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Financing Protected Areas in Asia: Experience of the Global Environment Facility

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Overview of Presentation

1. About the GEF
2. Funding modalities
3. Biodiversity Focal Area
Achievements and Strategy
3. Protected Areas Program
Focus and scale
4. Projects in Asia Region
5. Future direction



About the GEF



A financial mechanism established to protect the global environment and promote sustainable development.

GEF supports developing countries and economies in transition on incremental cost of actions to protect the global environment.

Financial mechanism for the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, POPs, and Mercury.

GEF's Six Focal Areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Int'l Waters, Ozone depletion, Land degradation, and POPs.



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GEF's Grant Schemes

GEF Investment:

- About \$1 billion annually
- Biodiversity: About \$ 300 million annually

Grant sizes:

- Full-size project (above \$2 million)
- Medium-size project (below \$2 million)
- Small Grants Program (max \$50000)

Grant modalities:

- Country, Regional and Global Projects
- Programmatic Approach (i.e. umbrella program framework with sub-projects)



GEF's Biodiversity Program: Goals and Strategic Objectives

Goal: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services



Objectives

1. **Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems**
2. **Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Production Landscapes/ Seascapes and Sectors**
3. **Build capacity for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**
4. **Capacity Building on Access and Benefit Sharing**
5. **Enabling Activities (NBSAP revision, etc.)**



GEF Achievements in Biodiversity

- \$ 3.1 billion invested, **\$8.3 billion in cofinancing to support more than 1,000 projects** in 155 countries
- \$1.89 billion invested in the creation and management of protected areas
- Catalyzed the achievement of the target of 10% of the world's terrestrial areas under protection: 2,302 protected areas spanning 634 million hectares
- Conservation of 700 globally threatened species, 30 billion tons of stored carbon
- 40 conservation trust funds supported with \$300 million
- Pioneer investor in payments for ecosystem services schemes



GEF Achievements in Biodiversity (cont.)

- More than 265 million hectares of productive landscapes and seascapes became biodiversity-friendly
- Largest financier of forests: Investment of over 1.5 billion and more than 300 projects focusing on forest conservation and management
- Supported National Biosafety Frameworks in 123 countries
- Enabled participation by civil society through the GEF Small Grants Program, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and others



GEF's Protected Areas Program



Objective: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems

- Increase financing of PA systems;
- Expand ecosystem and threatened species representation within protected area systems; and
- Improve management effectiveness of existing protected areas.



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Protected Areas Projects in Asia (1)

Strengthen National Protected Areas System

- ❑ Over 60 GEF projects in Asia, in almost all eligible countries.
- ❑ Support including:
 - ✓ Policy and legislation development and enforcement;
 - ✓ Capacity development;
 - ✓ Sustainable financing mechanism;
 - ✓ Inventory and monitoring;
 - ✓ Awareness raising and communication;
 - ✓ Livelihoods, including ecotourism.
- ❑ Increased focus on marine and freshwater PAs to ensure representativeness.



Protected Areas Projects in Asia (2)

Transboundary: Altai Sayan Ecoregion

- ❑ Objectives: Conserve the unique mountain ecosystem that spans across China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia.
- ❑ Address both national and transboundary challenges for conservation: protected areas mgmt, species conservation, development and land use planning, etc.
- ❑ Strengthen protected areas mgmt within the larger landscape.
- ❑ Partnership among governments, International NGO, communities, etc.



Protected Areas Projects in Asia (3)

Endangered Species: Tiger and its habitats



- ❑ Support to the Global Tiger Recovery Program: GEF invested over \$70 million, total 14 protected areas and landscape level projects.
- ❑ Innovative approach: Habitat mgmt; incorporate biodiversity conservation in sector/development plans; SMART patrolling; Green infrastructure; sustainable financing mechanism; etc.
- ❑ Core support on capacity building of protected areas management and working with surrounding communities.



Protected Areas Projects in Asia (4)

Landscape and Seascape Approach: Satoyama Initiative



- ❑ Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond PAs, mosaic of land use at the landscape and seascape level
- ❑ Human-Biodiversity Interface
- ❑ Type of Projects:
 - Production Land/Seascape level projects
 - Production sector level projects
 - Projects involving Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge
 - Community-based projects
 - Small Grants Program
 - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund



Future Direction on Protected Areas Mgmt: Draft GEF-6 Biodiversity Program (2014-17)

Responding to the Strategic Plan for
Biodiversity and Aichi Targets:

Objectives: Improving Sustainability of
Protected Areas

Programs:

- Improving sustainable financing and effective mgmt.
- Expanding protected areas coverage.
- Supporting protected areas as an integral parts of the mixed-use landscape and seascape.



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Thank you

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