

---

<b>Implementing Agency</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>Region</b>	Global
<b>Focal Area</b>	International Waters
<b>Project Title</b>	Support for Regional Oceans Training Programmes
<b>GEF Allocation</b>	US\$2.6 million
<b>Cofinancing</b>	US\$2.6 million
<b>Total Financing</b>	US\$5.2 million
<b>Dates</b>	December 1991–June 1995
<b>Environmental Problem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for increased capability in ocean management and protection in developing countries to address increasingly serious pressures on the world's oceans</li> </ul>
<b>Project Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish operational centers for an international oceans training institute in four developing countries</li> </ul>

---

Oceans cover nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface and supply humanity with protein, fiber, metals, minerals, and energy. The importance of the seas is growing. Total fish catch worldwide continues to grow. Offshore drilling provides more than 20 percent of all petrochemicals and natural gas, a proportion that is increasing. Some 15 million of 230 million square kilometers of total ocean area can be tapped for oil and natural gas. International shipping is also expanding rapidly. World merchant fleet tonnage grew from nearly 80 million tons in 1948 to 425 million tons in 1992.

This intensive use and the resulting pollution are threatening fragile marine and coastal environments and contributing to global warming, stratospheric ozone layer depletion, and loss of biological diversity. The United Nations Law of the Sea convention, established in 1982, brought nearly a third of the world's oceans under national jurisdiction and created exclusive economic zones and, in some cases, widened them over adjacent continental shelves. Several coastal states—many are developing countries—have acquired access to resources of significant economic value from seabed minerals, petrochemical deposits, and fishing grounds within their exclusive economic zones. The challenge for many developing countries lies in devising integrated management skills and technologies to exploit these marine resources, while protecting the ocean environment for the benefit of future generations.

**The Project** This project reinforced the capacity of developing countries to manage their ocean resources by assisting the International Ocean Institute (IOI) in setting up four new operating centers in developing countries. The centers—in Colombia, India, Fiji, and Senegal—will develop curricula and train scientists and officials from their respective regions. IOI covered institutional expenses and used the GEF grant to enable these centers to meet the needs of policymakers, institutions, and nongovernmental organizations in each region. More specifically, the project worked to (a) define specific plans for each center and an initial working agreement, (b) improve IOI's management infrastructure to support the new operational centers, and (c) strengthen the network of IOI alumni to facilitate "marketing" of training programs in the new centers and dissemination of IOI's international research.

**Activities**

- *Creation of an institutional structure for training and research.* This component involved establishing self-sustaining operational centers in Colombia, Fiji, India, and Senegal and reinforcing links—through,

for example, distance learning and library hookups—with academic institutions and others in the IOI network associated with marine affairs.

- *Improving existing and creating new IOI training programs.* This component (a) involved revising current and developing new courses and (b) pursued research that was policy-oriented, related to marine affairs, and was interdisciplinary and nonproprietary in nature. Each research program was germane to a particular center.

The new centers focused attention on local and regional issues through research programs and trained personnel to manage their national exclusive economic zones. Establishing the centers allowed IOI to double its annual number of trainees and to improve and expand its transnational training programs. These operational centers have proved both useful and desirable. They have encouraged local participation and ensured continuity.

**Benefits** The project has built international expertise, particularly in developing countries, to manage and protect ocean ecosystems and marine resources.

---

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism that provides grants and concessional funds to developing countries for projects and activities designed to protect the global environment. GEF resources address climate change, biological diversity, international waters, and depletion of the ozone layer. Activities concerning land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation as they relate to the four focal areas, are also eligible for funding.

GEF is a joint venture of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank. These three agencies implement GEF projects.

**For more information on this project, contact:**

**International Ocean Institute**

**United Nations Development Programme**

Mahenau Agha  
Information Officer  
One United Nations Plaza  
New York NY 10017 USA  
Tel: (212) 906-6112  
Fax: (212) 906-6998  
E-mail: mahenau.agma@undp.org  
Internet Home Page: www.undp.org/gef

**For more information on GEF:**

**GEF Headquarters**

1818 H Street NW  
Washington DC 20433 USA  
Tel: (202) 473-0508  
Fax: (202) 522-3240/522-3245  
Internet Home Page: www.gefweb.org

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Mohamed T. El-Ashry

**Senior External Relations Coordinator:**

Hutton G. Archer  
E-mail: harcher@worldbank.org