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UNEP is an Implementing Agency of the GEF with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is the only GEF Agency whose sole focus is the environment.

UNEP plays a key role in supporting countries to develop and execute GEF projects, with a focus on:

- Scientific assessments, monitoring, early warning;
- Linking science to policy (Capacity Building, Enabling Activities) at national, regional and global levels;
- Innovation, technology transfer and lifting barriers;
- Regional and global cooperation;
- Awareness raising, advocacy, and Knowledge management.

UNEP also plays an important role in supporting the strategic and policy directions of the GEF, operationalising the Trust Fund and enhancing its scientific rigour and relevance. UNEP hosts the secretariat of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

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UNEP and GEF

in climate change



Regional and Global Cooperation

Many of our projects are global and regional in nature. To start technology transfer usually involves two or more countries, while best practice models for financing and business require a broad base of experience and conditions to identify robust widely applicable best practices. So we have been working in over 30 countries to collect these best practices.

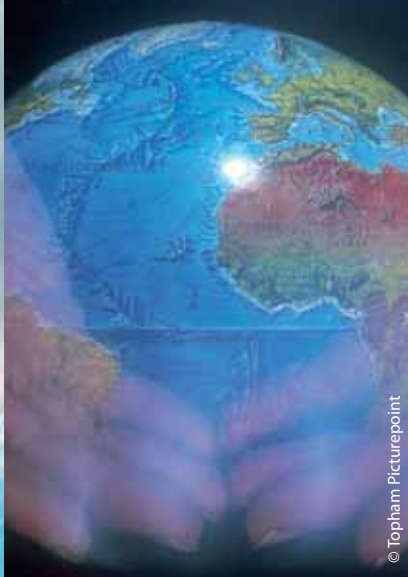
UNEP and GEF-V

In July 2010 the fifth replenishment period of the GEF will begin. This period offers new and innovative ways in which UNEP can continue to work with countries in: energy efficiency; renewable energy; the transport sector and land use, land use change, and forestry to reduce green house gas emissions; and priority measures to help vulnerable countries adapt to climate change.





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Linking science to Policy

Over 180 countries have prepared inventories of their green house gases using guidelines prepared by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC is hosted by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). UNEP then rolled these guidelines out in a number of countries through training to enhance the quality and accuracy of inventories.

One of UNEP's early interventions in adaptation was to help least developed countries build their scientific expertise and analysis as a building block for their National Action Plans for Adaption (NAPAs). More needs to be done and UNEP is now looking to build a network of adaptation scientists and practitioners to help countries strengthen their adaptation plans, policies and implement priority actions.

We are hosting a centre of excellence together with the private sector to advise governments on best policy

options to promote energy efficient lighting, drawing on state of the art science and technology available. UNEP plans to work in a number of countries to help them adapt and implement these best practices, including countries in East Africa, where energy efficiency in the home and in businesses makes a big difference to budgets.

Climate Change Planning and Reporting

UNEP has enormous geographical and thematic breadth in helping countries to do their climate change planning. In mitigation, UNEP has helped 40 countries to complete their green house gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessments and to prepare their National Communications, and we are now about to support a further 35 to 45 countries to do enhanced Technology Needs Assessments.

UNEP has supported 13 countries in drafting their National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) and identify their adaptation priorities. The depth and breadth of experience with many countries over a full range of climate change planning makes UNEP a strong partner to help countries with future climate change plans and reporting.

Innovation, technology transfer and lifting barriers

UNEP has a broad portfolio of ongoing work to transfer a range of technologies to developing countries. For example, UNEP has developed a network of agents to promote transfer of green technologies between developing countries. We are supporting the uptake of small hydro power and cogeneration in Eastern, Southern and West Africa. We are working in Cuba to promote biomass and wind technologies and we are promoting bus rapid transit on three continents. Together with academia and governments we have supported first, techniques to reduce the cost of geothermal exploration, and now we are working with the World Bank and governments in Africa's rift valley countries to invest in geothermal power generation. Conscious that business is a big driver of technology transfer and the need for investment to drive the transfer of technology, UNEP has a number of projects to test business models and provide innovative financing solutions. Put together, UNEP's experience ranges from R&D through to investment and finance in a number of technologies.