



Global Environment Facility

Leonard Good
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman

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March 30, 2005

Dear Council Member:

I am writing to notify you that UNEP, the Implementing Agency for the project entitled, ***Global: Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project (10 additional countries) - Add On***, has submitted the proposed project document for CEO endorsement prior to final approval of the project in accordance with UNEP procedures.

Over the next four weeks, the Secretariat will be reviewing the project document to ascertain that it is consistent with the proposal included in the work program approved by the Council in November 2004, and with GEF policies and procedures. The Secretariat will also ascertain whether the proposed level of GEF financing is appropriate in light of the project's objectives.

If by April 27, 2005, I have not received requests from at least four Council Members to have the proposed project reviewed at a Council meeting because in the Member's view the project is not consistent with the Instrument or GEF policies and procedures, I will complete the Secretariat's assessment with a view to endorsing the proposed project document.

We have today posted the proposed project document on the GEF website at www.theGEF.org. If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of UNDP or the World Bank 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: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP



United Nations Environment Programme

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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: Patricia Bliss-Guest
Deputy CEO
GEF Secretariat

Date: 18 March 2005

Attn: Programme Coordination

From: Ahmed Djoghla
Director
Division of GEF Coordination

Subject: Biosafety: Add-on Project for 'Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project'

Page 1 of 1

Please find attached for final CEO approval the add-on project for 'Development of National Biosafety Frameworks' submitted to the November 2004 Council Meeting.

A note explaining how Council member comments have been incorporated in the revised project document is also attached.

Regards.



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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

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ADD ON PROJECT FOR 10 COUNTRIES TO PROEJ CT ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORKS (NBF)

Response to Comments from Council Members November 2004

Country	Comments	Action Taken
Germany:	At the moment, there exists a list of 10 possible eligible countries but only three of them sent a letter of endorsement. Germany does not see the need to finance a 10-country project when only three countries have shown interest in it.	<p>The GEF Initial Strategy and the Development Project opened up the possibility for support to as many countries as requested help to prepare a National Biosafety Framework. The original project for up to 100 countries responds to the need for that help. An add-on project for 20 additional countries was also approved in that light in November 2003 and since then the number of countries requesting support has further increased. COP7 in its recommendations 2, 3 and 4 has since provided guidance to the GEF that the opportunity to enter the Development project should be opened to all other eligible countries. The new add-on project responds to that request by expanding the number of potential countries to include all other eligible countries.</p> <p>The original project for 100 countries was approved on the basis of 18 endorsements and now has 124 valid endorsements. Approval of the first add-on project for 20 countries was done in November 2004 and there are now 4 more countries that have submitted a valid endorsement letters to request entry. These last 4 countries have not been funded out of the budget for the original 120. The remaining 6 countries (out of a total of 130 eligible countries) are in continuing discussions with UNEP.</p> <p>It should be understood that as in previous projects, UNEP does not receive any funds for a country until GEF Sec has received a valid endorsement letter, so no more funds than needed are provided. The funds are provided on a pro-rated basis, consistent with this concept.</p>

	<p>The rationale of the original project to convene regional and sub-regional workshops within a group of 100 countries cannot be applied to the presented list of 10 countries, of which some are the sole representatives of their regions respective sub-regions. (Such as Brazil for example)</p>	<p>Representatives from a number of countries on the list have already attended the original Regional workshops; 3 countries from this list have already attended the 2^d and 3rd series of workshops, (Brazil, Tuvalu and Thailand), at their own expense.</p> <p>A complete new set of subregional workshops will not be likely to be held, but A workshop for Lusophone countries, including Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and possibly Equatorial Guinea, hosted by Mozambique, was held in March 2005. Other comparable events would be held in line with country needs.</p> <p>.Subregional or Country level workshops and visits will be planned to provide adequate support, in response to their actual needs. Experienced project personnel from comparable countries will also be deployed to give support to countries.</p> <p>In effect, equivalent levels of support will be provided to ensure that countries achieve their goals of draft frameworks. The original project proposal has a flexible approach, which is necessary in such large complex projects and we have applied that same logic in this final add-on project.</p>
<p>USA:</p>	<p>The US does not support extending the deadline for completion of this project beyond December 2005.</p>	<p>The deadline of December 31st 2005 for finishing all country projects is not practical as any of these 10 new countries cannot start a national project until the funding is approved and it has not been possible for any country to finish the process in less than 18 months. In addition, it is expected that a number of the first 120 country projects will still be running in 2006, where progress has been slowed due to internal factors and changes in government. UNEP will continue to support these countries even while other countries have finished their development projects.</p> <p>A deadline of 31st December 2005, however, could set a reasonable time limit on when any new countries may join the project, if that is agreeable to all partners.</p>

