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Department of Macro-fiscal and Development Finance
Ministry of Finance
Royal Government of Bhutan

**Bhutan at the 8th Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly
30 May - 6 June 2026 | Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

The 8th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 30 May to 6 June 2026. A delegation from the Royal Government of Bhutan attended the Assembly in its capacity as the Alternate Council Member for the South Asia Constituency, representing Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.

Building on the momentum of the climate negotiations under UNFCCC COPs, the GEF Council endorsed the “*GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and Operational Improvements for July 2026 to June 2030.*” This decision is significant for Bhutan and other recently graduated Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as it ensures continued access to adaptation financing and support under the GEF-9 cycle.

Bhutan also received recognition for the successful implementation of its GEF-6 LDCF-funded project titled “*Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscapes and Community Livelihoods.*” The project was rated “Highly Satisfactory” by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), making it the only project among 31 evaluated projects in the 2026 LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report to receive this exemplary recognition.

In the country statement as Head of RGOB Delegation, the Director General of the Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance emphasized the need for continued international support for vulnerable mountainous developing countries transitioning from LDC status. He highlighted that countries conserving forests and protecting global public goods must continue to be recognized and supported through accessible climate and environmental financing.

Bhutan reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and global environmental action. On the sidelines of the Assembly, the Bhutanese delegation also engaged with key development partners, including the Asian Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Programme, and World Wildlife Fund for Nature, to discuss enhanced collaboration on Bhutan’s sustainable development and climate resilience priorities.

The GEF Assembly is the highest governing body of the GEF, bringing together representatives from all member countries every four years to review policies, evaluate the performance of GEF-funded projects, and set priorities for future environmental action.