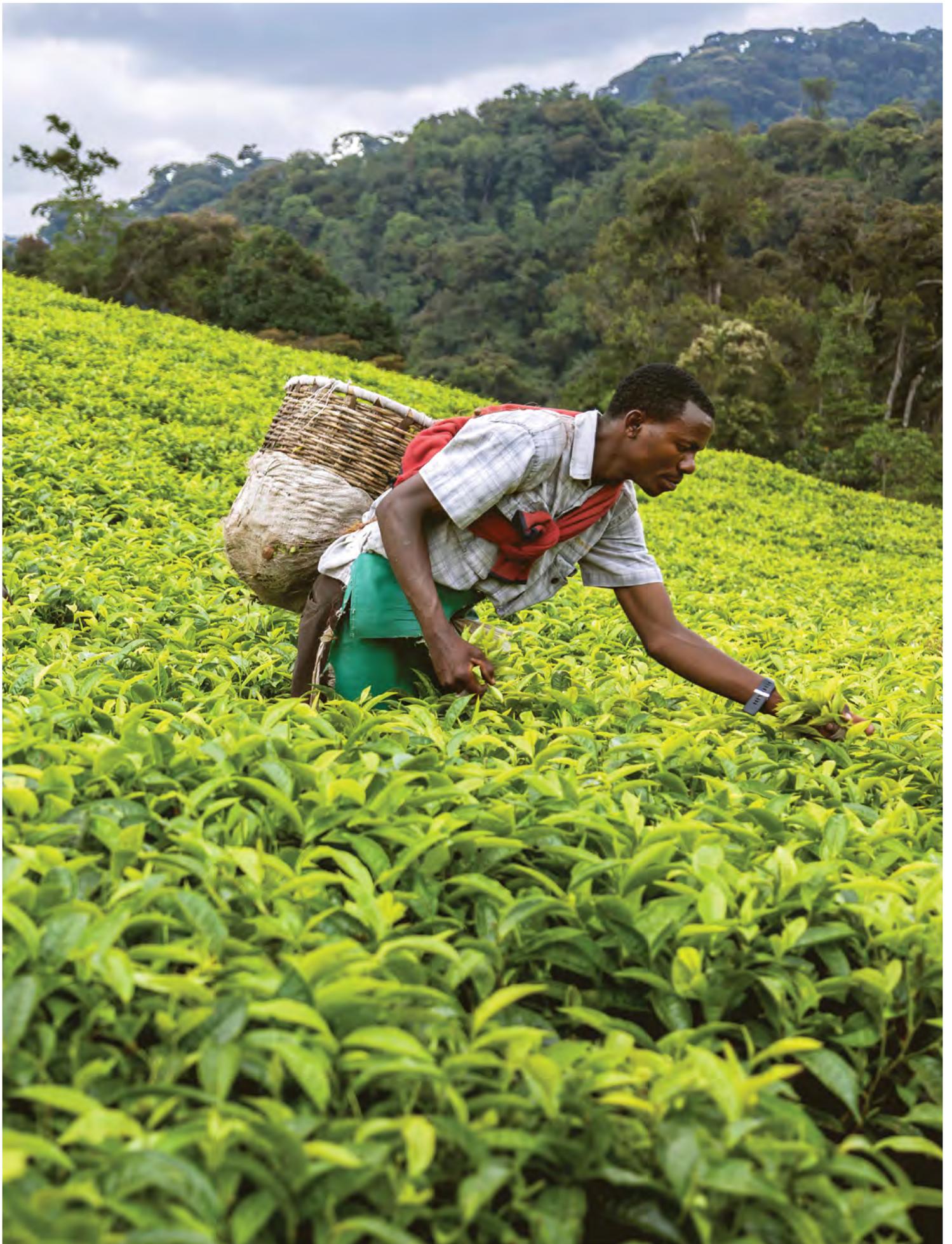




# 27 YEARS OF Biodiversity in Africa



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



# FOREWORD



**NAOKO ISHII**

CEO and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility

For the past 27 years, the GEF has supported African countries' efforts to protect their incredible biological riches in line with their commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity. To date, the GEF has built a robust portfolio of 380 projects biodiversity conservation projects in Africa, for a total value \$1.2 billion while also leveraging \$7 billion in financing from other sources. This publication summarizes these projects and investments and provides examples of successful or unique projects in the GEF's different thematic areas: protected areas, mainstreaming of biodiversity in the productive sector, wildlife conservation, fisheries, the Nagoya Protocol, the Cartagena Protocol, and the Small Grants Program.

However, we must recognize that our efforts have not been enough. Africa is losing biodiversity at alarming rates and is not on track to reach many of the 2020 Aichi Targets. The reality is that our efforts have not been commensurate with the scale and speed of the forces that are driving biodiversity loss: Habitat conversion, urban expansion, unsustainable land and forest management practices, poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and climate change all pose significant challenges Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems.

Looking ahead, changing this trajectory requires a profound transformation of our key economic systems--in our food, energy, urban, and production and consumption systems. Only a systems change approach to changing the way we manage and use our land, water and forests will help safeguard biodiversity, in Africa and globally. This is exactly what our new next investment cycle, GEF-7, intends to do through our Impact Programs focusing on Food and Land-use, on Drylands, on the key biomes like the Congo Basin, and a renewed focus on combatting poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

This report thus does not simply compile our work thus far, but rather illuminates the opportunities we have to invest in Africa's future. While we must be cognizant of the significant challenges ahead, I believe that we are well-positioned to make a real positive difference for Africa's biodiversity and sustainable development, and thereby help safeguard our Global Commons.





# INTRODUCTION

The GEF has been supporting the implementation of commitments of the African parties to the the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since its inception. The GEF has thus positioned itself as one of the main funders for biodiversity conservation on the continent, with a robust portfolio of 380 projects worth \$1.27 billion of Biodiversity resources (plus \$0.5 billion from other focal areas) and leveraging \$7 billion in co-financing. Of these projects, 322 are country-based (\$977 million and \$6.5 billion in co-financing), and the rest are either regional or global projects with the participation of African countries. These are 58 projects that amount to GEF \$295 million leveraging \$426 million in co-financing.

This publication summarizes these projects and investments and provides examples of successful or unique projects in the GEF's different thematic areas: protected areas, mainstreaming of biodiversity in the productive sector, wildlife conservation, fisheries, the Nagoya Protocol, the Cartagena Protocol, and the Small Grants Program. In addition to the recapitulation of the investment in the last 27 years, this publication summarizes the opportunities of investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use via the Impact Programs (IP). The IPs are programs integrating goals pertinent to the three Rio conventions with the objective of conserving biodiversity, slowing land degradation, and mitigating the emission of greenhouse gases.





# PROTECTED AREAS

## CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

One of the main pillars and successes of the GEF Biodiversity strategies over the last 27 years has been supporting the creation and effective management of the Protected Area Systems, buffer zones around protected areas, and biological corridors. The areas have both protected biodiversity and rendered direct and indirect benefits to local communities and indigenous peoples.

The GEF has provided financial and technical assistance to eligible countries for the creation and/or effective management of terrestrial, coastal, and marine protected areas in 48 of Africa's 54 countries. The GEF has invested more than \$543 million in projects almost exclusively dedicated to protected areas, and more than \$287 million in projects combining activities on protected areas with mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry, agriculture, and tourism. All in all, more than \$500 million dollars, or 40 percent of the funds in Biodiversity conservation, have been invested in the creation and management of Protected Areas in Africa. These GEF investments have leveraged nearly \$1 billion in co-financing.

The GEF has contributed to the **creation of over 160 protected areas** (terrestrial, coastal, and marine) covering an area of over 9 million hectares, and in the **effective management of over 540 areas** covering an area of nearly **290 million hectares**.

Of the areas created, **100 are terrestrial**, (including National Parks, Game Reserves, Wildlife Management Areas, Ramsar sites, Conservancies, Biosphere and Game Reserves, and Fauna and Forest and Special Reserves) covering nearly 4 million hectares. Of the areas invested in improving their management effectiveness **480 areas are terrestrial**, covering nearly 280 million hectares. The rest are coastal and marine.

## TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREAS

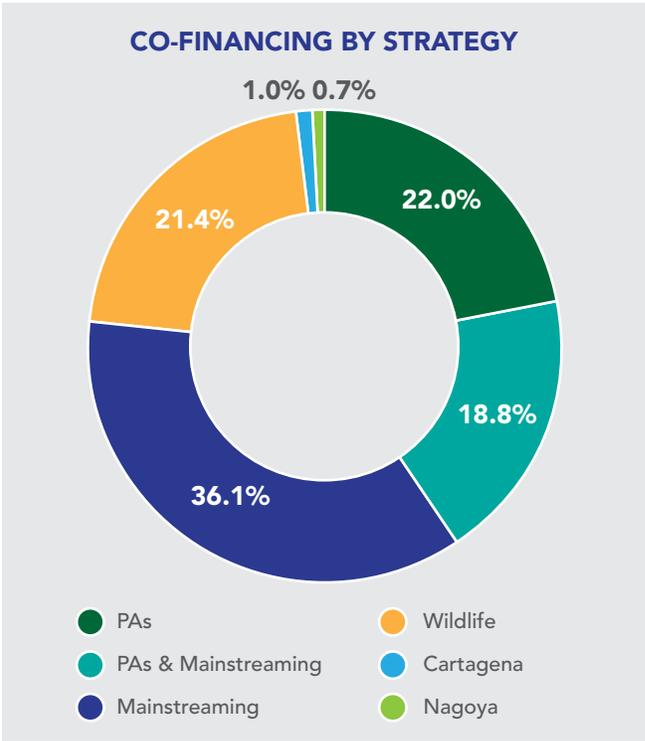
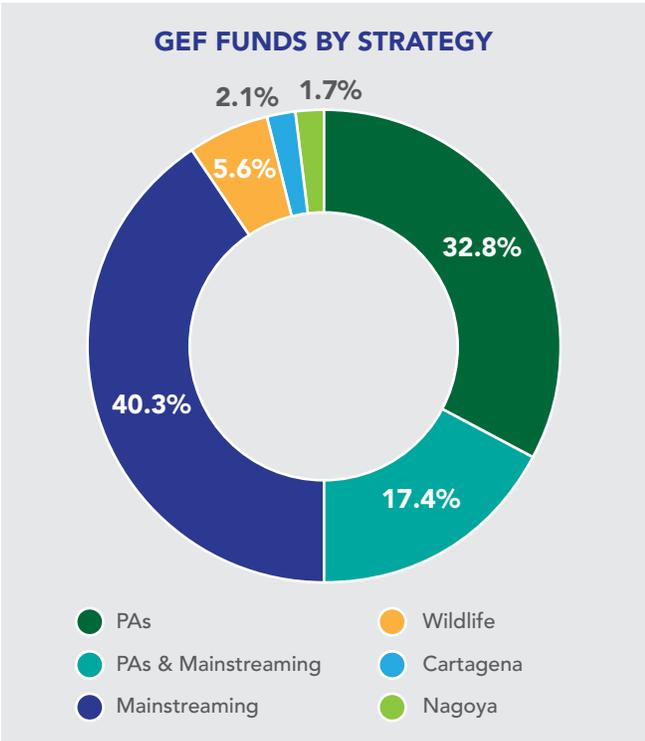
The GEF has invested in regional initiatives on Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas, primarily across Central and West Africa. These projects have invested in spatial planning, capacity building, law enforcement, and monitoring. A total of 41 terrestrial protected areas covering 16 million hectares have benefited from these regional projects. Total GEF funding allocated to these projects amount to \$27 million of biodiversity funds with an additional \$5 million from other focal areas (Climate Change, Land Degradation, and Sustainable Forest Management). These GEF resources have leveraged \$124 million in co-financing.

### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS

The GEF has financed efforts by 10 countries to develop and implement strategies targeting the financial sustainability of their Protected Area systems (see Box 1 and Table 1).

TABLE 1. Countries where the GEF has invested financial resources in support of the financial sustainability of the Protected Area System

COUNTRY	PROJECT
Botswana	Strategic Partnerships to Improve the Financial and Operational Sustainability of Protected Areas
Egypt	Strengthening Protected Area Financing and Management Systems
Ethiopia	Sustainable Development of the Protected Area System
Guinea	Strengthening the Financial and Operational Framework of the National PA System in Guinea-Bissau
Mozambique	Sustainable Financing of the Protected Area System in Mozambique
Namibia	Strengthening the Protected Area Network (SPAN)
Seychelles	Seychelles' Protected Areas Finance Project
Swaziland	Strengthening the National Protected Areas System of Swaziland
Sudan	Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan
Zambia	Effective Management of the National Protected Areas System
Regional	Congo Basin Strategic Program: Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin



## BOX 1. Sustainable Financing of the Protected Area System in Namibia

The GEF invested \$17 million in three sequential projects to strengthen the Protected Areas (PA) system in Namibia between 2006 and 2018. The projects aimed at: i) improving the management effectiveness of the national system of protected areas by putting in place national policies and institutional capacity to support an effective PA system, ii) establishing Protected Landscape Conservation Areas by promoting biodiversity conservation and community benefits in protected areas, privately-owned farms, and community-managed conservancies, and iii) strengthening long-term financial sustainability of the protected area system and preparedness to emerging threats, including poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. Among the most significant results were: i) improved management effectiveness across 98 percent of the PA network; ii) a new Wildlife Protection Training Centre at Waterberg Plateau National Park, that delivered targeted law enforcement training and established anti-poaching patrols and camps; iii) significantly reduced elephant and rhino poaching through capacity building; iv) a four-fold budget increase for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for PA management via a 25 percent of park entrance fees through the Game Products Trust Fund; v) new protected areas to bring national coverage to 17 percent of land area and increased protection of under-represented biomes such as Succulent Karoo; vi) five Landscape Conservation Areas covering some 3.5 million hectares, bringing together public and private land managed for conservation, and supported by agreed collaborative governance arrangements, management plans, and revenue generation and benefit-sharing mechanisms. The Government of Namibia was the key co-financer for all three projects, supported by commitments from UNDP, KfW Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Cheetah Conservation Fund, and the private sector (e.g. Namib Rand Nature Reserve and Gondwana Collection).

### GEF RESOURCES AND CO-FINANCING INVESTED IN AFRICA

African Regions	GEF BIODIVERSITY \$	GEF TOTAL \$	CO-FINANCING \$
NORTH	78,632,193	99,960,553	236,822,029
EAST	328,572,112	434,935,942	1,942,706,123
SOUTH	251,512,612	329,470,329	1,555,739,603
WEST	175,541,753	289,329,478	1,617,678,061
CENTRAL	215,602,529	310,522,506	1,004,787,639
GLOBAL PROJECTS	50,691,681	101,755,212	275,139,088
REGIONAL PROJECTS	157,655,804	200,818,578	434,024,493
<b>GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>1,258,208,685</b>	<b>1,766,792,598</b>	<b>7,066,897,036</b>

As part of the plans to achieve financial sustainability of the protected areas system, some countries have invested in the creation and capitalization of Conservation Trust Funds: legally independent institutions that provide sustainable financing

for biodiversity conservation. These funds provide financial resources to cover the recurrent costs of the management of protected areas, as well as conservation activities and sustainable development initiatives outside PAs (Table 2).

TABLE 2. **GEF-Supported Conservation Trust Funds**

Benin	The West African Savannah Foundation Endowment Conservation Trust Fund
Congo DR	Okapi Fund
Cote D'Ivoire	Foundation for National Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire
Gambia	National Biodiversity Trust Fund
Guinea Bissau	BioGuinea Foundation
Madagascar	Madagascar Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity
Malawi	Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust
Mozambique	BIOFUND
South Africa	Table Mountain Fund
Tanzania	Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund
Uganda	Bwindi-Mgahinga Impenetrable Forest Conservation Trust
Regional	Congo Basin Forest Fund
Regional	Fondation Tri-National de la Sang



## BOX 2: BIOFUND Mozambique

The BIOFUND FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY of Mozambique was established in 2011 and is the strategic partner of the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC). The trust fund was created thanks to the financial support of the Global Conservation Fund of Conservation International, AFD, KfW, WWF and, later, by the GEF-UNDP project *Project for sustainable financing of the system of protected areas in Mozambique* (ProFin). After it was legally established and consolidated, BIOFUND received contributions to constitute its investment fund (endowment) from KfW, Global Conservation Fund of Conservation International and the GEF-World Bank project. The endowment received \$3.2 million from the GEF during the first phase (2014-2018). The BIOFUND Endowment has been growing steadily: from \$10.6 million in 2014 to \$33.7 million in 2018, mostly due to financial investments adequately managed by a professional asset manager, but also thanks to additional contributions from KfW (totaling Euros 14 million). Thanks to the establishment of the endowment and the institutional support of various donors, BIOFUND has been able to rapidly build operational structures and establish robust disbursing procedures to select and provide grants directly to the protected areas. Disbursements since 2016 total over \$2 million and currently supporting partial operational recurrent costs (except salaries) of 10 of the 19 protected areas in the country.

## REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND MULTIFOCAL AREA PROGRAMS

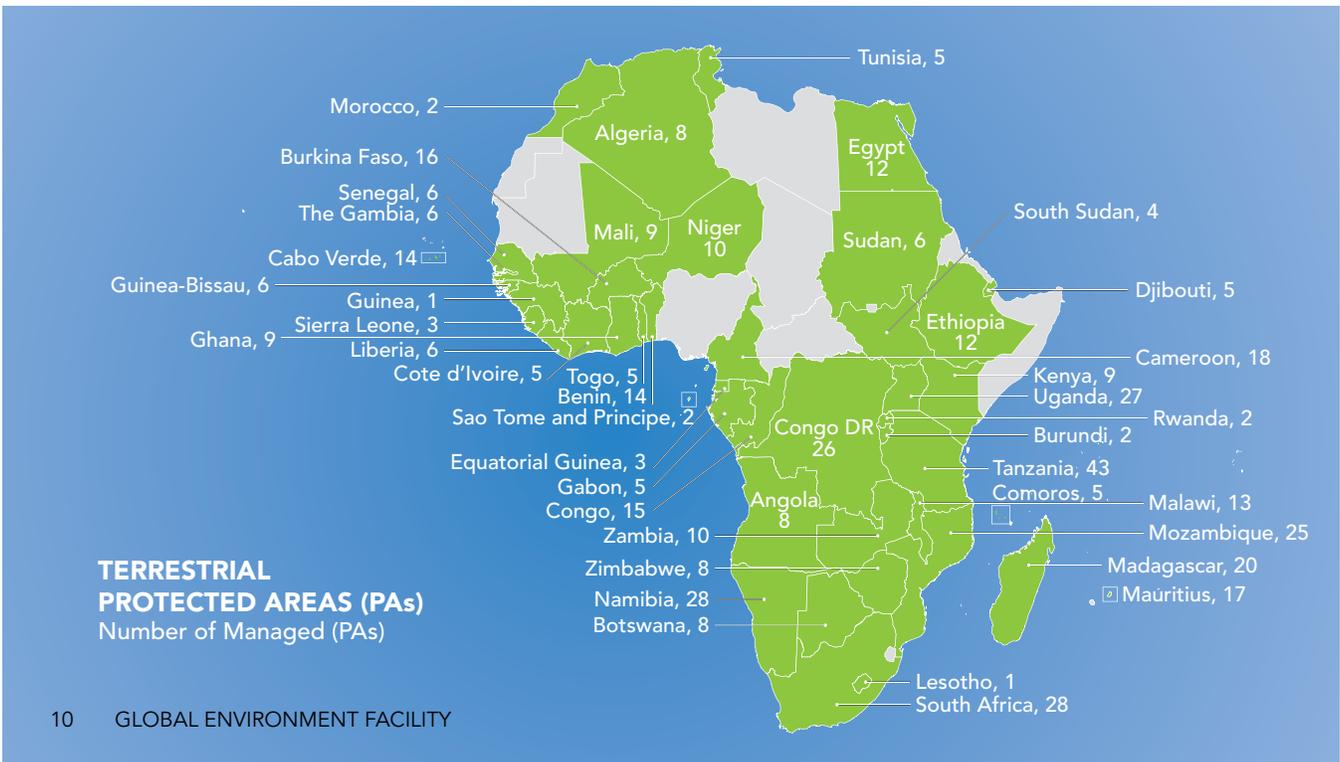
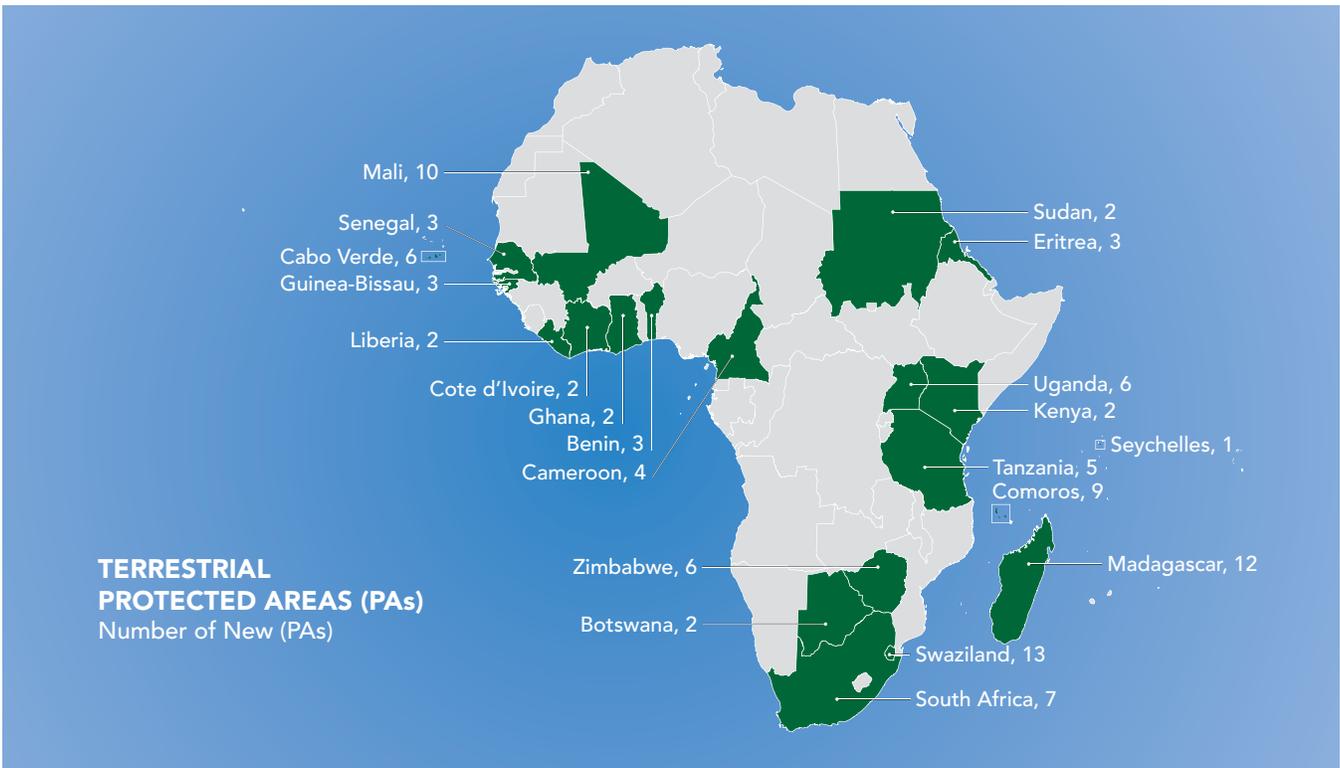
The Congo Basin Strategic Program (CBSP) for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin was introduced to reverse the deforestation and degradation of ecosystems, maintain ecosystem functioning, and conserve ecosystem values such as the biodiversity and carbon-based capital of the region for the benefit of local communities and indigenous people, whose livelihoods depend on the forest resources. This program was organized along three components: i) Maintaining ecosystem functions and values in the regional network of protected areas; ii) Fostering sustainable management and use of forest and water resources, and iii) Strengthening the policy, regulatory, institutional, and sustainable financing framework for sustainable ecosystem management. Under this program, the GEF supported the creation of 1 PA (20,000 ha) and the effective management of 30 PAs totaling 5.4 million hectares. The total program, composed of 6 regional and 6 country-based projects, was supported with GEF \$52 million leveraging \$177 million in co-financing.

The 2008 Strategic Program for West Africa (SPWA) Subcomponent on Biodiversity had three objectives: i) Reduce poverty among communities residing in and around protected areas; ii) Mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes and sectors; and iii) Consolidate protected area networks. The GEF invested \$19.3 million, leveraging \$84 million in co-financing in the creation of 8 new PAs (ca. 405,000 ha), 1 MPA and in the effective management of 36 new and existing PAs (5.8 million hectares) and 5 MPAs. Total co-financing was above \$84 million.



