



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/C.25/3

Relations with Conventions and other Institutions

Recommended Council Decision

The Council reviewed document GEF/C.25/3, *Relations with Conventions and other Institutions*, and welcomed the progress made in support of international environmental conventions and GEF collaboration with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Council requests the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing and Executing Agencies to continue to seek opportunities to work with recipient countries to develop and implement projects consistent with the decisions of the Conventions. The GEF Secretariat is requested to maintain its consultations with the Implementing Agencies, Executing Agencies and Convention Secretariats to promote continued responsiveness to convention guidance and to keep the Council informed of the progress that is being made.

The Council reviewed and approves the proposed approach to the financing of biosafety capacity building activities in accordance with the guidance from the Convention pending the completion of the evaluation of activities carried out under the initial strategy to assist countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol. The Council requests the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies, a proposed strategy on the most efficient and effective means to provide additional support to countries to strengthen their capacity to implement national biosafety frameworks, as called for in the guidance of the Convention, once the evaluation is completed.

Executive Summary

1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF at the multilateral environmental conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund) and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant multilateral environmental processes.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) Discussion at the tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in February 2005 and biosafety activities undertaken since the last Council meeting.
- (b) Guidance provided to GEF by the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC held in December 2004. The guidance on capacity building, adaptation and public awareness reiterates earlier guidance and is being responded through the GEF Strategic Approach to Capacity Building, Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation and the Operational Criteria for Second National Communications for Non-Annex I Parties.
- (c) Progress made on a memorandum of understanding between UNCCD and the GEF.
- (d) Preparation of GEF relevant agenda items for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The GEF will participate in the meeting in May 2005 in Uruguay.
- (e) Relevant decisions taken at the 16th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Prague, Czech Republic in November 2004.
- (f) Progress made on the collaboration between GEF and the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD).
- (g) GEF participation in the CSD 13, its Prepcom, and the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS in Mauritius.
- (h) A brief report from the CITES and Basel Convention.