



World Bank GEF Operations: 2011 Overview

Established as a \$1 billion pilot program in October 1991, the GEF has, over 20 years, allocated nearly \$10 billion to support protection of the global environment and promote environmentally sustainable development around the world. The World Bank has helped to channel \$4.9 billion of this total to client programs.

The 40th GEF Council Meeting, held in May, approved \$145 million of its total \$190 million work program for implementation through the World Bank. This brought Bank FY 11 GEF Council, plus LDCF and SCCF Adaptation Funds approvals, to US \$212 million. The largest share of the total (\$101 million) was allocated to a multi-focal area program for 12 West Africa and Sahel countries that aims to increase productivity and climate resilience through agriculture, environment, and water resource sector projects. Climate change initiatives in EAP, AFR, ECA and LAC secured \$88 million for mitigation and adaptation projects. Biodiversity conservation (MNA), land degradation (ECA) and POPs (EAP) projects received an additional \$23 million.

The work program approved by the 41st GEF Council Meeting, held in November, as well as those approved by the LDCF and SCCF, resulted in \$172 million in approvals for implementation through the World Bank. Once again, the largest share of the total (79%) was allocated to multi-focal area programs. The Bank will support implementation of the Desert Ecosystems for Livelihoods Program in MNA (\$21 m) and the Marine Ecosystems Partnerships in EAP (\$44 m), as well as participate as a co-implementing agency in the ARCTIC GEF-Russian Federation Partnership (UNEP lead), Greater Mekong Sub-region Forests and Biodiversity in East Asia (ABD lead), and Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (FAO lead). Biodiversity conservation activities in LAC received another 11%, a POPs project in EAP 7%, and climate change mitigation activities in AFR 3% of the total.