

# UNDP-backed \$77.6m programme to accelerate climate and nature projects across 10 countries

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**A new US\$77.6 million international funding package is set to accelerate a series of climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable development projects across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, with a strong focus on turning environmental ambitions into large-scale, deliverable programmes.**

Approved through the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#), the funding will support 11 projects across 10 countries and is expected to unlock more than US\$400 million in additional co-financing, significantly increasing the scale and impact of project delivery.

The initiative highlights the growing importance of integrated programme management in addressing some of the world's most complex environmental challenges, combining climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, land restoration, water security and sustainable economic development within coordinated investment frameworks.

## From funding commitments to project delivery

While global climate and biodiversity targets continue to grow in ambition, delivery remains one of the sector's biggest challenges. The latest investment package aims to bridge that gap by supporting projects designed to move beyond policy commitments and into implementation.

The programme includes initiatives to strengthen climate resilience in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and the Pacific island nation of Niue, while separate projects will focus on biodiversity protection, sustainable land

management and natural resource conservation in countries including Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eritrea, Malaysia, India and Kyrgyzstan.

Nearly one-third of the funding, US\$23 million, will be directed towards some of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

For project professionals, the package reflects a broader shift towards programmes that combine environmental outcomes with economic and social benefits, requiring increasingly sophisticated approaches to governance, stakeholder management and financing.

## Scaling nature-based solutions

Several of the approved projects focus on harnessing natural capital as a development asset rather than simply a conservation objective.

In Zimbabwe and Botswana, funding will support programmes designed to unlock biodiversity-driven economic opportunities while protecting ecosystems. Eritrea's project will focus on restoring degraded land, while Malaysia will strengthen efforts to conserve globally significant biodiversity assets.

India features in two separate initiatives, including a community-led integrated landscape management programme and a biodiversity-focused project supported through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

These projects reflect a growing trend towards landscape-scale programme delivery, where environmental, social and economic objectives are managed as interconnected systems rather than standalone initiatives.

## Climate resilience moves centre stage

Climate adaptation remains a major focus of the latest funding round.

The Philippines will receive support to strengthen resilience to climate impacts, while projects in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Niue aim to help communities adapt to increasingly severe weather events and environmental pressures.

For many developing economies, resilience projects have become some of the most complex programmes being delivered today, requiring coordination across infrastructure, natural resource management, governance and community development.

The emphasis on resilience also highlights the growing need for long-term programme planning rather than short-term interventions, with success often measured over decades rather than years.

## Mobilising larger investments

One of the most significant aspects of the funding package is its ability to attract additional investment.

The US\$77.6 million allocation is expected to mobilise more than US\$400 million in co-financing,

demonstrating how targeted public and multilateral funding can act as a catalyst for much larger programmes.

This blended finance approach is becoming increasingly important across climate and sustainability projects, where public funding is used to reduce risk and attract private and institutional investment.

For project leaders, this trend places greater emphasis on programme governance, transparency and measurable outcomes, as financiers seek confidence that investments will deliver both environmental and economic returns.

## A growing pipeline of environmental programmes

The latest approvals mark the conclusion of the GEF-8 funding cycle, with donors already committing US\$3.9 billion towards the upcoming GEF-9 cycle, which runs from July 2026 to June 2030.

Future investments are expected to place even greater emphasis on integrated programme delivery, blended finance models and whole-of-government approaches to environmental challenges.

Marcos Neto, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, said the focus now must be on delivery.

"The priority is now to act with urgency," he said. "We are committed to ensuring that these solutions continue to deliver real results at scale."

For the project management profession, the latest funding package underlines a growing reality: delivering climate and nature goals increasingly depends not on policy ambition alone, but on the successful execution of large, multi-stakeholder programmes capable of generating measurable results on the ground.

As governments and international institutions prepare for the next phase of climate and biodiversity investment, the ability to translate funding into outcomes will remain one of the defining project delivery challenges of the decade.