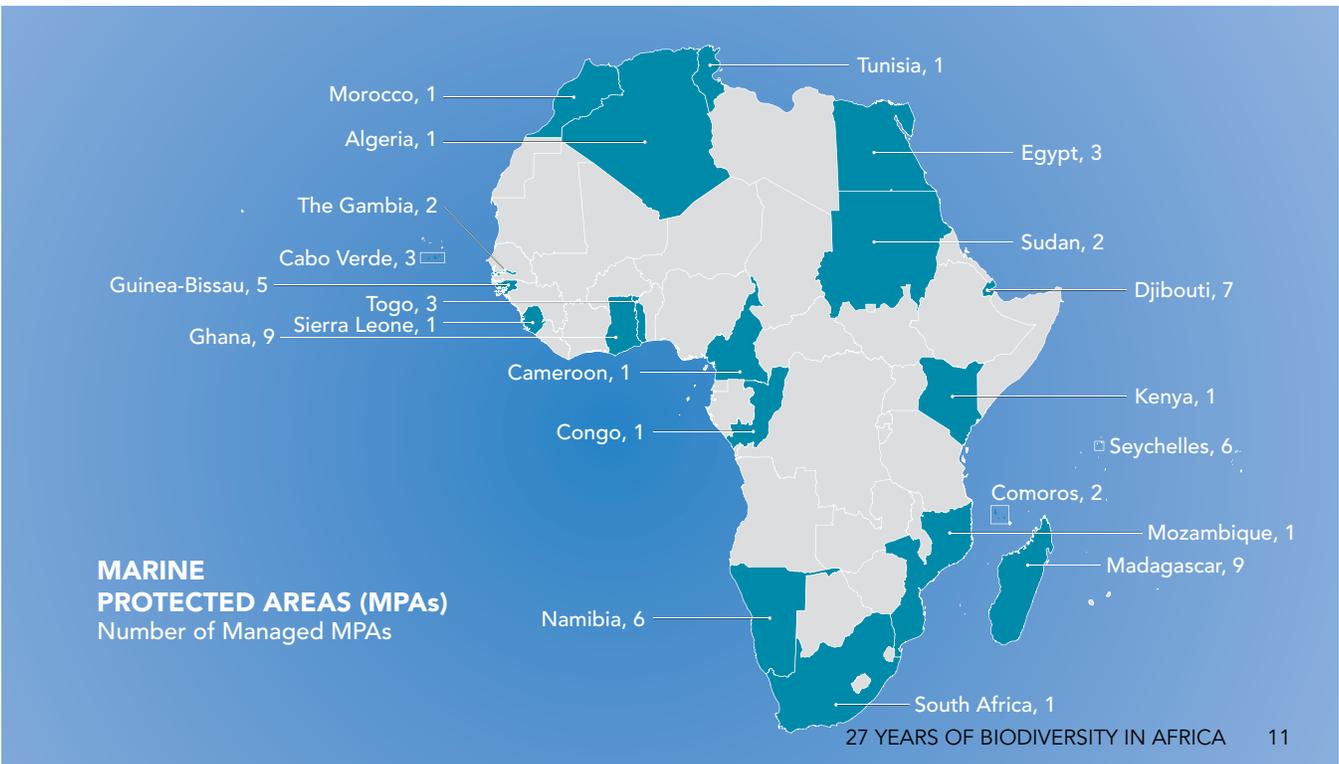
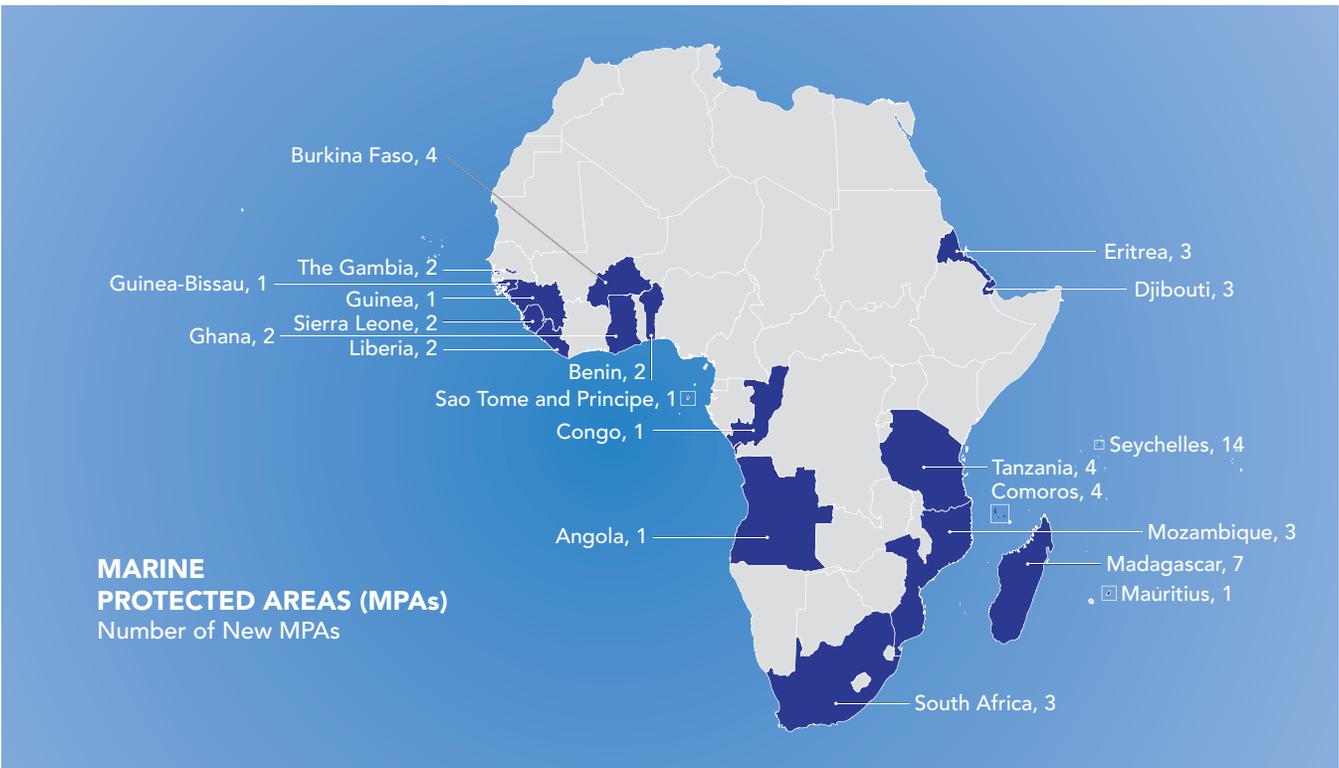
## TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS

African Regions	Creation		Improved Management	
	Number	Area (ha)	Number	Area (ha)
NORTH	0	0	27	54,354,338
EAST	40	1,328,676	150	22,997,422
SOUTH	28	1,338,651	129	53,419,745
WEST	29	1,196,587	107	24,405,499
CENTRAL	6	97,728	74	12,105,421
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3,961,642</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>167,282,425</b>



## COAST AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

African Regions	Creation		Improved Management	
	Number	Area (ha)	Number	Area (ha)
NORTH	0	0	6	357,400
EAST	36	3,281,281	27	1,215,128
SOUTH	7	1,122,013	8	4,647,267
WEST	17	790,338	23	738,531
CENTRAL	1	0	2	1,550,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>5,193,632</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8,508,326</b>







# MAINSTREAMING

## TOURISM

The GEF has invested \$42 million in mainstreaming biodiversity measures in tourism in 13 countries in Africa with most in East (Kenya, Mauritius and Seychelles) and Southern Africa (Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia). All projects except those in Mauritius, Seychelles, and the regional project in Namibia and Zambia, were associated with improving the management effectiveness of terrestrial, coastal, and marine protected areas. In spite of the abundant wildlife and tourism opportunities in Africa, the few investments in mainstreaming in the tourism industry constitute only a small percentage of the GEF's biodiversity resources.

