

THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

A partnership for green energy
and the environment



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Energy access and energy security, climate change and environmentally-sustainable development have steadily gained visibility and attention at the national, as well as international level.

They are also central to economic and social development, and particularly to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Reconciling the legitimate aspirations of both individuals and nations to move out of poverty and create wealth, with our planet's finite resources, has become an overarching challenge for the global community.

Profound changes are underway to transform the way we supply, transform, deliver and use natural resources, including energy—a trend that a revitalized global dialogue on environmental issues can reinforce, leading to a sustainable future for all with multiple co-benefits, including for development, human health, environment and climate.

UNIDO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations system with a mandate to promote and support sustainable industrial development, has been working closely with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address global challenges associated with energy, climate change, phasing out of ozone depleting substances and the production and use of persistent organic pollutants in around 90 countries.

This brochure on the UNIDO-GEF cooperation and partnership will give readers a better and more holistic



understanding of the work we do together. It demonstrates the GEF's pivotal role in providing technical cooperation and financial support to programmes in different thematic focal areas. The publication also advocates the role and impact of projects under the UNIDO-GEF partnership.

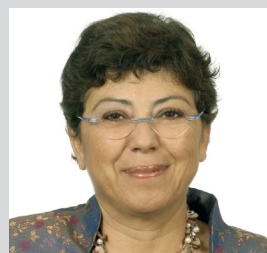
I am confident that we will develop new projects and initiatives in the relevant focal areas for the benefit of our Member States.

Kandeh K. Yumkella
UNIDO
Director-General

This year the GEF marks its 20th anniversary. These two decades have shown that operating as a network has allowed the GEF to draw on the expertise and capacities of civil society and the private sector, as well as multilateral development banks and United Nations agencies, including UNIDO.

This year also marks another important milestone in GEF's history. Five years ago, in December 2006, the GEF Council granted UNIDO direct access to the GEF trust fund resources and recognized UNIDO's comparative advantage in being able to link the issues of energy efficiency, renewable energy, POPs, ODS, and sustainable development within the context of industrial sectors. Since then UNIDO has enhanced the GEF portfolio in a myriad of ways—specifically by ensuring green industrial growth across the developing world.

The West Africa Energy Programme, for example, which focuses on renewable energy and energy efficiency in 18 West African countries, most of which are Least Developed Countries, targets energy access activities for the poor, through nationally-prioritized efforts. West Africa of course is just part of the story. Today, UNIDO has the responsibility for close to US\$1 billion of GEF leveraged funding. This includes GEF grants for GEF-supported projects under various focal areas, as well as significant co-financing from other sources, including the private sector.



Monique Barbut,
Global Environment Facility,
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairperson

UNIDO has proven to be a solid partner of GEF, and we are sure our ties will develop further. Working together with UNIDO we can boost energy efficiency, tackle existing barriers to renewable energy technologies, and promote energy access to the poor.

Monique Barbut
Global Environment Facility
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

The cooperation between UNIDO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

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Introduction: UNIDO–GEF collaboration

Through its strategic work under the energy and environment thematic area, UNIDO has fostered a strong partnership with the Global Environment Facility.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, which works to promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition. UNIDO groups its activities within the following three thematic areas: Poverty reduction through productive activities, Trade Capacity-Building, and Energy and environment. It is through its strategic work under the energy and environment thematic area that UNIDO was able to foster a strong partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Established in 1991, the GEF, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, is considered to be the largest funder of projects that benefit the global environment, providing grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for initiatives falling into the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, chemicals (comprises persistent organic pollutants (POPs), ozone depleting substances (ODS) and sound chemical management including mercury).

Since its establishment, the GEF has allocated US\$9.2 billion, supplemented by over US\$40 billion in co-financing, for more than 2,700 projects in more than 165 countries. The GEF trust fund is replenished every four years. The fifth replenishment of the GEF (for the GEF-5 phase 2010-2014) has been the most successful one in GEF's history.

