



Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.32/Inf.6/Rev.1
October 15, 2007

GEF Council
November 14-16, 2007

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council requested the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the RAF on a regular basis at its meeting in December 2006. This report summarizes the key issues in the implementation of the RAF since the report to Council in June 2007 including the preparation of new guidelines to Operational Focal Points on Managing GEF resources under the RAF. It also informs the Council of the current status in programming resources available in the biodiversity and climate change focal areas under the RAF.

Background

1. The GEF Council has reviewed progress reports and provided additional guidance on the implementation of the RAF at its meetings on November 2005, June 2006, December 2006, and June 2007. The Council requested the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the RAF on a regular basis at its meeting in December 2006. This report summarizes the key issues in the implementation of the RAF since the report to Council in June 2007.

2. At the June 2007 meeting, Council reviewed GEF/C.31/7, *Project Cycle*, and adopted a new more streamlined project cycle. Projects are approved right after their identification at a much earlier stage of the project cycle than before. It is expected that the total project preparation time will be significantly reduced to 22 months under the new project cycle. Additionally, on October 4, 2007 Council approved by mail *Focal Area Strategies and Strategic Programming for GEF4*. The Secretariat has prepared revised guidelines for GEF Operational Focal Points that accommodate these significant changes to the operational policies and procedures of the GEF. These revised guidelines are included as Annex B of this document and will be incorporated in the GEF Operations Manual that is currently under preparation. These guidelines replace the original guidelines circulated to Focal points in March 2006 and included in Council document, GEF/C.28/12, *Progress Report on Implementing the Resource Allocation Framework*.

Programming and Utilization of Allocations under the RAF

3. In the June 2007 implementation progress report on the RAF, the GEF Secretariat had indicated the slow progress made in programming resources in the biodiversity and climate change focal areas. To expedite programming in these areas, the GEF began reviewing new PIFs for Medium Size Projects (MSPs) and Enabling Activities (EAs) beyond those contained in pipeline 2007 starting in July 2007. In addition, PIFs were also requested for the Sustainable Forest Management Program that is being submitted to Council in the November 2007 work-program. As a result of these steps, programming in the biodiversity and climate change areas has picked up but still lags the programming rates in the other focal areas.

4. The utilization of country and group allocations by each country and focal area are summarized in Annex A. As of October 10, 2007 countries had utilized a total of \$81.296 million in biodiversity allocations and \$95.674 million in climate change allocations. The current pipeline of projects under preparation will utilize an additional \$147.123 million in biodiversity and \$120.838 million in climate change. The pipeline includes projects in the November work-program for \$88.83 million in biodiversity and \$89.27 million in climate change. The remaining projects in the pipeline for \$58.293 million in biodiversity and \$31.568 million for climate change are expected to be presented for approval beyond the November 2007 work-program. With the approval of the November work-program about 18.6% of the resources available in these two focal areas (\$353.840 million) will have been utilized. It is expected that programming in these two focal areas will further pick-up in 2008, so that almost 50% of the resources available in these focal areas will have been utilized by the end of FY08.

RAF Country/Group Allocation Utilization Report*

<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Biodiversity				
<i>Summary for Biodiversity</i>				
Countries with Individual Allocation	753.200	72.733	129.761	550.705
Countries in Group	146.800	6.008	12.780	128.012
Regional/Global Exclusion	50.000	2.555	4.582	42.863
Total for Biodiversity	950.000	81.296	147.123	721.580

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Biodiversity)

