

GEF's Mandate

Eligibility¹

1. GEF funding shall be made available for activities within the focal areas defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Instrument in accordance with the following eligibility criteria:
 - a. GEF grants that are made available within the framework of the financial mechanisms of the conventions referred to in paragraph 6² shall be in conformity with the eligibility criteria decided by the Conference of the Parties of each convention, as provided under the arrangements or agreements referred to in paragraph 27.
 - b. All other GEF grants shall be made available to eligible recipient countries and, where appropriate, for other activities promoting the purposes of the Facility in accordance with this paragraph and any additional eligibility criteria determined by the Council. A country shall be an eligible recipient of GEF grants if it is eligible to receive World Bank (IBRD and/or IDA) financing or if it is an eligible recipient of UNDP technical assistance through its target for resource assignments from the core (specifically TRAC-1 and/or TRAC-2). GEF grants for activities within a focal area addressed by a convention referred to in paragraph 6 but outside the framework of the financial mechanism of the convention, shall only be made available to eligible recipient countries that are party to the convention concerned.
 - c. GEF concessional financing in a form other than grants that is made available within the framework of the financial mechanism of the conventions referred to in paragraph 6 shall be in conformity with eligibility criteria decided by the Conference of the Parties of each convention, as provided under the arrangements or agreements referred to in paragraph 27. GEF concessional financing in a form other than grants may also be made available outside those frameworks on terms to be determined by the Council.
2. The focal areas referred to are as follows:
3. The GEF shall operate, on the basis of collaboration and partnership among the Implementing Agencies, as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits in the following focal areas:

¹ [Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, September 2019 – paragraph 9](#)

² Para 6 of the GEF Instrument – UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, Stockholm Convention and Minamata Conventions

- biological diversity;
 - climate change;
 - international waters;
 - land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; and
 - chemicals and waste.
4. The agreed incremental costs of activities to achieve global environmental benefits concerning chemicals management as they relate to the above focal areas shall be eligible for funding. The agreed incremental costs of other relevant activities under Agenda 21 that may be agreed by the Council shall also be eligible for funding insofar as they achieve global environmental benefits by protecting the global environment in the focal areas.
 5. The GEF's mandate in the management of chemicals and wastes is derived from its role in the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as defined by Articles 13³ and 14, and from the Minamata Convention on Mercury as defined by Article 13⁴. The Stockholm Convention provides guidance on programming priorities to the GEF based on findings of the quadrennial reviews of the GEF and a needs assessment for the Convention. The Minamata Convention has so far provided initial guidance at the first COP that priorities for the Convention. In addition, in accordance with Article 9 (b) of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, 2019, the GEF provides funding to support the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer⁵ and supports certain areas under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that require global action.
 6. The GEF operates under the guidance of, and is accountable to, the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury⁶ and functions under the authority, as appropriate, and guidance of and is accountable to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants⁷.
 7. Each COP provides guidance on overall strategies, policy, program priorities and eligibility for access to, and utilization of, financial resources. This is managed in accordance with the respective memorandum of understanding between the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention⁸ and the

³ [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)

⁴ [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

⁵ In eligible countries with economies in transition

⁶ Article 13, Para 7, [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

⁷ Article 13, Para 6, [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)

⁸ SC-1/11: Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility

Minamata Convention⁹. The Minamata Convention additionally provides guidance on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the GEF Trust Fund, which it did at COP 10 in September 2017.

8. Regarding programming, both Conventions have provided guidance on priority areas which primarily refer to legally binding obligations and enabling activities.
9. The Stockholm Convention has provided initial guidance at COP 1 and updated guidance to the GEF since then at each COP based on the findings of the quadrennial review of the GEF and the needs assessment. Guidance on programming priorities include inter alia:
 - reiterate ongoing relevant guidance such as prioritization of meeting the 2025 and 2028 deadlines for PCB,
 - phase out and elimination of chemicals listed in Annex A of the Convention,
 - management and where possible phase out and elimination of chemicals listed in Annex B of the Convention and,
 - reduction and as far as possible elimination of chemicals listed under Annex C of the Convention,
 - Support legal and regulatory frameworks,
 - Support of updating of national implementation plans.
10. The Stockholm Convention has also provided guidance of a policy nature including engagement of regional centers of the Convention in programming, increase in private sector engagement in the implementation of the Convention and facilitate synergy among the chemicals and waste Conventions and with other focal areas and impact programs of the GEF.
11. The Minamata Convention has provided guidance that prioritizes activities for funding and a list of indicative activities to be funded which is overall guided by paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Minamata Convention which directs the GEF to “take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs.”
12. In addition to the legally binding chemicals conventions, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) has over four meetings requested the GEF to include

⁹ [Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility](#)

¹⁰ [Decision MC-1/5 and annex to Decision MC-1/5](#)

elements of SAICM into GEF programming which has facilitated early action on areas such as e-waste, plastics, chemicals of concern including pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals from other sectors. Since GEF 5 (July 2010 – June 2014) the GEF has had a funding window for specific topics under SAICM.

