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GEF PIPELINE 7

NOTE: *For those reading the electronic version of this document from the web, please remember to click the appropriate hyperlinks to access the desired lists and concept documents*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The GEF Pipeline is the list of all the regular full size projects under preparation that have been reviewed and cleared by the Secretariat for GEF eligibility. Projects in the pipeline are in Phase I, “Project Preparation,” of the GEF Project Cycle. Medium Sized Projects and Enabling Activities are not included in this list as they do not go through an extensive preparation period and do not have to be reviewed by the Secretariat for eligibility prior to being submitted for approval.

2. The formal entry of projects into the GEF Pipeline provides an important opportunity for the Secretariat to review the concept for conformity with the GEF strategy, with the program to which it would contribute, and with other GEF policies. At pipeline entry there has been no major commitment of resources to the project so comments on the project design can be accommodated more easily. Timely publication of the pipeline gives:

- (a) more time for Council members to assess the proposal;
- (b) advance information to Operational Focal Points, Implementing Agencies, other multilateral development organizations, Regional Development Banks, bilateral development cooperation agencies, and other organizations so that they can discuss the complementarity of their own efforts with the agency responsible; and
- (c) early notice to private organizations of possible opportunities for procurement of goods and services.

3. The current document is the seventh edition of the pipeline publication and has been updated to include all project concepts entered in to the GEF Pipeline on the basis of recommendations from Project Review Meetings. All the projects that would be submitted in the next Work Program are included among the concepts listed here. The proposed GEF allocation will be firmed up during project preparation and will be presented in the Work Program, along with the applicable implementation fee.

4. An Implementing Agency (or one of the executing agencies operating under expanded opportunities) is responsible for preparing the concept document that describes the proposal in sufficient detail for eligibility review. The Secretariat reviews each proposal on the basis of the project review criteria for concepts and sets out specific requirements that the prepared project proposal must meet by the time of Work Program inclusion, in addition to the general requirements that form part of the project review Criteria. The review criteria include:

- (a) country ownership (including eligibility, country-drivenness);
- (b) program and policy conformity (including a conceptual project design, the incremental nature of the activity, and stakeholder identification);
- (c) financing plan; and

- (d) institutional coordination and support (including the agency's core commitments, linkages, coordination, and collaboration issues).

5. The pipeline includes concepts submitted directly by executing agencies under the policy for expanded opportunities.

Coordination

6. Publication of the GEF Pipeline provides an important opportunity for coordinating the activities of GEF Implementing Agencies, Regional Development Banks, multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies, and other international and national organizations. Among other things, each concept document identifies the areas of operation, broad nature of activities, major stakeholders, and links to other ongoing or planned activities. Organizations with ongoing activities therefore have the opportunity to comment on both technical aspects and coordination arrangements. Organizations planning new activities can also take this concept into account, and Implementing Agencies proposing new GEF activities of a similar type or in the same general area would do so in reference to the concept in the pipeline.

7. For the pipeline to realize its full potential as a coordination tool:

- (a) concepts need to be clear and specific enough both to guide the proponents on subsequent project preparation and to highlight for other organizations the possible overlaps and synergies.
- (b) comments from other organizations need to be received as soon as possible after pipeline entry; and
- (c) as required by the Project Cycle, projects need to be well advanced in preparation by the time of Work Program inclusion so that responses to all technical and coordination comments can be incorporated by the time Council considers the Work Program for approval -- the Secretariat has therefore discussed common standards for Work Program inclusion with the Implementing Agencies.

Slow-Maturing Concepts

8. Some early project concepts have not matured as proposals for Council consideration even after several years have elapsed since the project preparation grant had been made. The Secretariat has therefore identified in the pipeline document those concepts for which preparation was not complete within two years, and will discuss them with the Implementing Agencies with a view to (i) reporting to Council on the reasons for any delay or proposed termination and (ii) removing non-maturing concepts from the GEF Pipeline.