



Global Environment Facility

Leonard Good

Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman

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January 22, 2004

Dear Council Member,

UNEP, as the Implementing Agency for the project, ***Global: Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project (Add-on)***, has submitted the attached proposed project document for CEO endorsement prior to final approval of the project document in accordance with UNEP procedures.

The Secretariat has reviewed the project document. It is consistent with the proposal approved by the Council in November 2003, and the proposed project remains consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures. The attached explanation prepared by UNEP satisfactorily details how Council's comments and those of the STAP have been addressed. I am, therefore, endorsing the project document.

We have today posted the proposed project document on the GEF website at www.gefweb.org. If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of the World Bank or UNDP to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Good', written in a cursive style.

cc: Alternate, Implementing Agencies, STAP



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

DIVISION OF GEF COORDINATION

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TELEFAX TRANSMISSION

To:	Mr. Kenneth King Assistant Chief Executive Officer GEF Secretariat Washington, D.C. 20433, USA	Date: 7 January 2004
	(1 202) 522 3240/3245 ATTN: GEF Programme Coordination	
From:	Mr. Ahmed Djoghla Director Division of GEF Coordination	
Subject	BD Biosafety : Add-on Project for "Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project" (20 additional countries)	Page 1 of 1

Please find attached the revised project entitled "Add-on Project for "Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project" (20 additional countries)" for final CEO endorsement.

Regards.

1. Project Identifiers

Project Number:	<i>[Implementing Agency Project Number not yet assigned]</i>
Project Title:	Add-on Project for “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project” (20 additional countries)
Duration:	24 months
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Executing Agency:	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Requesting Countries:	Suriname, Libyan Arab Republic, Dominica, Belize, Latvia, Bhutan, Morocco, Yemen, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Saint Lucia, Malta, Gabon, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cape Verde, Serbia and Montenegro, Angola, Eritrea, South Africa
Eligibility:	<p>A country that is eligible for GEF funding and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity• is signatory to, or intends to accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety not later than the completion date of activities in their UNEP/GEF project.• has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.• had a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Focal Point of that country in participating in the Project by 30th June 2003.• is not a beneficiary of any other GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs
GEF Focal Areas:	Biodiversity/Biosafety
GEF Programming Framework:	<p>The project, which is a continuation of the original project on “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project”, falls within the activities contained in the GEF Initial Strategy on Biosafety adopted by GEF Council in November 2000. The Initial Strategy committed GEF to support all eligible countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The original project was designed for a planning figure of 100 countries with a clear commitment to support any additional eligible countries. This request for additional funds for additional countries is a continuation of that original project design with the same norms and standards. The project also addresses the emerging priorities outlined</p>

by the GEF for Phase III under the pillar of “Capacity Building for the Implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”. Biosafety is a crosscutting issue to OPs1-4 and OP13. As an Enabling Activity, this project is eligible for full financing.

2. Summary:

Legal and regulatory structures will be required in order to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. This project aims to assist all GEF eligible countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with the Initial Biosafety Strategy as endorsed by the 16th GEF council meeting held in Washington, DC on 1-3 November 2000, taking into account other bilateral and multilateral initiatives. More specifically the projects aims at assisting all GEF eligible countries that have signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation through the convening of regional and sub-regional workshops. The implementation of the project will be guided by the “Indicative framework for capacity building under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”(UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/4) as well as the guidance of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Cartagena Protocol.

The commitment from GEF was to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, with a clear understanding that the original figure of 100 countries was a planning figure. The current additional request is merely a continuation of the original project, based on the same standards and project structure. This add-on project thus only extends the support already provided for the first 100 countries to a further 20 countries to prepare them for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with the Initial Biosafety Strategy. This project will thus assist these countries to fulfil their obligations now that the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has entered into force. This add-on project shares the aims and activities of the original project to assist GEF eligible countries to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation.

