



**Global  
Environment  
Facility**

**News Release**

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**GEF Working to Build Momentum From Montreal Protocol For Future Global  
Environment Success Stories**

**Montreal, September 17, 2007**— There is still work to be done before anyone can say the ozone layer has fully recovered. And to help reach that goal, the Global Environment Facility remains committed as a key multilateral financial institution to help countries work on concrete ways to protect the ozone layer, particularly in conjunction with measures to reduce releases of greenhouse gases.

“Today, it is increasingly clear that global environmental issues – from climate change to biodiversity to ozone depletion to desertification –are inter-related, and that solutions can no longer be applied in separate silos of action,” said GEF Deputy CEO Patricia Bliss-Guest. “The GEF’s capacity to work in an integrated manner now underpins activities in each of our focal areas. Increasingly, the global community will need to show its capacity to build on the synergies among the global environmental agreements to design solutions to the threats to climate, biodiversity, the ozone layer, and other global commons. At the GEF, we stand ready to continue with our partners the forward movement for integrated environmental solutions.”

Bliss-Guest noted that getting the already impressive results on the ozone layer was only possible through cooperation and collaboration among GEF members as well as the bodies of the Montreal Protocol, the Ozone Secretariat, the Implementation Committee, the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund and the Implementing Agencies.

Through those collaborative efforts, the GEF has helped eighteen countries with economies in transition meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol. In 15 years those countries, with GEF support, have achieved over 99% reduction in their consumption of ozone depleting substances, phasing out some 296,000 tons of ODS. The GEF has committed US\$183 million in grant resources and leveraged an additional US\$ 187 million towards this effort.

“The ozone story is, in the end, a story of remarkable partnership around the globe. The Montreal Protocol stands to show us all that governments can come together in a practical way to solve a critical environmental problem,” Bliss-Guest said in remarks before the international meeting.

#### **About the GEF**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international financial mechanism with 177 member countries that addresses global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. GEF grants support projects in developing countries related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants. Since its inception in 1991, GEF has achieved a strong track record of support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, providing \$6.2 billion in grants and leveraging \$20 billion in co-financing for over 1,800 projects in over 150 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP), GEF has also made more than 7,000 small grants, up to \$50,000 each, directly to nongovernmental organizations and community organizations.

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