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UNEP is an Implementing Agency of the GEF with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is the only GEF Agency whose sole focus is the environment.

UNEP plays a key role in supporting countries to develop and execute GEF projects, with a focus on:

- Scientific assessments, monitoring, early warning;
- Linking science to policy (Capacity Building, Enabling Activities) at national, regional and global levels;
- Innovation, technology transfer and lifting barriers;
- Regional and global cooperation;
- Awareness raising, advocacy, and Knowledge management.

UNEP also plays an important role in supporting the strategic and policy directions of the GEF, operationalising the Trust Fund and enhancing its scientific rigour and relevance. UNEP hosts the secretariat of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

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# UNEP and GEF in Land Degradation 2010



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UNEP has been assisting countries develop and implement activities to prevent and control land degradation, initially linked to the focal areas of biodiversity, international waters and climate change and since 2003 as a focal area of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Relevant lessons have been gained from cross-cutting land degradation projects that were applied in GEF-3 to develop interventions that focused on targeted capacity development and implementation of innovative and indigenous sustainable land management (SLM) practices. In GEF-4 the main priority has been to develop an enabling environment that places SLM in the mainstream of development policy and practices at regional, national and local levels; and the upscaling of SLM investments that generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods. The main thematic areas of support to countries include:

**Environmental monitoring, assessment, generation and dissemination of knowledge in SLM** and identifying synergies between MEAs (Multilateral Environmental Agreements) with respect to SLM. Countries have been assisted in developing

regional action plans and national reporting for the sustainable management of the environment and Convention implementation.

**Development, replication and up-scaling of tools, methodologies and good practices** that support sustainable agriculture and range management and sustainable forest management in the production landscape. Emphasis is also placed on development of methodologies to assess global benefits of GEF interventions with specific reference to carbon.

**Integrated natural resources management in transboundary ecosystems** that build on existing experiences and lessons learnt in the management of critical globally significant transboundary ecosystems and river basins. These activities support local communities livelihoods and adaptation to climate change that contribute to improved sustainable land and water management, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening of local, national and regional management capacity for integrated natural resources management.



### Regional and global cooperation

UNEP has a long standing partnership with UNCCD Convention Secretariat and other GEF agencies, the CGIAR, Universities, NGOs (local and international) and others in assisting governments develop and implement SLM projects. Collaboration with UNDP on KM: Land, FAO on LADA and the World Bank on the TerrAfrica platform; in Central Asia with the Asian Development Bank under CACILM and in Latin America with Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, strong collaboration already exists with the CGIAR, and their counterparts at national level. Universities and scientific organizations from both the South and the North and United Nations University are also actively involved in UNEP projects in SLM.