3. Costs and Financing (Million US \$)

This is an Enabling Activity project and is therefore considered fully incremental in the context of GEF funding. The additional project budget summary for 20 countries is provided in Annex III. The costs of the project have been calculated from the base of the original project costs for 100 countries and have been adjusted on a pro rata basis for 20 countries. The original budget covered the costs of all activities at the national level to be agreed within a specific sub-project, as well as the costs of sub-regional and regional workshops and other aids to sub-regional cooperation. All these costs, as well as the global level activities and support have been calculated back to a country basis and multiplied for 20 additional countries. Because of the very different starting point of each country that will introduce a National Biosafety Framework, the terms of this

National Project Document will be negotiated directly with each country under a sub-project with the designated national authority.

GEF:	Project	5,218,420	:	US\$
	Subtotal GEF	5,218,420	:	US\$
	Governments :		:	
	in kind		:	US\$
	Subtotal Co-financing		:	US\$
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Total Project Cost		5,218,420:		US\$
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4. IA Contact: Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif, Director Division Global Environment Facility, UNEP/GEF Co-ordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi, Tel:254-2-624166; Fax:254-2-624041; Email:Ahmed.Djoghlaif@unep.org

Additional Information on Add-on Project (20 countries) to the UNEP-GEF Project on *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF)*

1. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) was adopted by the resumed first extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, on January 29, 2000. As of September 8, 2003, 56 countries and one regional economic integration organization had ratified the protocol, and after the ratification of the CPB by Palau on 13th June 2003, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entered into force on 11th September 2003.
2. In November 2000, the GEF Council approved the GEF Initial Strategy for Biosafety for assisting countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol. The main objectives of the strategy are to:
 - (a) Assist countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety through the establishment of national biosafety frameworks;
 - (b) Promote information sharing and collaboration, especially at the regional and sub-regional level; and
 - (b) Promote collaboration with other organizations to assist capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
3. One of the major activities under this strategy was the approval of the UNEP-GEF project on *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF) to assist up to 100 countries*, henceforward called the *NBF Development Project*. Using a country-driven process, the project is helping each participating country to set up a framework for management of living modified organisms at the national level, allowing them to meet the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol. The *NBF Development Project* is also promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience on issues of relevance to the national biosafety frameworks. This project is also providing financial support to eligible countries to implement surveys and inventories and start establishing national databases and some funding for start-up equipment for information sharing.
4. The original commitment from GEF was to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, with a clear understanding that the original figure of 100 countries was a planning figure. The current additional request is merely a continuation of the original project, based on the same standards and project structure. This add-on project thus only extends the support already provided for the first 100 countries to a further 20 countries to prepare them for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with the Initial Biosafety Strategy.
5. The overall objective of the *NBF Development Project* is to prepare countries for the entry into force of the Protocol. The project aims at:
 - Assisting up to 100 eligible countries to prepare their national biosafety frameworks,

- Promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience on issues of relevance to the national biosafety frameworks, and this will be achieved through the following actions:

- (i) Strengthening national capacity in order to implement biosafety procedures and maximize the potential for the safe use of modern biotechnology;
- (ii) Applying biosafety procedures to enhance environmental management;
- (iii) Applying biosafety guidelines under the Protocol taking into account the work of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP);
- (iv) Harmonising regional and sub-regional legal instruments to simplify the process of applying and conforming to regulations;
- (v) Raising public awareness of the issues involved in release of living modified organisms to promote informed debate and to ensure that where any use of modern biotechnology is permitted, it is done in an open and transparent way;
- (vi) Providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to be involved in the design and implementation of a national framework for biosafety;
- (vii) Carrying out an assessment of technological capacity, its effect on implementation of national biosafety frameworks and means to improve it.

6. The *NBF Development Project* started in June 2001 with 18 participating countries. By July 24th 2002, the limit of 100 countries participating, as originally estimated, had been attained by formal applications onto the project and their eventual acceptance by the GEF Secretariat as eligible for funding (See Annex I for list).

