



Information Sheet 3 Ensuring Projects Fit the GEF Criteria

The SGP **ONLY** supports projects that fit the GEF criteria. Proposals **MUST** clearly state how the project will have an impact in the GEF focal areas and associated operational programmes.

First, it is important to understand the **GEF’s Primary Objectives**.

The main factor that qualifies a project for GEF support is that some global environmental benefit is at stake. So, projects should either:

- address threats to a globally or nationally important environmental resource, or
- ensure global environmental benefits are conserved, or sustainably used and managed .

What is a Global Environmental Benefit?

A resource, species, ecosystem, body of water, habitat, etc. that is important to the health of the world’s environment. This resource or ecosystem may also provide an important service.

Second, it is necessary that projects correspond to GEF focal areas and operational programs:

- Conservation of biodiversity of national / global importance;
- Climate change mitigation;
- Protection of international waters;
- Combating land degradation ;
- Preventing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

(See the attached: “GEF Focal Areas and Operational Programs”)

So, how do you determine that your project fits the GEF criteria?

Answer the following questions:

1. Does the situation warrant GEF intervention?

- Are any of the following taking place?
 - globally significant biodiversity loss;
 - inefficient, nonrenewable energy use;
 - degradation of international waters;
 - degradation of land; or
 - significant release of POPs?
- Does the proposed project correspond to one of the operational programmes?

2. What is the nature of the threat / problem?

- Current natural resource management or energy use situation;
- Current livelihood situation in the area;
- The ecosystem in the project area;
- The socio-economic situation in the area.

3. What are the actions to address the threat?

- What is the link between the proposed project and the potential global environmental benefits?
 - How will the project ensure that the biodiversity/international water body/natural resource or energy base of global significance is conserved or rehabilitated? or
 - How will the project reduce energy to sustainable levels of use and management?