	<p>The 10 countries in the proposed add-on project are already participating in the project and have been for some time.</p>	<p>The system of approval in UNEP has been that we work with all countries that provide valid endorsements to prepare a national project document (NPD). The NPD is negotiated between UNEP and the country and then signed at Governmental level. As soon as countries submit to UNEP their signed NPD, it is countersigned by UNEP and project funds are made available.</p> <p>To date, 120 countries have been able to receive funds and we cannot provide any more funds to countries until this add-on project is approved. Although not in the initial list, Azerbaijan and Tuvalu moved quickly in getting their national project through the approval process and submitted their signed NPDs before other countries that were already in the pipeline. They have now active project and are part of the 120 countries.</p> <p>On the other hand, Angola and South Africa, had submitted earlier a valid endorsement to UNEP but, for internal reasons, have not been able to submit a signed project documents by the time UNEP reached the limit of 120. These countries could be supported, as soon as they are ready, with funds requested in this Add-on project.</p> <p>The same situation applies to Brazil and Sao Tome & Principe that have endorsed the project but not yet submitted a valid NPD. All these countries have valid endorsement letters, but have not yet been allowed to produce a signed national project document for UNEP's approval. (See new para 10 on page 6). In addition, 6 more countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) remain eligible for project assistance under GEF rules but have not yet produced a valid endorsement.</p>
	<p>How are the GEF and UNEP coordinating with other providers of biosafety capacity building programs to ensure that a single, country specific, and science-based national regulatory system is established?</p>	<p>The UNEP project team consults widely with relevant stakeholders in every country to ensure that the project utilizes potential synergies for the establishment of credible NBFs in line with CPB. Examples of ongoing consultations and collaborations are with PBS, AGBIOS, WB, UNDP, GTZ, SIDA and FAO in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Paraguay, Argentina, Bangladesh, Philippines, India, Colombia, Malaysia and Indonesia.</p> <p>UNEP also sits on the board of the USADI/ PBS project and of the Mexico/ UNDP project, while all relevant UN agencies are already represented on the Steering Committee of the Project.</p> <p>UNEP also sits on all the official CBD Coordination meetings and in the Executive Secretariat's Liaison Group. In February 2005, the NBF Programme Manager was invited to sit on the Steering Committee for the Coordination meetings and the network of capacity building organizations.</p>



**PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
GEF COUNCIL WORK PROGRAM SUBMISSION**

AGENCY’S PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY: Global (Angola, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

PROJECT TITLE: “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project” - Add-on for final 10 countries

GEF AGENCY: UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES):

DURATION: 2 years

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: Enabling Activity

GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL

ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: May 2005

IA FEE: 0

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	
PDF A	
PDF B	
PDF C	
<i>Sub-Total GEF</i>	2,609,208
<i>Co-FINANCING*750,000</i>	
GEF Agency	
Others	
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	750,000
<i>Total Project Financing:</i>	3,359,208
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES IF ANY:	
LEVERAGED RESOURCES IF ANY:	

*Details provided under the Financial Modality and Cost Effectiveness section

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

Date:

Approved on behalf of the *UNEP*. This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for work program inclusion