7. Countries became eligible for support, if they were eligible for GEF funding and fulfilled the following criteria:

- Country is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Country is signatory to, or intends to accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety not later than the completion date of activities in their UNEP/GEF project.
- Country has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.
- Country is not a beneficiary of any other GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs
- Country had a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Focal Point of that country in participating in the Project by 30th June 2003.

8. A date of 30th June was established by the Project Steering Committee¹ in a meeting in February 2003, as the final deadline for countries to apply for joining the project.

¹ Steering Committee Membership includes representatives from the GEF Secretariat (Co-Chair), UNEP(Co-Chair), CBD Secretariat, UNDP, World Bank, UNIDO, ICGEB, STAP and the ICCP Chairman.

By the deadline, 20 countries, over and above the 100 countries budgetted for in the original project, had formally applied to participate in the project. This request for additional funds relates to this additional number of 20 countries. (See Annex II for list).

9. The original project design had an indicative GEF budget for the support of 100 countries of 26.092 M US\$ but stated that “If the number of eligible countries seeking GEF assistance exceeds 100, additional financial resources will be required”. The project budget was based on funding for 100 national level projects and activities at sub-regional, regional and global level. The basis for the original calculation has been maintained in this request for additional funds for 20 more countries (See Annex III Budget for 20 countries).
10. This is an Enabling Activity project and is therefore considered fully incremental in the context of GEF funding. The costs of the project were calculated from the base of the original project costs for 100 countries and have been adjusted on a pro rata basis for 20 countries. The original budget covered the costs of all activities at the national level to be agreed within a specific sub-project as well as the costs of sub-regional and regional workshops and other aids to sub-regional cooperation. All these costs, as well as the global level activities and support have been calculated back to a country basis and multiplied for 20 additional countries. The funding requested for 20 additional countries is 5,218,420 US \$, based on the full range of activities and support being provided by the project team over the life of the project.
11. Although the project is a fully costed Enabling Activity, a significant level of co-financing (47.3%) has been already agreed within the project of 12.34 M US\$ Co-financing against 26.09 M US\$ of GEF Funding. No additional co-financing therefore has been required for this budget request.
12. In developing the initial project, it was recognized that support for the preparation of national biosafety frameworks was central to the implementation of the Protocol, and that GEF assistance can facilitate developing countries to meet the obligations of the Cartagena Protocol. Nevertheless, it was agreed that GEF could not determine how many developing countries would require assistance and there was an initial agreement on supporting the costs of only 100 countries to prepare NBFs. The strategy went on to provide for additional resources to be made available should more than 100 countries meet the eligibility criteria.
13. This stage has now been reached and the GEF Council is requested to provide additional support to allow 20 countries to benefit from the *NBF Development Project*. A mid-term review of the *NBF Development Project* has now been completed and provides ample support for the continuation of the project and its extension to cover additional countries (see *NBF Development Project Mid-term Review* when available). The review states that the project has been very successful in meeting its major objectives and believes that the original project design has proven its worth. This provides a greater level of confidence and results base for the GEF Council to make decisions on provision of additional funds for the 20 additional countries.

14. The greater importance and heightened relevance of this add-on project request is brought about by the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 11th September, 2003. It is therefore proposed that support be provided to eligible recipient countries that have signed or agreed to ratify the Protocol within the project's life in order to meet their needs with respect to capacity building and training in order to put in place the national structures to meet the challenge of the CPB.
15. In order to make the most effective and efficient use of GEF resources, and to take full advantage of the work already done by the *UNEP- GEF project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks*, this new project is designed as an add-on project to the work already being provided through this GEF project. Regional Coordinators from the UNEP project would discuss with eligible recipient countries their participation in the project and available funds would be made available through the same mechanisms as the original project. Likewise, all other activities would be run in concert with the work being carried out under the project.
16. *The project activities for all the 120 countries will be revised in the light of conclusions of mid term review with discussion of appropriate requests for changes to the project Steering Committee in January 2004.*