As of November 2010, the level of new donor pledges for GEF-5 amounted to US\$3.54 billion which is equivalent to a 53.4 per cent increase over the GEF-4 level. This enabled the total GEF-5 replenishment to reach US\$4.34 billion.

UNIDO's cooperation with the GEF dates back to the 1990s when UNIDO acted as an Executing Agency (EA) of the GEF, executing UNDP, UNEP, and World Bank-implemented projects in GEF's climate change, chemicals and international waters focal areas. In this capacity UNIDO offered services through its technical branches (in the current organizational structure the branches are the Energy and Climate Change Branch, the Environmental Management Branch and the Montreal Protocol Branch within the energy and environment thematic area).

UNIDO's partnership with the GEF was enhanced in 2000, when at its fifteenth meeting the GEF Council, taking into account UNIDO's comparative advantage in the area of POPs and sound chemical management, expanded UNIDO's status as an EA and granted it with the opportunity to directly access resources for preparation and implementation of POPs projects under GEF's chemicals focal area.

As a result, UNIDO developed a strong POPs portfolio, covering a wide range of activities, including preparation and implementation of the National Implementation Plans (NIPs), capacity-building for POPs assessment, as well as implementing the BAT/BEP (best available technologies/best environmental practices) activities to reduce or eliminate POPs emissions and wastes.

Following that, in 2006, at the GEF's thirtieth Council meeting, based on its recognized comparative advantage, UNIDO was granted direct access to the GEF climate change, biodiversity (under the biotechnology window), international waters, chemicals, and ODS focal area funding on an equal basis with the rest of the GEF Agencies. This decision provided UNIDO with a unique

opportunity to enhance the impacts and potential synergies of its GEF portfolio through development and implementation of projects under the GEF focal areas: Climate Change Mitigation, Chemicals (POPs, ODS phase out and sound management of chemicals including mercury, as well as international waters.

Today, Energy and Climate Change Branch's GEF portfolio supports projects in GEF's climate change focal area that focus on (i) providing access to modern energy services for the poor through rural energy for productive use with emphasis on renewable energy; (ii) increasing productivity and competitiveness through improving industrial energy efficiency projects; and (iii) reducing GHG emissions through capacity-building projects which respond to the UNFCCC guidance.

Complementing that, the Environmental Management Branch continues to expand its portfolio under GEF chemicals and international waters focal areas by offering technical and capacity-building support in the areas of (i) cleaner and sustainable production; (ii) POPs management and disposal; and (iii) water management, focusing on water resources use, sustainable use of integrated trans-boundary river basins, wetlands, coastal zones and large marine ecosystems, and recovery and sustainable management of industrial fisheries.

Moreover the GEF-UNIDO portfolio is further enhanced through the work of the Montreal Protocol Branch, which offers technical assistance and institutional support for management and destruction of ODS in economies in transition, with the GEF's ODS focal area. Finally, it should be mentioned that UNIDO-GEF

Although UNIDO has not implemented any GEF projects under its poverty reduction through productive activities and trade capacity-building thematic priorities, the GEF-UNIDO projects under the energy and environment thematic pillar have had positive spillover effects and have contributed towards the overall objectives of the two former pillars.

For instance UNIDO-GEF cooperation promoting renewable energy resources in rural communities have contributed towards the broader goal of poverty reduction by allowing communities to use energy for productive use. Similarly, projects promoting industrial resource- and energy-efficiency, as well as cleaner and sustainable production techniques, have helped many industries to become more competitive, thus allowing them to benefit from increased trade flows.

Finally, UNIDO-GEF partnership has benefited UNIDO not only in terms of providing it with direct access to GEF funding for UNIDO's technical cooperation projects, but also in terms of helping UNIDO to comply with the GEF fiduciary standards, which are consistent with international best practice. It was in November 2010, when the GEF Council acknowledged that UNIDO has complied with all GEF fiduciary standards and is currently in the process of further refining the implementation of its financial management and control frameworks. This Council decision was once again confirmed during the GEF's fortieth Council meeting in May 2011.

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