Ahmed Djoghlafl
IA/ExA Coordinator
Date: March 18, 2005

Christopher Briggs
Project Contact Person
Tel. and email: Tel. +41 22 917 8411
Email: chris.briggs@unep.ch

PROJECT SUMMARY

- a) Project rationale, objectives, outputs, and activities.
- b) Key indicators, assumptions, and risks (from Logframe)

2. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

a) COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

b) COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

3. PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

- a) PROJECT DESIGN
- b) SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)
- c) REPLICABILITY
- d) STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT
- e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4. FINANCIAL MODALITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

Co-financing Sources			
Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)
Sub-Total Co-financing			

5. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

- a) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES
- b) CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN IAS, AND IAS AND EXAS, IF APPROPRIATE.
- c) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

ANNEX A: INCREMENTAL COST ANALYSIS

ANNEX B: PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

ANNEX C: RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL REVIEWS

- a) Convention Secretariat
- b) Review by expert from STAP Roster
- c) Council (at CEO endorsement)

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” (10 additional countries)
Duration:	24 months
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Executing Agency:	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Requesting Countries:	Angola, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Eligibility: The original project and add-on were intended to support 120 countries that were Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and were Parties or signatories to the Cartagena Protocol, or committed themselves to ratification by the time that project activities were completed. However, COP 7 gave guidance to define the eligibility of countries that were not Parties to the Cartagena Protocol for GEF capacity building projects, and these new rules on eligibility are now followed. Eligibility for this project includes all developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol or who:

- is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- provides a written assurance that it intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on completion of the activities in their UNEP-GEF project.
- has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.
- has a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Operational Focal Point and the national focal point of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of that country in participating in the Project
- is not a beneficiary of any other ongoing GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs

This leads to a further 10 countries becoming eligible for support.

GEF Focal Areas: Biodiversity/Biosafety

GEF Programming Framework:

The project is a continuation of the earlier global project PMIS # 875 on “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project” and its first add-on for 20 countries, in order to provide funds for the remaining 10 countries that have requested assistance. It 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. A further request for additional funds for 20 countries was submitted and approved at the GEF November Council through an Add-on project. This has brought the total number of countries currently financed to 120. This further request for additional funds for the last 10 eligible countries is, as for the previous add-on project, an extension of the original project design with the same norms and standards. The project also addresses the emerging priorities outlined by the GEF for under Strategic Priority III for “Capacity Building for the Implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”. Biosafety is also 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 eligible countries 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 and relevant Conferences of the Parties for the Convention for Biological Diversity.

The commitment from GEF was to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, with an understanding that the original figure of 100 countries was a planning figure. A request for additional funds for 20 countries has already been submitted and approved at the GEF Council of November 2003 through an add-on project. This has brought the total number of countries currently financed to 120. This final add-on project

thus extends the support already provided for the first 120 countries to the last 10 eligible countries. This add-on project shares the aims and activities of the original project and, on the basis of the same standards and project structure, will assist GEF eligible countries to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation to fulfil the obligations coming from the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with the Initial GEF Biosafety Strategy.

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 add-on project budget summary for 10 countries is provided in Annex 3. 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 10 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 10 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.

A list of these potentially eligible countries is appended as Annex 2. It is believed that a maximum of 10 further countries are now interested in the project and this add-on project will offer a final chance for these countries to join and benefit from the support available. As in the original project, the funds for each country will not be made available to UNEP until such time as GEF Secretariat has accepted their letter on eligibility. This add-on project would also remove the need for further arrangements to be made for funding all other countries now that the deadline of 31st December 2003 has been reached.

