



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

GEF Support to Forest and Landscape Restoration



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**CONFERENCE ON FOREST MONITORING AND RESTORATION
IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

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Ongoing GEF Support to Restoration

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- Since GEF-5 (2010) restoration is eligible for GEF funding and increasingly requests were made by developing countries
- Since GEF-6 (2014) GEF's SFM program supported restoration through a dedicated "The Restoration Initiative" (with IUCN, FAO, UNEP)
- Since GEF-7 (2018) restoration is funded through Impact Programs and Land Degradation focal area projects
- In total ~10 million ha of land under restoration through GEF support, with ~ \$650 million investments in the past 10 years.
- Caucasus and Central Asia: projects with restoration components in Uzbekistan (Aral sea basin), Kazakhstan (drylands), Armenia (degraded forest), Georgia (rangelands). Projects are often landscape management projects with some restoration activities



Common Features of GEF support

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- GEF programming is country driven and projects based on country ownership (each country has a “STAR” allocation)
- Project application go through national GEF focal points (see www.thegef.org) and are made through GEF accredited agencies
- GEF is serving the Rio Conventions as financial mechanism
- Projects need to achieve multiple benefits for the global environment (often landscape management projects)
- Enable supportive policies and public sector role
- GEF project grants require co-financing by governments and implementation partners
- Private sector is an important partner in restoration efforts

Future of GEF support

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- GEF is a partner in the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and member of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)
- Bonn Challenge pledges are an important selection criteria for funding
- In the current GEF-7 cycle (2018 -2022) about \$350 million of GEF grants are being made available for restoration activities, based on country requests within their allocations
- The majority of remaining GEF resources in this cycle has been committed, new resources will be available in GEF-8 (2022 – 2026)
- GEF is planning to continue supporting restoration activities based on countries request and especially in support of the Bonn Challenge in GEF-8 (2022 – 2026)





- GEF is prioritizing support for nature-based solutions to address environmental issues, using cost-efficient approaches.
- GEF invests in natural ecosystems to maintain ecosystem services and will expand investment in restoration, especially to support local communities' livelihoods.
- Scaling up financing for nature-based solutions is a major priority for the GEF.
- As countries plan how to reset their economies after the COVID-19 pandemic, GEF can help governments and other partners steer growth in a more sustainable direction, with policy advice and data.



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**Thank you – please contact me
for further questions!**
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