13. While the GEF does not receive guidance from the Montreal Protocol, through a memorandum of understanding between the respective Secretariats of the GEF and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the GEF follows the policy and programming priorities of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat.

How does Convention Text, guidance and requests from international processes translate to projects and programs?

14. The GEF is replenished every four years by several countries, comprising donor and recipient countries.
15. Each replenishment is based on a programming directions document that sets out activities that can be funded in focal areas as well as other large programs.
16. For chemicals and waste, the programming directions is developed from the guidance received from the COPs of the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention, and requests from the ICCM5 as described in paragraphs 7 – 12 above.
17. The most recent programming directions is for the period July 2018 – June 2022¹¹.
18. The chemicals and waste programming is described in pages 78 – 87 of that document.
19. While it is not practical to summarize every type of project funded under the chemicals and waste focal area, as there are a wide variety of chemicals and groups of chemicals, national and regional priorities, there are general elements included in most projects:
 - a. Management, which can include, safe handling, storage, disposal, EPRs etc. of a chemical¹², a group of chemicals, chemicals in products, waste chemicals, waste containing chemicals, wastes that can emit chemicals.
 - b. Capacity building, institutional strengthening and technical assistance and technology transfer, including policy and regulatory support to achieve the above.

¹¹ [Report of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#)

¹² The use of chemicals here is specific to chemicals covered by the Conventions and processes covered in paragraph 8.

- c. Monitoring and evaluation of the project including verification of results achieved.
- d. Knowledge management to capture lessons learned to inform future programming
- e. Project management. Every GEF project provides funding for project management cost including a project management unit for the duration of the project.

20. The GEF reports on all projects funded to the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention and provides updates on funding related to the SAICM to the ICCM. The links for these reports are as follows:

List and links to GEF Reports to the Stockholm Convention

COP	Document Number	Meeting Website
1	UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/11	COP 1 Meeting Documents
2	UNEP/POPS/COP.2/28	COP 2 Meeting Documents
3	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/3	COP 3 Meeting Documents
4	UNEP/POPS/COP.4/25	COP 4 Meeting Documents
5	UNEP/POPS/COP.5/24	COP 5 Meeting Documents
6	UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/24	COP 6 Meeting Documents
7	UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/33	COP 7 Meeting Documents
8	UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/28	COP 8 Meeting Documents
9	UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/30	COP 9 Meeting Documents

List and links to GEF reports to the Minamata Convention

COP	Document Number	Meeting Website
1	UNEP/MC/COP.1/INF/3	GEF report to the First COP of the Minamata Convention
2	UNEP/MC/COP .2/INF/3	GEF Report to the Second COP of the Minamata Convention
3	UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/2	COP 3 Meeting Documents

List and links to GEF updates to SAICM's governing and subsidiary bodies

Meeting	Document Number	Meeting Website
ICCM 4	SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/8	Update from the Global Environment Facility
OEWG 3	SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/13	Update from the Global Environment Facility

21. In addition to the above the GEF 7 projects and programs are wider ranging than previous replenishment periods and contain several issues in one package that address gaps in capacity and enabling conditions to allow for management of harmful chemicals and waste as well as put systems in place to prevent a future build of harmful chemicals and waste in the environment. An example of this is the GEF Implementing Sustainable Low And Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) program which has approved funding for 30 SIDS with three to be added in June 2021. This program is designed to facilitate globally coordinated action over the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific SIDS in addressing policy and regulatory gaps, strengthening institutions including Customs official, standards officers etc. and setting up long term prevention on harmful chemicals, chemicals in products from entering these territories.
22. GEF programming in chemicals and waste will continue to expand and evolve as the chemicals being added to the Stockholm Convention require different solutions to previous projects that dealt with stockpiles etc.