



COUNTRIES at a glance

Bangladesh

IUCN Bangladesh completed the project on the development of the Ecological Monitoring Framework of the Sundarbans in collaboration with Bangladesh Forest Department and GIZ. Under the project, a comprehensive Ecological Monitoring Framework for the world's largest mangrove forest was formulated, which will play a vital role as a comprehensive monitoring instrument, allowing for the assessment of the ecosystem's health and integrity of the fragile Sundarbans.

Bhutan

Under the Scaling-Up Mountain EbA project, IUCN partnered with the Tarayana Foundation, a civil society organisation in Bhutan, and the College of Natural Resources, of the Royal University of Bhutan, to address the issue of drying springs in mountain communities by mapping springsheds recharge areas and implementing low-cost measures to decrease runoff and increase infiltration and spring discharge using Ecosystem-based Adaptation.

Cambodia

Signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, for a project to develop an enabling regulatory framework for Conservation Friendly Economic Activities and private-sector partnership agreements in community protected areas with a total value of USD 600,000.

China

11 Chinese Protected Areas were recognised as IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas and certified during COP 15, Montreal. China has the largest number of Green List protected areas in the world, to date.

India

As part of its private sector engagement, IUCN India has engaged with Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), India's largest zinc and lead mining company, for achieving 'No Net Loss' in biodiversity and with a vision to become 'Nature-Positive'.

Indonesia

IUCN worked with governments in the Coral Triangle region, including Indonesia, to develop the Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience (SOMACORE) project, funded by GIZ. The project, slated to start in late 2023, will help strengthen Marine Protected Areas management effectiveness via the IUCN Green List and PANORAMA.

IUCN Asia delegates meet with the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam. © IUCN

Japan

With financial support from the Ministry of Environment, IUCN Japan Liaison Office co-produced a report on Nature-based Solutions and protected and conserved areas, in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES) and Equilibrium Research.

Lao PDR

Peatland extraction activities in Pathoumphone, Lao PDR, ceased as a result of IUCN's initiatives under the 'Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN', funded by GIZ.

Myanmar

Completed an economic valuation of the provisioning and regulating services provided by the major coastal ecosystems: mangroves, mudflats, grasslands, rivers, and seas in Mon State of the Gulf of Mottama.

Philippines

IUCN Asia worked with the Department of Agriculture and Korea Climate Change Center to develop a GCF project, by preparing a concept note with funding support from Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI).

Republic of Korea

The inaugural IUCN Leaders Forum took place in Jeju from 13 - 15 October. Organised together with the Korean Ministry of Environment and Jeju Self-governing Province, the event focused on 'Building nature-positive economies and societies'.

Sri Lanka

Under a global collaboration framework, IUCN and INSEE signed a contract up to 2025 to cooperate on ecological restoration of the limestone mining area in Aruakalu, among others, using IUCN's flagship knowledge products and tools.

Thailand

IUCN's Memorandum of Understanding with Siam City Cement Group (SCCC Group) entered into its second phase, aiming to design and implement biodiversity offsets to compensate for any unavoidable impacts of the Group's quarrying and cement production processes in its plants in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka.

Viet Nam

In a bilateral meeting with IUCN, H.E. Tran Hong Ha, Minister of Natural resources and Environment, Viet Nam, endorsed GEF and GCF projects under development with IUCN Lower Mekong subregional team.



IUCN Bangladesh works with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to mitigate human-elephant conflict in refugee camps near Cox's Bazaar.