## FORESTRY

The GEF has invested in three types of forestry projects: those incorporating biodiversity-friendly measures in the forestry sector, mainly in Central and East Africa (\$50 million Biodiversity and \$30 million from the SFM incentive and resources from other focal areas such as CCM); Hybrid projects that combine investments in forestry with investments in the creation and management of Protected Areas, mainly in West and Central Africa (GEF Biodiversity \$40 million and \$11 million from SFM and other focal areas); and projects combining mainstreaming biodiversity in Forestry and Agriculture, mainly in West Africa, East Africa, and to a lesser extent in Central and Southern Africa (GEF biodiversity \$76 million, plus an additional \$29 million from SFM and other focal areas).

## AGRICULTURE AND AGROBIODIVERSITY

The GEF has invested significant financial resources in mainstreaming biodiversity friendly practices into agriculture. These projects are most common on the grass-dominated ecosystems of East Africa in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Madagascar. There are also projects in the Miombos and other unique vegetation types in Southern Africa, including mainly South Africa, but also Malawi, Namibia, and Eswatini. There have been few agriculture-only projects in Central and West Africa where Sustainable Forest Management has dominated the agenda. All in all, mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture has used \$76 million of Biodiversity funds, that have been complemented by \$105 million from other focal areas and programs. Among these projects are a small but significant set focused on the conservation of agrobiodiversity. These projects have invested GEF resources in the in-situ conservation of crop wild relatives (Algeria, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tunisia), as well as medicinal and aromatic plants (Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, and Zimbabwe). The protection of genetic resources associated with the oasis of northern Africa, is in the GEF portfolio of projects in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Madagascar. There are also projects that carried out conservation of agrobiodiversity in and around protected areas, as in the case of Ethiopia, South Africa, Sudan, and Uganda (coffee), showing the close relationship between the reservoirs of genetic variability in conservation areas for the productive sector. A project on mainstreaming biodiversity in the agricultural sector is the CAPE Program in South Africa (Box 3). All these agrobiodiversity projects have received GEF Biodiversity \$41 million and have been complemented by an additional \$12 million from other focal areas.

### BOX 3. Cape Action for People and the Environment (South Africa)

The Government of South Africa developed an innovative program to protect the rich biological heritage of the Cape Floristic Region (CFR); the smallest of the six floral kingdoms of the world, entirely contained within South Africa. With 9,600 recorded plant species, 70 percent of them found nowhere else on the planet, the region is a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot. The economic value of this region, due to the harvest of wild flowers and eco-tourism, is estimated into the millions of dollars a year. With 80 percent of the region in private hands, it is imperative that any action for the conservation of the CFR would need to involve the people of the region. The project started with the development of the CAPE 2000 Strategy. During the first phase of implementation (2001–2010), the CAPE program enabled donor funding to be channeled into new areas of work and exciting new approaches to conservation including landscape initiatives, conservation stewardship, business and biodiversity, fine-scale planning, catchment management, conservation education, and strengthening institutions. In 2011, the program underwent a review of the strategy which resulted in a revised strategy for the period 2011–2020. As part of the investments on conservation, the partnership is working to increase the area of fynbos that is being protected. In the fynbos biome, the protected area estate has been increased through the creation of the Agulhas National Park, the consolidation of land into Table Mountain National Park and the declaration of the Garden Route National Park. Since acquiring land to expand formal protected areas is expensive, and much valuable biodiversity is in private hands, this strategy is being supplemented by stewardship work. By 2008, 33 contract nature reserves had been established in the Western Cape, committing valuable pieces of land to conservation in perpetuity. In addition to expanding protected areas and signing stewardship agreements, the program created corridors of continuous natural habitat, including the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, and the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve. The CAPE partnership is also working to create jobs and business opportunities for communities living close to nature, including marketing wild rooibos from the Cederberg, promoting sustainably harvested wildflowers on the Agulhas Plain, developing a donkey trail in the Gouritz area, and setting up a community beekeeping operation in the Baviaanskloof. Through the government's Expanded Public Works Programme, work opportunities have also been created in clearing invasive alien plants through Working for Water and restoring indigenous vegetation in wetland areas.

### PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The GEF has engaged in pioneering the development of mechanisms that reward good stewardship of natural resources, including the structuring of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes. For the GEF, the concept of PES includes a variety of arrangements through which the beneficiaries of ecosystem services compensate those providing the service. In Africa, the GEF has supported projects ranging from building the capacity to develop and implement PES projects, to deploying PES schemes. In Uganda, the GEF-UNEP project *"Developing an Experimental Methodology for Testing the Effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem Services to Enhance Conservation in Productive Landscapes in Uganda"* is one of the few

experimental projects to test PES as a mechanism to deliver conservation results on the ground. In Central and West Africa, PES projects have concentrated in forest services including those related to the REDD+ agenda. In the Sahel region, Ecosystem Services projects focus on rain-fed agriculture. And in South Africa, DBSA is supporting the government in the implementation of the project *"Unlocking Biodiversity Benefits through Development Finance in Critical Catchments,"* a project that centers on the provision of water to downstream users in key watersheds. The GEF has invested in 14 PES projects in Africa with an investment of Biodiversity \$53 million and \$23 million from multi-Focal Area Projects.





# WILDLIFE

## GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (IWT) is reaching unprecedented levels, threatening the long-term survival of populations of numerous keystone species, including the African elephant, rhinos, and pangolins. Launched in 2015, the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) is a \$131 million grant program funded by the GEF and led by the World Bank. The GWP seeks to address IWT in 13 countries in Africa (\$93.5 million), and 6 in Asia by serving as a platform for knowledge exchange and coordination and supporting on-the-ground actions. The GWP has helped mobilize an additional \$704 million in co-financing from a wide range of partners, including the governments of participating countries, GEF Agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations, the private sector, and civil society.

The program will help reduce poaching, trafficking, and demand for wildlife and wildlife products illegally traded between Africa and Asia, as well as protect their natural habitats. In some cases, the projects will not only help reduce poaching, but will support the recovery of wildlife populations. The program will create the necessary conditions for preserving habitats for these animals, secure funding for protected area management, and will provide opportunities for the local communities to benefit from wildlife.

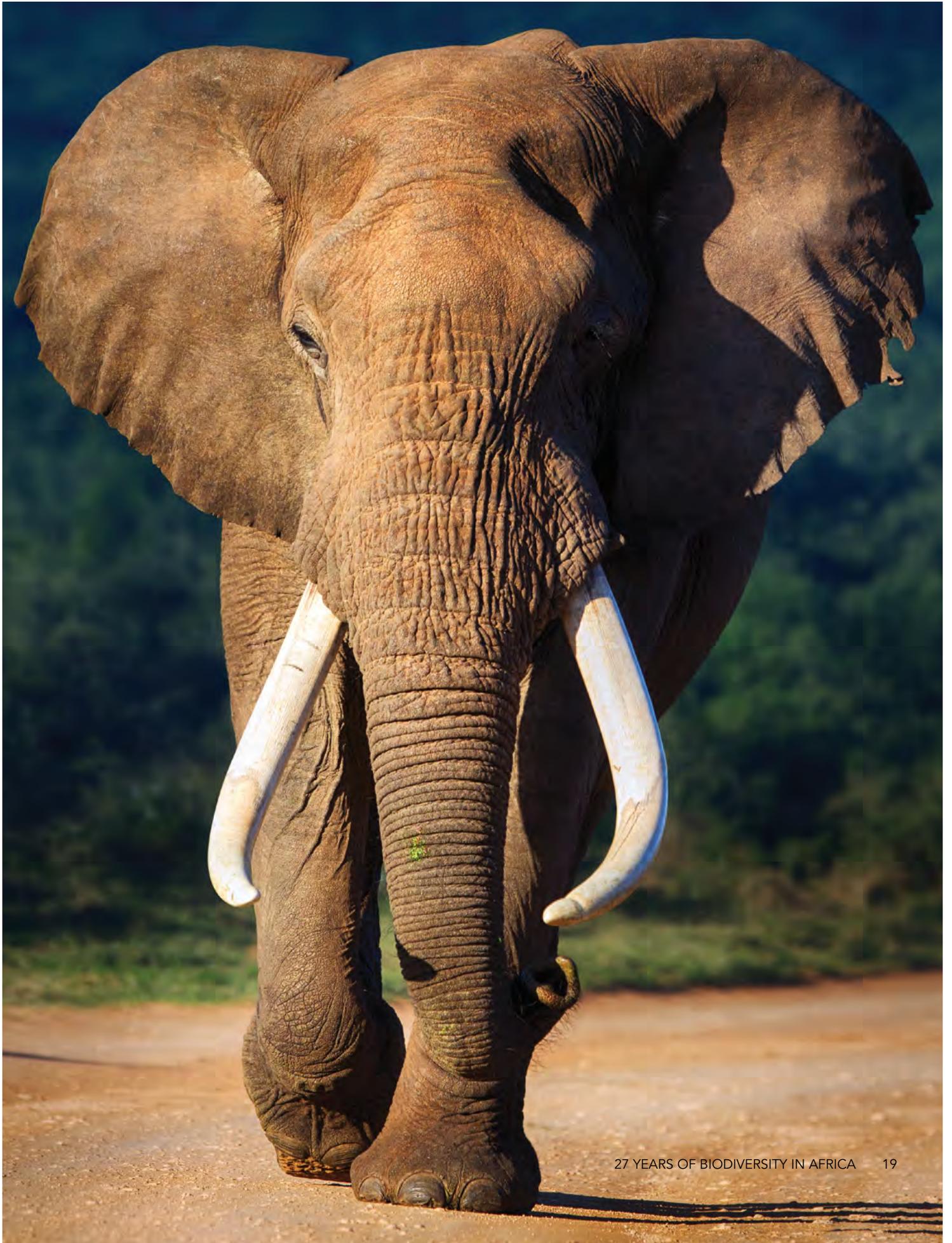
In addition to these projects under the Global Wildlife Program of GEF-6 (2014-2018), the GEF has supported other projects to protect wildlife including some to enhance the legislative, policy, and criminal justice systems, and address human wildlife conflict including livestock & wildlife Integration. Conservation of rhinos has been the target of GEF investments, including the Rhino Impact Investment Project (Box 4).



