



Syrian report on GEF funding for period 2001-2018

The Syrian Arab Republic is fully committed to implement its obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its protocols. Yet we are facing many difficulties in the absence of appropriate financial assistance.

Syria is a country that is eligible for Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for the projects that are aligned to the GEF focal areas and is paying its contribution to the GEF fund Trust.

Yet over the last few years, the GEF has been deliberately excluding Syria from all regional projects that are meant to assist countries to implement various obligation to the convention and its Protocols of those we mention the following projects on:

- ☒ Revising the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan,
- ☒ Preparing the fifth National report on implementation of the CBD and undertaking CHM activities.
- ☒ Preparing the sixth National report on implementation of the CBD
- ☒ Preparing third national report for the Cartagena Protocol (CBP)
- ☒ Preparing the national report for ABS

Additionally, GEF stopped the funding for some of our national projects with no clear reasons and without even notifying Syria. One example is the UN Environment- GEF project for the *Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework for Syria (GEF ID: 4087)* under RAF GEF 4 . Where the project preparation was conducted in collaboration with UN Environment and its documents were approved by GEF for Funding on September 2009 and amount approved for the project was \$ 908,000. Yet Fund for the project execution was never received. Although we made many official communications to the GEF and UN Environment inquiring about the fund we never received any appropriate response then we found out from the GEF website that the project was just cancelled.

Several CBD Conference of the parties (COP) decisions have requested the GEF to provide financial support for eligible CBD parties to perform specific activities in order to assist them to comply to the CBD and its Protocols. However, the GEF is turning a blind eye to Syria's requests to access fund and is even excluding Syria from regional projects design.



This issue was raised several time with the GEF and even highlighted during previous COPs by the Syrian official delegation. No solution was concluded for this situation so far.

Under **STAR GEF-5** Allocation and Utilization, the total allocated amount for Syria was (\$ 11,190,000) covering the focal areas as follows: Biodiversity (\$1,500,000), Climate change (\$ 5,390,000) and Land Degradation (\$ 4,300,000). And under **STAR GEF-6** Allocation and Utilization, the total allocated amount for Syria was (\$ 6,779,625) covering the focal areas as follows: Biodiversity (\$1,500,000), Climate change (\$ 2,344,262) and Land Degradation(\$ 2,935,363). However, Syria did not get any fund Neither from the STAR GEF-5 nor from the STAR GEF allocations and was even excluded from all UN Environment regional projects funded by GEF despite several requests to join them.

Finally, We are raising up this matter to search for solutions and help Syria to get the fund as eligible country and to implement its obligations.

with refer to the GEF funding which allocated for Syria in previous (STAR-GEF4,5,6) you can find below the details of chances from the GEF allocations in **annex I**.



ANNEX I
Details of GEF FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
(STAR-GEF 4, STAR-GEF5 and STAR-GEF 6)

- The total number of projects which benefiting from Syria in GEF financing in the various areas supported by the GEF are 22 projects (9 national, 13 regional and global projects) with total funding is \$ 118.9 million, with co-financing from Syria (in kind) amounting to /173.25 / Million dollars, distributed in STAR GEF periods as following:

❖ **In RAF GEF-4 Project in Biodiversity:**

Date Approval	GEF_ID	GEF Grant	Total Transaction	Notice
September 2009	4087	\$ 908,000	\$ 33,000 PPG amount to prepare the documents.	No money was transferred as planned on the project documents.

❖ **In RAF GEF-4 Projects in Climate Change (All amounts in US\$:**

There were 3 projects in climate change (GEF_ID were, 3514,3828,3871 and one PPG related project 3828)

Date Approval	GEF_ID	GEF Grant	Total Transaction
2007	3514	\$120,455	\$125,000
2009-2010	3828	\$ 3600,000	\$ 3,960,000
2009	3871	\$ 264,423	\$ 275,000
Total		\$ 3,984,878	\$ 4,360,000

❖ **In summary of utilization for RAF GEF-4 Allocation,**

Focal Area	GEF-4 Indicative Allocation	Allocation Utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocation remaining to be programmed
Climate change	\$ 4,950,000	\$ 4,360,000	\$ 0	\$ 590,000
Biodiversity	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 998,000	\$ 0	2.801,200
Total	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 5,358,800	\$ 0	\$ 3,391,200

With refer to the amount of (\$ 998,000) was not transferred to implement the project in Biodiversity focal area.



- ❖ **In STAR GEF-5 Allocation and Utilization**, the allocated amount for Syria was (\$ 11,190,000) in focal areas (Biodiversity, Climate change and Land Degradation), but Syria did not take and get any fund from this allocation for all the period which was covered by STAR GEF-5, as show in the next table:

Focal Area	GEF-5 Indicative Allocation	Allocation Utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocation remaining to be programmed
Biodiversity	\$1,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$1,500,000
Climate change	\$ 5,390,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,390,000
Land Degradation	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,300,000
Total	\$ 11,190,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 11,190,000

- ❖ **In STAR GEF-6 Allocation and Utilization**, the allocated amount for Syria was (\$ 6,779,625) in focal areas (Biodiversity, Climate change and Land Degradation), also too, Syria did not take and get any fund from this allocation for all the period which was covered by STAR GEF-6, as show in the next table:

Focal Area	GEF-6 Indicative Allocation	Allocation Utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocation remaining to be programmed
Biodiversity	\$1,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$1,500,000
Climate change	\$ 2,344,262	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,344,262
Land Degradation	\$ 2,935,363	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,935,363
Total	\$ 6,779,625	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,779,625