GEF:	Project	2,609,208	:	US\$
	Subtotal GEF	2,609,208	:	US\$
		834,946		
	Governments :		:	
	in kind	750,000	:	US\$
	Subtotal Co-financing	750,000	:	US\$
<hr/>				
Total Project Cost		3,359,208	:	US\$
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4. IA Contact: Mr Ahmed Djoghlaflaf, Director Division Global Environment Facility, UNEP/GEF Co-ordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi, Tel:254-2-624166; Fax:254-2-624041; Email:Ahmed.Djoghlaflaf@unep.org

Additional Information on Add-on Project (10 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. Therefore, at November 2003 Council, a further request for 20 additional countries was submitted and approved as mere continuation of the original project. This final add-on project shares the aims and activities of the original project and will assist GEF eligible countries to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation to fulfil their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with the Initial GEF Biosafety Strategy. The overall objective of the *NBF Development Project* is to prepare countries for the entry into force of the Protocol.
5. 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) Harmonizing 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 2003 was initially established by the Project Steering Committee¹ in a meeting in February 2003, as the deadline for countries to apply for joining the project. By that deadline, 21 countries, over and above the 100 countries budgeted for, in the original project, had formally applied to participate in the project.
9. A final deadline of 31st December 2003 had been established as the final chance for entry of new countries to the project. However, a number of countries have shown

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.

interest in joining the project since that time. In accordance with the original strategy to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, it was considered more cost effective to extend the opportunity to join an established project rather than prepare a set of separately funded projects. This request for additional funds relates to the additional number of 10 potentially eligible countries (see Annex 2).

10. As countries become eligible for participation by the provision of valid endorsement letters, they are invited to prepare a national project document and this is then approved by UNEP. National projects have then been received and approved by UNEP, only if funds were available and the projects have been treated on a first-come, first-served basis. This has meant that the list of ten countries has now been adjusted to contain the countries that have shown interest in the project, but have not yet produced signed governmental agreements or agreed national project documents in the UNEP format or valid endorsements. None of the listed countries, therefore, has yet received national level funding, but all the listed 120 countries already have fully approved budgets and documents.
11. However, the original eligibility criteria from GEF of September 2001 have now been superseded as a result of the guidance of the COP 7. Therefore, any countries that submits a letter of endorsement for the project, after COP7/MOP1 will need to adhere to the new criteria.
12. The new criteria have been established jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GEF Secretariat and rule that a country that is generally eligible for GEF funding is eligible for this project if it:
 - is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - provides a written assurances that it intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on completion of the activities in their UNEP -GEF project.
 - has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.
 - has a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Operational Focal Point and the national focal point of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of that country in participating in the Project
 - is not a beneficiary of any other ongoing GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs
13. The eligibility letter sent out to countries by the Secretariats of the GEF and of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including a model letter of assurance that a country intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on completion of the activities in their UNEP -GEF project is provided as Annex 4.
14. 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 the additional request for covering 20 more countries, submitted and approved at the November 2003 GEF Council, and is maintained in this request for additional funds for 10 more countries (See Annex 3 - Budget for 10 countries).

15. This is an Enabling Activity project and is therefore considered fully incremental in the context of GEF funding. The costs of the project, calculated from the base of the original project costs for 100 countries, have been adjusted on a pro rata basis for 10 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 10 additional countries. The funding requested from GEF for 10 additional countries is 2,609,208 US \$, based on the full range of activities and support being provided by the project team over the life of the project.
16. Although the project is a fully costed Enabling Activity, a significant level of co-financing (47.3%) has been already agreed within the 100 countries project of 12.34 MUS\$ Co-financing against 26.09 M US\$ of GEF Funding. Considering this level of co-financing, additional co-financing has been provided for this budget request by an additional contribution of 750,000 US \$ from countries providing cash and in-kind services to their national projects.
17. 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.
18. This stage has already been reached and the GEF Council is requested to provide additional support to allow 10 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*). 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 10 additional countries.
19. 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.

20. 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.
21. The project activities for the 120 countries were revised in the light of conclusions of mid term review after submission of request for changes to activities to Steering Committee in January 2004. This did not lead to any change in budget or foreseen activities.
22. The final add-on project removes the need for a consideration of alternative arrangements to be made after the deadline of 31st December 2003 had been reached. A commitment has already been made by UNEP to support all these 10 countries, even where the projects are likely to finish their national projects after the proposed end date of 31st December 2005 that has been established for the UNEP-GEF NBF Development Project for 120 countries.