#### BOX 4. The Rhino Impact Investment Project

The GEF is supporting the Rhino Impact Investment Project (RII), which is seeking to transform conservation funding by building the world's first outcomes-based financing mechanism for species conservation. The project's objective is to unlock public and private funding to drive measurable and cost-efficient conservation of black rhinos. There are only around 5,500 black rhinos left in the wild today, and experts believe that due to escalating poaching we are close to the tipping point for the species, where deaths will be in excess of births. Rhino conservation managers are struggling to raise from traditional sources the funds required for the effective day-to-day management and protection of these animals. To bridge this funding gap, it is crucial that we expand from the traditional donor-driven model toward a commercial approach motivated by impact. To attract new forms of capital, conservation must be able to identify and measure what it defines as success. This is outcomes-based financing. Investors provide upfront investment for support of key activities in protected areas. Importantly, these key activities that RII support will focus not only on securing population numbers but also on growing those populations (due to rising poaching rates and constrained funding opportunities too often protected areas only have the resources to focus on security). If during the five-year timeframe those protected areas then deliver on pre-defined outcomes—e.g., a certain annual growth rate of the species—the investors are paid back their investment plus a return by the outcome-payers. This model can be scaled and replicated to focus on other targeted biodiversity returns. The results of a two-year pilot in Tsavo West National Park in Kenya supported the feasibility of the model, and the evaluation of the portfolio of sites (government and state protected areas across Africa) for this significant and innovative investment has already begun. RII is targeting approximately \$50 million to secure and grow the black rhino population in these sites in alignment with national and continental black rhino strategies. The program is scheduled for launch in 2019-2020. UNDP is the GEF Agency, and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is leading executing partner. The project is co-financed by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Challenge Fund, United for Wildlife, and ZSL. RII receives implementation support on technical conservation, conservation finance and legal from Implementation Partners including Credit Suisse, DLA Piper, Fauna & Flora International, the IUCN SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups, Kenya Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, UBS, and WWF-UK. Conservation Capital is the appointed RII Finance Manager and Conservation Alpha is the appointed RII Performance Manager.









# FISHERIES

Fisheries around the world are being over-exploited, causing declines in marine resources that have only reinforced cycles of coastal poverty for millions of rural fishing communities, while at the same time threatening the marine biodiversity and coastal ecosystems that support fisheries. Nowhere is the crisis in global fisheries more evident, and the need to implement both the fisheries and poverty reduction targets more urgent, than in the five Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) that cover the coastal waters of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): the Agulhas Current LME (continental shelf shared by South Africa, Mozambique, Comoro Islands, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Mauritius), the Somali Coastal Current LME (Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia), the Benguela Current LME (Namibia, Angola, South Africa), the Canary Current LME (West Africa), and the Guinea Current LME (Gulf of Guinea).

In the Agulhas and Somali Current LMEs the GEF has invested a total of \$41 million and leveraged \$163 million in co-financing in three regional and three country-based projects (Kenya, Madagascar and Seychelles). In the Benguela Current LME, the GEF has invested \$31 million and leveraged \$133 million in co-financing in three regional projects including all three countries (Angola, Namibia, South Africa). In the Canary Current LME, the GEF has invested \$10 million and leveraged \$24 million in co-financing in two regional projects. In the Guinea Current LME, the GEF has invested \$86 million and leverage \$505 million in co-financing in 10 projects, seven are regional and 3 are country-based (Guinea-Bissau, Ghana and Mauritania). Six of the seven regional projects are part of the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP) described in Box 5.

In addition to these LMEs along the coast of Africa, the GEF has invested \$41 million and leverage \$200 million in co-financing in the West Indian Ocean LME. The portfolio comprises 5 regional projects and 1 country-based project (Tanzania). All in all, the GEF has invested \$209 million and leverage \$1.1 billion in co-financing in support of the conservation of the fisheries along the coasts of Africa.



## BOX 5: The West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP)

The coastal states of West Africa are endowed with some of the richest fishing grounds in the world, contributing greatly to people's livelihoods, nutrition, and the overall economies. Reported marine fish production amounts to more than 1.6 million tons in West African waters each year, with an estimated value in the order of US\$2 billion, and the value of unreported catch may be more than twice this level. Fisheries currently represent at least 10 percent of national GDP in some countries (e.g., Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania and Sierra Leone), and over 20 percent of export revenues in Senegal and Mauritania. Despite the importance of West Africa's marine fisheries, this industry has been seriously underperforming over the last twenty years due to habitat degradation as well as overfishing. The program's objective is to support countries to maintain or increase priority fish stocks and the benefits that they can provide to West Africa, with a focus on benefits for poverty reduction and food security. To achieve this long-term objective, the WARFP is structured as a framework of multi-country, multi-phase series of projects. This approach allows incremental participation of additional countries in the program to ensure appropriate geographical coverage, and sequential design of interventions in a given country based on achievements. Following the approval of the WARFP in 2009, countries initiated their first phase projects focused to strengthen the capacity of the countries to govern and manage targeted fisheries, reduce illegal fishing and increase local value added to fish products. The projects supported broad governance reforms, including national policy visions and enabling legislation; capacity enhancement of public agencies to deliver policy reforms, including specific regulations such as the registration of fishing vessels; and strengthened surveillance capacity to reduce IUU fishing, including increased number of patrols at sea and satellite-based vessel monitoring systems. First phase WARFP projects have also supported introduction of "community-led fisheries management" systems on a pilot basis as well as establishment of a foundation for regional policy coordination.









# THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

The GEF has invested more than \$30 million and leveraged \$70 million in co-financing in 15 projects targeting African countries in support of the third objective of the Convention on Biodiversity: *"the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding."* The support to African countries has been delivered by means of Global, Regional, and Country-based projects using STAR resources and funds from the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund. As of today, 107 countries have ratified the Nagoya Protocol, of which 42 are in Africa. The GEF began supporting capacity building projects on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in 2003, following the request by the COP to provide financial resources to assist Parties with the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines, the voluntary provisions that allowed countries to implement the provisions of the Convention on ABS. With the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010, the GEF provided financial resources for the ratification and implementation of the protocol through its GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategy (2010- 2014) and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) established in 2011. The NPIF supported a number of countries (i.e. Cameroon, Gabon, and Kenya) that had projects with pilots in support of existing partnerships and joint ventures of governments, the private sector, and national and international academic and research institutions. These groups are searching for genetic resources of interest to various sectors including pharmaceuticals, crop-protection, manufacturing/textile, cosmetics, and food-and-beverages. Terrestrial and marine organisms are being used as sources of genetic material and obtained in National or Regional Parks or through engagement with private owners, indigenous peoples, and local communities, all with appropriate consent from the legitimate authorities.



