - see UNDP-GEF Unit.

In addition, development and environment benefits that have been realized through projects and that can be reasonably aggregated at the regional and/or global levels are presented in a series of infographics. New systems to report against the SDGs are being rolled out in 2016 and will be included in the 2016 Annual Performance Report of the UNDP-GEF Unit.

The 819 active projects within the scope of this report, which are listed in the Annex, represent a total grant investment of US\$2.52 billion. Combined with an additional US\$11.2 billion in co-financing, this represents US\$13.7 billion invested in the environment and sustainable development priorities of 141 countries.

Only a subset of the full 2015 cohort of projects could be highlighted in this short report. Stories from a range of projects have been woven together around a different theme in each region. Further details on the results achieved by the full cohort of projects, including the **UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants** Programme (SGP), can be found in other reports available on the UNDP website¹.

Portfolio of Projects Covered in this Report Planting the Seeds of Sustainable Development



91% of projects

that closed between 2010 and 2015 had project outcomes rated in the **satisfactory** range.

1 See www.undp.org



THE UNDP GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE (UNDP-GEF) UNIT



environmental vertical funds, UNDP established the Global Environmental Finance (UNDP-GEF) Unit in the Sustainable Development Cluster of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS). The objective of the **UNDP-GEF** Unit is to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion, by catalyzing environmental finance for sustainable development. The expected outcomes of the UNDP-GEF Business Plan 2014-2018 cover five key areas, aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan and the GEF programming directions, namely:

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