TWO GCF projects worth USD 67 million kick off in South Asia

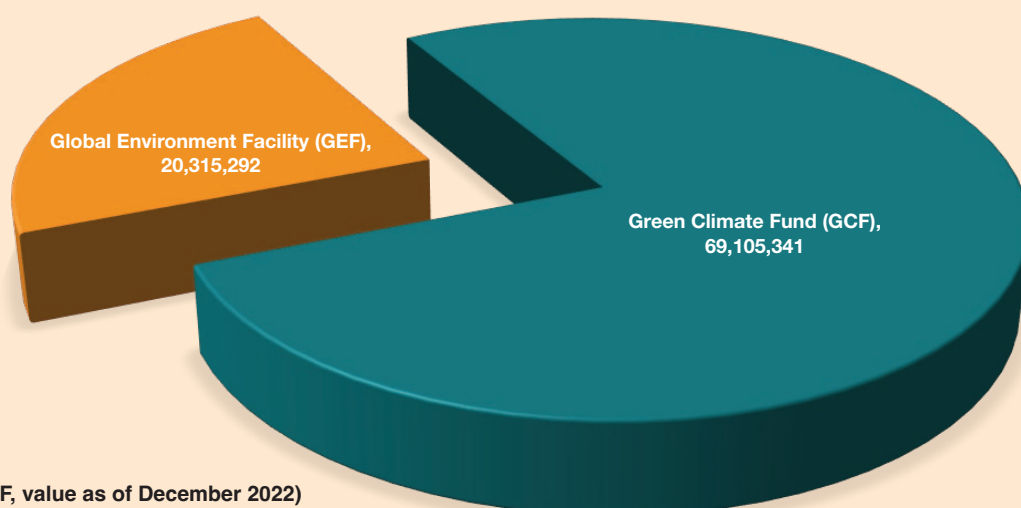
Carrying a total portfolio value of approximately **USD 90 million**, the funding received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) managed on behalf of IUCN State Members and other governments constitutes a significant portion of IUCN Asia Secretariat's programme portfolio. Below are some milestones reached concerning the two multilateral financing schemes in 2022:

GCF

- IUCN is the Accredited entity for the **GCF**-funded 'Improving Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin, Nepal' project. The project which became effective in November 2021 has a total value of USD 32.7 million of which 27.4 million is financed by the GCF. IUCN State Member, Ministry of Forests and Environment is the lead executing entity with the IUCN NGO member, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) being a technical service provider. The project covers a 7-year period and is focused on developing and operationalising a sustainable river-basin approach for watershed management by building climate resilience of both vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin. The project targets 19 districts in three provinces – Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini.
- IUCN is the Accredited entity for the **GCF**-funded 'Strengthening Climate Resilience of Subsistence Farmers and Agricultural Plantation Communities residing in the vulnerable river basins, watershed areas and downstream of the Knuckles Mountain Range Catchment of Sri Lanka' project. The project seeks to strengthen the adaptive capacity of smallholder subsistence farmers to address climate-induced irrigation and drinking water shortages by improving the resilience of farm- and land-management practices, and by climate proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Knuckles/Amban Ganga highlands and lowlands.

GEF

- Successfully completed the USD 1.5mn **GEF-6** project 'Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal'. The project supported the Government of Nepal in finalising the ABS (Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing) Strategy and Action Plan, which is an operational strategy for the government to start the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.
- IUCN is the GEF Agency in charge of the implementation of the **GEF-6** 'Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries' project. The project is contributing to the ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems 2014-2020 (APSMPE) endorsed by Environment Ministers in 2013, the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), and ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020 (APMS).
- The **GEF-6** 'TRI China' project is seeking to strengthen the policy, practice and evidence base of forest landscape restoration in China as an approach to reducing land degradation, conserving biodiversity, and adapting to climate change. Specifically, the Project will enable China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration to develop and test new standards of planning, implementation, monitoring and ecosystem service valuation, building expertise and awareness to support longer term and broader restoration initiatives far into the future.
- A **GEF-7** project in Sri Lanka on 'Natural Capital Values of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Sri Lanka Integrated into Sustainable Development Planning' was approved in December 2022 of a value of USD 2.89 million. IUCN is the GEF Agency with the IUCN State Member, Ministry of Environment being the Executing Agency.
- Two **GEF-7** projects of a combined value of USD 7.02mn were approved in December 2022 in China around the Yangtze River Economic Belt, with the IUCN State member related agencies National Forestry and Grasslands Administration and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment serving as executing agencies.
- The **GEF-8** Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Programme, to be jointly implemented by IUCN and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will improve management of nearly 3.2 million hectares of protected areas, restore 8,500 hectares of ecosystems, improve practices on 7.1 million hectares of landscapes, and mitigate about 190 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.



(Amount in CHF, value as of December 2022)