The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House, ABSCH) is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing established by Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol. The ABS Clearing-House contains valuable information on its use and the implementation of the Protocol globally and for the 54 Africa countries including the Island States of Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, and

Seychelles. Thirty-three countries have submitted the Interim Report on the Interim National Reports on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The preparation of these reports was supported by the GEF-UNEP grant “Support to Preparation of the Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol” in the amount of \$1.4 million. See Box 6 for a case of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.



## BOX 6: Developing the Microbial Biotechnology Industry from Kenya's Soda Lakes in line with the Nagoya Protocol

In Kenya, the GEF-UNEP project "Developing the Microbial Biotechnology Industry from Kenya's Soda Lakes in line with the Nagoya Protocol" is carrying out research and development on genetic resources from "extremophile" micro-organisms collected in the Soda Lakes. As part of this project, a model system to grant Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for access to genetic resources by the National Government, County government and local communities has been established and will be strengthened by an on-line ABS permitting process under development. A bioinformatics system that links the researcher, permits granted, type and location of genetic resources collected has also been designed at Kenya Wildlife Service as a monitoring tool on collection, transfer and utilization of genetic resources for research and development. Other investments include the transfer of technology between users and providers of genetic resources, including equipment, scaling up-scaling laboratory research findings, productions and formulation of final products. The project has also been instrumental for the establishment of an intellectual property management systems linked to access and benefit sharing along the value chain; from point of collection to commercialization. A microbial pilot culture collection centre has been established, currently with about 1000 cultures. It serves as a reference culture collection for microbials in the country, and as a repository for patents. The project is executed by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and local institutions, namely Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute, Moi University and University of Nairobi and the local communities adjacent to the Kenyan Soda Lakes.







# THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement that helps ensure the safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity and human health. The GEF has been supporting the development and implementation of the National Biosafety Frameworks in African Countries since the late 1990s. After the development of the National Biosafety Frameworks, 19 African countries invested GEF resources in the Implementation of the NBF. These projects were approved in GEF-2 (Uganda, Cameroon, Kenya and Namibia), GEF-3 (Tunisia, Mauritius, Egypt and Tanzania), GEF-4 (Liberia, Ghana, Madagascar, Namibia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Cameroon -with a follow-up project, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland and Ethiopia), and GEF-5 (Mauritania). During this period the GEF supported a regional project Titled “Multi-Country Project to Strengthen Institutional Capacity on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision-making” a unique project where LMO laboratories from Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Congo DR, participated in a regional project to Strengthen Infrastructure and Institutional and Human capacities for LMO Detection, information sharing, and partnerships. In addition to supporting the countries with the development and implementation of the National Biosafety Frameworks, the GEF invested in building the capacity of eligible countries to use the for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol and promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration, networking, and exchange of experience for national and regional BCH management. This support was provided by means of three projects totaling \$4.9 million leveraging \$1.5 million in co-financing.

The Biosafety projects have built the policy and legislative frameworks with dedicated institutions, core budgets, and laws to support national biosafety processes. Thanks to the investments of the GEF, several countries have developed science-based tools and Standard Operational Procedures on Risk Assessment and Handling of LMOs in support decision making. Funds have also resulted in strengthening national capacity on LMO Detection, transit measures and monitoring and enforcement procedures. interventions worthy noticing is the ongoing Multi Country LMO Testing Project in Angola, Congo Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho that is providing vital institutional and human resource capacity to support biosafety decision making.

The GEF total investments in Biosafety in Africa including the participation in Global, Regional and country-based projects over the last 25 years is \$40.4 million, leveraging \$45.8 million in co-financing.





# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMS

The GEF Small Grants Program has funded over 2,600 projects across Africa since 1992. The GEF has invested over \$68.8 million in Biodiversity funds in these grants, leveraging \$37 million in co-finance. Of these projects, 80 percent focused exclusively on biodiversity and 20 percent were multifocal area projects with Biodiversity investments. The region that has received the most grants has been West Africa with 1177 grants, followed by East Africa with 779 grants.







# BIODIVERSITY INVESTMENT IN EGYPT

Egypt has invested GEF \$19.5 million in Biodiversity projects, leveraging \$33.5 million in co-financing. These funds have been invested across several thematic areas in the country, including in enhancing the effective management of 15 protected areas covering 7.1 million hectares. It is worth mentioning that Egypt opted for investing in the financial sustainability of the protected area system, in mainstreaming biodiversity measure in the tourism sector, in the development and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and in the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants and agrobiodiversity.







# LOOKING FORWARD

The GEF has been working since its inception to conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and combat land degradation in Africa and around the world. In the past, the GEF supported projects in each of these three focal areas, and more recently in the form of Multifocal Area Projects and the Integrated Approach Pilots: *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*, and *Taking Deforestation out of Commodity Supply Chains*.

During its 7th operational phase (2018-2020) the GEF will continue supporting the themes discussed in this publication, including protected areas, mainstreaming, wildlife conservation and sustainable use, fisheries, and the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols. In addition, the GEF will develop several Impact Programs integrating goals pertinent to the three conventions with the objective of conserve biodiversity, arrest land degradation and mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases. These Programs are designed to deliver tangible and measurable results on the ground, and along other programs under the Biodiversity Strategy for GEF-7 offer multiple options to deliver Global Environmental Benefits across Africa.

## FOOD, LAND USE AND RESTORATION IMPACT PROGRAM

This Impact Program seeks to transform food and land use systems for countries to meet the growing demand for crops and livestock production. The world needs a more sustainable food system, one that embeds sustainability “from farm to fork,” generates agricultural commodities without deforestation and habitat conversion, and restores soils and degraded areas back into natural ecosystems or into productivity.

GEF will help countries pursue comprehensive and system-wide approaches to underpin the transformation of food and land use systems. Implementation of these strategies will seek to help countries meet the growing demand for increased crop and livestock production, while minimizing the risk of further expansion of farmland into important forests and ecosystems, that so often leads to species extinction, the erosion of soils and the genetic agrobiodiversity, overexploitation of land and water resources, overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and inefficient agricultural practices that lead to greenhouse gas emissions and food loss and waste. To achieve this, the GEF will facilitate the involvement of the private sector, as businesses are integral part of and such transformation. Demonstration of improved practice offers good business opportunities as retailers, financiers, and consumers are increasingly requiring demonstration of sustainability as a prerequisite to their engagement in food product transactions. This creates a win-win situation for business and the environment. In GEF-7, funds will be used to support countries in ensuring productive lands are embedded within landscapes that are providing ecosystem services and protecting the natural ecosystems and soils on which they depend. The GEF has identified three areas for action to foster transformational impact at scale: i) Promoting sustainable food systems to tackle negative externalities in value chain; ii) Promoting deforestation-free agricultural commodity supply

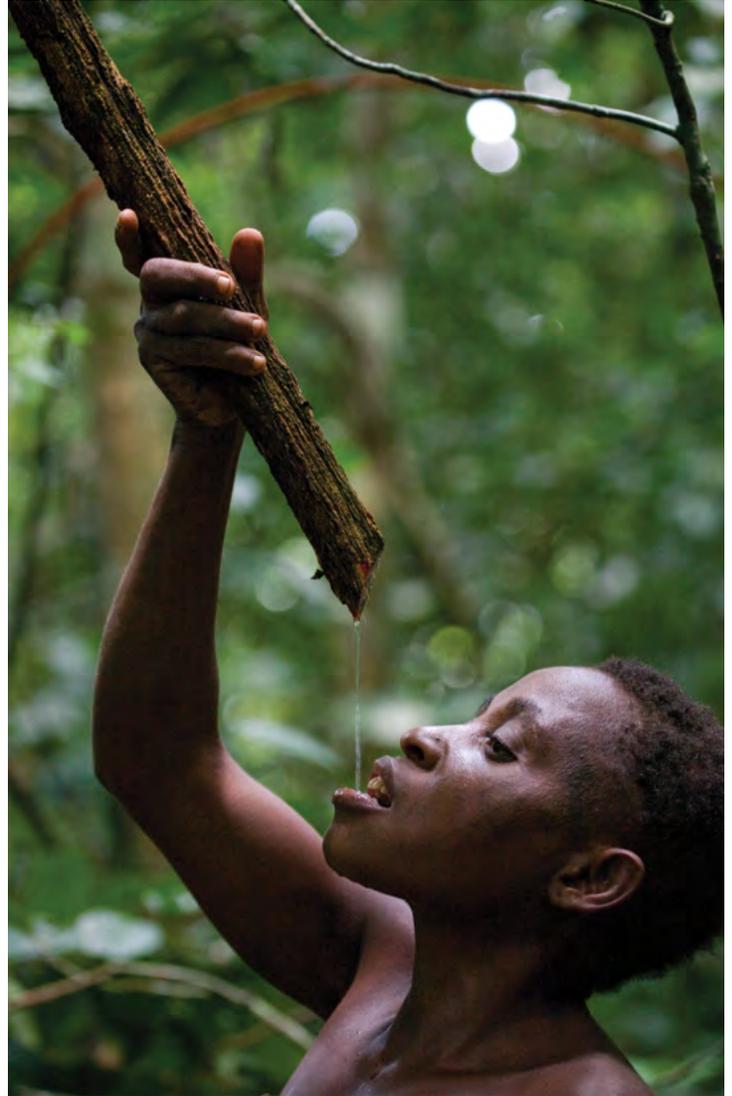
chains; and iii) Promoting large-scale restoration of degradation landscapes for sustainable production and ecosystem services. These priorities are not mutually exclusive and can be fostered through comprehensive land use planning. A food production landscape anchored in a sound, comprehensive land use plan will simultaneously meet a full range of local needs, including water availability, nutritious and profitable crops for families and local markets,