Countries in the group have collective access to US\$M 146.80 in GEF - 4. No country in the group can access more than US\$M 3.50 in GEF - 4.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Countries with Individual Allocations				
Afghanistan	3.500	-	-	3.500
Algeria	3.700	0.224	-	3.476
Argentina	14.500	0.150	-	14.350
Bolivia	11.400	0.225	-	11.175
Brazil	63.200	11.521	31.801	19.878
Cameroon	11.900	0.150	3.080	8.670
Cape Verde	4.100	-	-	4.100
Chile	15.700	1.372	5.531	8.796
China	44.300	6.582	19.047	18.671
Colombia	36.600	-	-	36.600
Congo DR	9.600	-	-	9.600
Costa Rica	12.000	5.812	4.398	1.790
Cote d'Ivoire	3.600	0.150	0.330	3.120
Cuba	14.700	0.135	-	14.565
Dominican Republic	5.800	0.300	2.775	2.725
Ecuador	23.200	1.181	5.288	16.732
Egypt	4.300	0.075	-	4.225
Ethiopia	7.700	0.150	-	7.550
Fiji	5.100	0.134	-	4.966
Guatemala	8.200	4.501	-	3.699
Haiti	4.100	0.300	-	3.800
Honduras	6.800	0.200	-	6.600
India	29.600	1.700	10.002	17.897
Indonesia	41.400	2.810	8.888	29.702
Iran	6.700	0.400	1.133	5.167
Jamaica	5.100	0.255	-	4.845
Kazakhstan	5.500	0.150	-	5.350
Kenya	7.900	1.580	-	6.320
Lao PDR	5.200	-	-	5.200
Madagascar	24.200	0.500	0.550	23.150
Malawi	4.200	0.050	0.143	4.007
Malaysia	15.200	1.190	-	14.010
Mauritius	5.600	0.300	-	5.300
Mexico	54.600	9.112	-	45.489
Mongolia	3.800	0.200	1.903	1.697
Morocco	4.300	0.133	-	4.167
Mozambique	6.800	0.180	-	6.620

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Biodiversity)

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Annex A

<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Namibia	6.500	0.300	-	6.200
Nicaragua	4.000	2.194	-	1.807
Nigeria	5.600	-	-	5.600
Pakistan	5.100	0.458	-	4.642
Panama	11.200	0.200	-	11.000
Papua New Guinea	12.500	0.385	-	12.115
Peru	25.300	1.972	10.812	12.515
Philippines	21.300	1.438	4.408	15.455
Russian Federation	25.300	-	4.985	20.315
Seychelles	5.300	2.180	-	3.120
South Africa	22.500	10.320	9.900	2.280
Sri Lanka	6.400	0.300	-	6.100
Sudan	4.300	-	-	4.300
Tanzania	12.800	0.240	3.905	8.655
Thailand	9.200	0.792	-	8.408
Turkey	6.100	-	-	6.100
Uganda	4.000	0.073	0.883	3.044
Venezuela	16.700	-	-	16.700
Vietnam	10.200	0.160	-	10.040
Zambia	5.100	-	-	5.100
Subtotal for Countries with Individual Allocation	753.200	72.733	129.761	550.705

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Biodiversity)

Countries in the group have collective access to US\$M 146.80 in GEF - 4. No country in the group can access more than US\$M 3.50 in GEF - 4.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Countries in Group				
Albania		1.038	1.045	
Angola		-	-	
Antigua And Barbuda		-	-	
Armenia		-	1.100	
Azerbaijan		-	-	
Bahamas		-	-	
Bangladesh		-	-	
Barbados		-	-	
Belarus		-	-	
Belize		-	-	
Benin		-	-	
Bhutan		0.980	-	
Bosnia-Herzegovina		-	0.950	
Botswana		-	1.100	
Bulgaria		1.040	-	
Burkina Faso		-	-	
Burundi		-	-	
Cambodia		-	-	
Central African Republic		-	-	
Chad		-	-	
Comoros		-	-	
Congo		-	-	
Cook Islands		-	-	
Croatia		-	-	
Djibouti		-	-	
Dominica		-	-	
El Salvador		-	0.660	
Equatorial Guinea		-	-	
Eritrea		-	-	
Estonia		-	-	
Gabon		-	-	
Gambia		-	-	
Georgia		-	-	
Ghana		0.410	-	
Grenada		-	-	
Guinea		-	-	
Guinea-Bissau		-	-	

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Biodiversity)