Annex 1

List of 120 countries currently participating in the “UNEP-GEF Project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks”

Africa	Asia - Pacific	Central and Eastern Europe	Latin America and Caribbean
1. Algeria	1. Bangladesh	1. Albania	1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Benin	2. Bhutan	2. Armenia	2. Argentina
3. Botswana	3. Cambodia	3. Azerbaijan	3. Bahamas
4. Burkina Faso	4. Cook Islands	4. Belarus	4. Barbados
5. Burundi	5. Fiji	5. Croatia	5. Belize
6. Cape Verde	6. Indonesia	6. Czech Republic	6. Chile
7. Central African Republic	7. Iran, Islamic Republic of	7. Estonia	7. Costa Rica
8. Comoros	8. Jordan	8. Georgia	8. Dominica
9. Congo	9. Kazakhstan	9. Latvia	9. Dominican Republic
10. Congo, Democratic Republic of	10. Kiribati	10. Lithuania	10. Ecuador
11. Côte d'Ivoire	11. Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	11. Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of	11. El Salvador
12. Djibouti	12. Korea, Republic of	12. Malta	12. Grenada
13. Eritrea	13. Kyrgyzstan	13. Republic of Moldova	13. Guatemala
14. Gabon	14. Lao PDR	14. Romania	14. Guyana
15. Gambia	15. Lebanon	15. Serbia and Montenegro	15. Haiti
16. Ghana	16. Maldives	16. Slovakia	16. Honduras
17. Guinea	17. Marshall Islands, Republic of	17. Slovenia	17. Jamaica
18. Guinea Bissau	18. Micronesia, Federated States of	18. Turkey	18. Nicaragua
19. Ethiopia	19. Mongolia	19. Ukraine	19. Panama
20. Lesotho	20. Myanmar		20. Paraguay
21. Liberia	21. Nauru		21. Peru
22. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	22. Nepal		22. St. Kitts and Nevis
23. Madagascar	23. Niue		23. St. Lucia
24. Mali	24. Palau		24. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
25. Morocco	25. Papua New Guinea		25. Suriname
26. Mozambique	26. Philippines		26. Trinidad and Tobago
27. Niger	27. Samoa		27. Uruguay
28. Nigeria	28. Solomon Islands		28. Venezuela
29. Rwanda	29. Sri Lanka		
30. Senegal	30. Syrian Arab Republic		
31. Seychelles	31. Tajikistan		
32. Sierra Leone	32. Tonga		
33. Sudan	33. Tuvalu		
34. Swaziland	34. Vanuatu		
35. Tanzania, United Republic of	35. Viet Nam		
36. Togo	36. Yemen		
37. Zimbabwe			

Annex 2

List of 10 additional countries considered eligible for support under this additional request for “UNEP-GEF Project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks”

1. Angola
2. Brazil
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Chad
5. Equatorial Guinea
6. Sao Tome and Principe
7. South Africa
8. Thailand
9. Turkmenistan
10. Uzbekistan

Annex 3

Additional Budget Request for 10 countries

1 Promotion of regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience

	ACTIVITIES	budget for 100 countries	Budget per country	No. of additional countries	Total GEF
1.1	Regional Workshops	385,000	3,850	10	38,500
1.2	Sub-regional Workshops (participants' travel, subsistence, meeting facility and equipment)	450,000	4,500	10	45,000
1.3	Management of regional and sub-regional Activities	300,000	3,000	10	30,000
1	Subtotal	1,135,000	11,350	10	113,500