and enhancing human health; while also contributing to national economic development and policy commitments (e.g. NDCs, LDN, Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, Bonn Challenge); and delivering globally to the maintenance of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and provision of food and commercial commodities to international supply chains.



## CONGO BASIN SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

The Congo Basin supports the second largest remaining areas of tropical forests in the world, and harbors billions of tons of carbon in both soil and biomass. These forest ecosystems also provide livelihoods and services to 60 million people who live in or near the forests and fulfill social and cultural functions essential to local indigenous populations. Sustainably managing these forests remains a considerable challenge. In Central Africa, the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Program will focus on a few transboundary landscapes in the heart of the Basin, prioritized based on their potential for transformation and multiple benefits, and where the GEF can make a difference. The main objective of the program is to address the drivers of forest degradation through transboundary landscape management and will promote a bottom-up approach that emphasizes multiple stakeholder engagement including forest dependent communities and civil society. The notions of connectivity, corridors, and their governance will be considered in an inclusive way with local communities. Innovative mechanisms and partnerships will be developed to improve law enforcement against illegal logging and poaching of global important biodiversity. The role of the private sector will be considered under different entry points to promote innovative approaches for conservation, peacebuilding, and benefits for local communities. For the Congo Basin to be managed sustainably, countries need to include ecosystem values in planning and decision-making processes. For instance, PES programs need to engage with local communities and indigenous people. Additionally, SFM efforts need to coordinate actions with initiatives aiming to tackle some emerging problems that go beyond the environmental field such as poaching, trafficking, and illegal timber. Finally, there is an urgent need for long term monitoring and understanding of Congo Basin ecosystems and promoting science-based actions. It is particularly important to develop a better understanding of the ecosystem/people interactions and harnessing indigenous knowledge to replicate solutions and strengthening bottom-up approaches.



## SUSTAINABLE DRYLANDS

Drylands are a vital part of Earth's human and physical environments, encompassing grasslands, agricultural lands, dry forests and shrublands. African drylands cover over 45 percent of the land surface and are the home of roughly 50 percent of the population, who are most vulnerable to the impacts of drought and land degradation. The three main objectives of the Impact Program are: i) integrated landscape management with particular focus on sustainable forest management and restoration, rangelands, and

livestock production; ii) the promotion of diversified agro-ecological food production systems; and iii) the creation of an enabling environment to support the two objectives above. The Dryland Sustainable Landscapes IP will support participating countries to achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) of the UN Conference to Combat Desertification in regions which have a high percentage share of semi-arid and sub-humid drylands and ultimately achieve Sustainable Development Goals focusing on countries that have set voluntary LDN targets that the Impact Program will help to implement.



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Humanity, for the first time, has become an urban species. The number of people living in towns and cities has grown more than fivefold since 1950 and a decade ago overtook those living in the countryside. In a world with 7.5 billion people, over 4 billion reside in urban agglomerations, occupying only 3% of the Earth's land, but with a global ecological footprint. Urban demographic projections estimate that between 2014 and 2050, another 2.5 billion people, mostly poor, will be added to the world's cities, predominantly in Africa and Asia.

In many cities in Africa, as in much of the developing world, urban growth is characterized by sprawl—cities are expanding their territories faster than their populations. Further, the scale of conflict- and climate-induced displacement are pushing even more people towards cities. Globally, 65 million people were displaced and 19 million refugees settled in cities. The scale and pace of the challenge is so large that Mayors and local governments are struggling to respond. Land use is poorly planned and unstructured, and motorization rates are increasing rapidly, as is pollution. The mega-trends are converging in cities with local and global negative environmental impacts.

Recognizing the critical role of cities for sustainable development and risks of not acting now to avoid pitfalls of urbanization, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) during its Sixth Replenishment Phase (GEF-6), launched the Sustainable Cities Program to promote sustainable integrated urban planning and implementation. Through the program, the GEF has supported 28 urban jurisdictions

across 11 recipient countries. Three of the countries are from the Africa region, and together engaged five cities (Cote d'Ivoire – *Abidjan*; Senegal – *Dakar*, *Diambiado*, and *Saint-Louis*; and South Africa – *Johannesburg*).

The cities are participating in and supported by a Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC), which is led by the World Bank and serves as a knowledge platform where participating cities can tap the cutting-edge knowledge and expertise in sustainable urban planning, and exchange ideas and share experiences. The Global Platform also engages major global city-based networks advocating and promoting urban sustainability including, ICLEI and C40 and leading environmental think-tanks such as World Resources Institute (WRI). Through engagement with the GPSC, these technical partners and city-based networks provide knowledge sharing and technical expertise in support of participating cities, in partnership with Implementing Agencies, and National Governments.

The new programmatic priorities for the GEF-7 funding phase (2018-2022) will expand the existing program on Sustainable Cities from the previous phase to include a wider array of investment opportunities for achieving a range of global environmental benefits. The Sustainable Cities Impact Program will support cities as they pursue sustainable urban planning through spatially integrated solutions in energy, buildings, transport, urban food systems, management of municipal solid waste, and utilization of green space and infrastructure. The Impact Program has an additional focus on natural infrastructure and includes support for integrated land-use planning and infrastructure integration for cities and surrounding landscapes that will generate benefits for biodiversity.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was drafted by Jaime Cavalier making use of material provided by staff from the GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies and partner institutions.

Special thanks to Glynis Barber for her assistance preparing the database that was used for this publication. Shakil Kayani also participated during the preparation of the database. Thanks also to the following people for providing material that was used in this publication: Andre Aquino (WB), Manali Baruah (WB), Fouad Bergigui (UNDP), Hasita Bhammar (WB), Santiago Carrizosa (UNDP), Steffen Cole Brandstrup Hansen (GEF), Lisa Farroway (UNDP), Terence Hay-Edie (UNDP), Astrid Hillers (GEF), Alexandra Jorge (BIOFUND Mozambique), Alejandro Lago (UNDP), Daniel Mira-Salama (WB) Priscillar Mutungi (Kenya), Alex Owusu-Biney (UN Environment), Jean-Marc Sinnassamy (GEF) Alexandra Schmidt-Feller (WB), Christian Holde Severin (GEF), Claudia Sobrevila (WB), Xavier F.P. Vincent (WB), Kabaka Watai (KWS), Yoko Watanabe (UNDP-SGP), Oliver Withers (ZSL), Elisson M. Wright (WB), Sarah A. Wyatt (GEF). Christian Hofer and Olivier Benson (GEF) provided valuable assistance with the editing and preparation of this publication.

### PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT

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## ABOUT THE GEF

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 \$17.9 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$93.2 billion in financing for more than 4,500 projects in 170 countries. Today, the GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office—Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank Group (WBG) and World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF-US).

Additional reading:

- GEF 2010. GEF's Programmatic Approach to biodiversity conservation in West and Central Africa.
- GEF 2014. Building Capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol. A review of GEF support.

**Production Date:** November 2018  
**Design:** Patricia Hord.Graphik Design  
**Printer:** Professional Graphics Printing Co.

[www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)



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