

**ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN WORLDS APART:
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE ROLE OF UNEP AND GEF
IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

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ABSTRACT

The current global environmental governance system manages the earth's natural resources, environmental interests of different States and addresses the environmental problems that go beyond the territorial boundaries or the capacity of individual States to solve. However, the division between the developed (Northern) countries and developing (Southern) countries often visible in the exercise of global political, economic and social power is also present in the global environmental governance process. The North which owns the majority of financial, military and political power is enabled to play a crucial part in taking decisions over the rich natural environment and biodiversity in the South. The research analyses the issue of environmental governance in this context focusing on two of the most important global environmental institutions; the *United Nations Environmental Programme* (UNEP) and the *Global Environment Facility* (GEF). The study illustrates that the UNEP possesses many features that Southern countries expect in governance while GEF mostly hold Northern interests shown within the World Bank policies. On this basis, it is argued that the existing global environmental governance system has failed to accomplish sustainable goals for current environmental crisis. The research concludes that in order to achieve justice in global environmental governance, it is necessary to strike a balance between the extreme ends of North South dimensions through development of capacities and more effective ways of voicing environmental concerns of the South and ensuring equitable representation of all the countries in the global environmental decision making process.

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