2 Preparation of National Biosafety Frameworks for 10 countries

	ACTIVITIES	Budget for 100 countries	Budget per country	No. of additional countries	Additional GEF request
2.1	Strengthen national capacity for decision-making/implementation of biosafety procedures	9,800,000	98,000	10	980,000
2.2	Meeting national obligations for the CBD, and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	3,500,000	35,000	10	350,000
2.3	Identify existing technological and legal capacity, its effects and means for improvement	3,500,000	35,000	10	350,000
2.4	Ensure and enhance stakeholders' involvement in the decision making process	2,500,000	25,000	10	250,000
2.5	Assist harmonisation of national and sub-regional legal instruments on biosafety	2,000,000	20,000	10	200,000
2	Subtotal	21,300,000	213,000	10	2,130,000

3 Project Management

	Project Management Tasks	Budget for 100 countries	Budget per country	No. of additional countries	Additional GEF request
3	Subtotal	3,657,083	36,571	10	365,708

Totals

ALL	Budget Totals Total	Budget for 100 countries	Budget per country	No. of additional countries	Additional GEF request
		26,092,083	260,921	10	2,609,208

Annex 4

Global
Environmental
Facility

Convention on
Biological
Diversity

September 13, 2004

Dear Madam/Sir:

Re: Requests for Financial Assistance from the GEF in Accordance with
Paragraph 21(b) of Decision VII/20 of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Reference is made to paragraph 21(b) of decision VII/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which provides the following eligibility criteria for funding by the Global Environment Facility of certain activities related to the Cartagena Protocol:

“All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States amongst them, and countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance of the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.”

In order to facilitate the implementation of this decision, the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Environment Facility have agreed that the following process should be followed by Parties to the Convention that are not yet Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and that wish to request funding from the GEF for the activities described in paragraph 21(b) of decision VII/20:

1. In order for a developing country or a country with an economy in transition that is a Party to the convention but not to the Cartagena Protocol to be eligible for financing from the financial mechanism for activities described in paragraph 21 (b) of decision VII/20, the Party must confirm in writing its political commitment to become a Party to the Protocol upon completion of the activities to be funded.
2. Such written confirmation should be in the form of a letter from the Minister responsible for biosafety issues within the Government addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A copy of the letter should also be sent to the CEO/Chairman of the GEF.

3. A copy of the letter submitted to the Executive Secretary should be attached to the project proposal submitted to an Implementing Agency of the GEF for funding.
4. The project proposal should be endorsed by both the national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the national operational focal point of the Global Environment Facility. If a country has not yet designated a national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the project proposal should be endorsed by the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
5. Countries that have received funding from the Global Environment Facility for activities referred to in paragraph 21 (b) of decision VII/20 will, on an annual basis, inform the Executive Secretary of the Convention of actions being taken towards becoming Parties to the Protocol.
6. The Executive Secretary will annually compile the national information that he receives and will distribute the compiled information to the Parties to the CBD and to the GEF Council.

A sample written confirmation of political commitment to become a Party to the Protocol is attached to the present letter.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Leonard Good
Chief Executive Officer/Chairman
Global Environment Facility

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Attachment: Sample letter

cc: National Focal Points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the
Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity
GEF Focal Points, Implementing Agencies, STAP and Trustees

SAMPLE LETTER

Date:

Mr Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
393 St. Jacques, Suite 300
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H2Y 1N9

Dear Executive Secretary,

Re: Political Commitment to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

I wish to refer to decision VII/20, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting, which requires that any developing country or country with an economy in transition that is a Party to the Convention but not yet a Party to the Cartagena Protocol provide written assurance of political commitment to become a Party to the Protocol in order to access funding from the Global Environment Facility for biosafety project activities referred to in paragraph 21(b) of the decision.

In this regard, I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of (country name) to confirm that (country name) intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by the time of completion of such activities that are financed by the GEF.

The Government of (country name) will inform annually the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the actions it has taken towards becoming a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Such information will be submitted to the Executive Secretary before the end of each calendar year.

Signed by Minister
(Minister responsible for biosafety issues)

cc: Leonard Good, CEO/Chairman, GEF