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Guyana		-	-	
Hungary		-	-	
Jordan		-	-	
Kiribati		-	-	
Korea DPR		-	-	
Kyrgyzstan		-	-	
Latvia		-	-	
Lebanon		-	1.078	
Lesotho		-	1.100	
Liberia		0.056	0.831	
Libya		-	-	
Lithuania		-	-	
Macedonia		1.100	-	
Maldives		-	-	
Mali		-	-	
Marshall Islands		-	-	
Mauritania		-	-	
Micronesia		-	-	
Moldova		-	-	
Montenegro		-	-	
Myanmar		-	-	
Nauru		-	-	
Nepal		0.212	-	
Niger		-	-	
Niue		-	-	
Palau		-	-	
Paraguay		-	1.131	
Poland		-	-	
Republic Of Korea		-	-	
Romania		-	0.605	
Rwanda		-	-	
Samoa		-	-	
Sao Tome and Principe		-	-	
Senegal		-	-	
Serbia		-	-	
Sierra Leone		-	-	
Slovak Republic		1.060	-	
Solomon Islands		-	-	

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Biodiversity)

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
St. Kitts And Nevis		-	0.193	
St. Lucia		-	-	
St. Vincent and Grenadine		-	-	
Suriname		-	-	
Swaziland		-	-	
Syria		-	-	
Tajikistan		-	-	
Timor Leste		-	-	
Togo		-	-	
Tonga		-	-	
Trinidad and Tobago		-	-	
Tunisia		0.112	-	
Turkmenistan		-	-	
Tuvalu		-	-	
Ukraine		-	2.013	
Uruguay		-	-	
Uzbekistan		-	-	
Vanuatu		-	-	
Yemen		-	0.975	
Zimbabwe		-	-	
Subtotal for Countries in Group	146.800	6.008	12.780	128.012

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Biodiversity)

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Climate Change				
Summary for Climate Change				
Countries with Individual Allocation	751.400	91.182	89.129	571.089
Countries in Group	148.600	2.046	11.583	134.971
Regional/Global Exclusion	50.000	2.446	20.127	27.427
Total for Climate Change	950.000	95.674	120.838	733.488

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

Countries in the group have collective access to US\$M 148.60 in GEF - 4. No country in the group can access more than US\$M 3.10 in GEF - 4.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Countries with Individual Allocations				
Algeria	7.600	-	-	7.600
Argentina	13.300	0.150	-	13.150
Azerbaijan	4.100	-	-	4.100
Bangladesh	6.700	1.091	-	5.609
Belarus	7.900	0.300	-	7.600
Bolivia	3.100	0.075	-	3.025
Brazil	38.100	15.039	8.600	14.461
Bulgaria	8.500	0.300	-	8.200
Cambodia	3.300	0.300	-	3.000
Chile	6.100	0.100	-	6.000
China	150.000	40.307	34.954	74.739
Colombia	8.900	-	-	8.900
Cuba	4.200	0.135	-	4.065
Egypt	11.500	0.225	-	11.275
Ethiopia	4.900	0.100	-	4.800
Hungary	8.200	-	-	8.200
India	74.900	2.123	32.867	39.910
Indonesia	16.300	2.303	7.260	6.737
Iran	16.500	0.400	3.323	12.777
Kazakhstan	13.500	0.150	-	13.350
Kenya	3.400	0.120	-	3.280
Korea DPR	6.400	-	-	6.400
Latvia	3.200	-	-	3.200
Lithuania	3.400	-	-	3.400
Malaysia	11.300	0.282	-	11.018
Mexico	28.300	1.090	-	27.210
Morocco	3.800	0.067	-	3.733
Nigeria	9.300	-	-	9.300
Pakistan	13.200	0.214	2.125	10.861
Peru	4.600	-	-	4.600
Philippines	6.600	-	-	6.600
Poland	38.100	-	-	38.100
Romania	13.900	0.300	-	13.600
Russian Federation	72.500	10.932	-	61.569
Slovak Republic	5.700	-	-	5.700
South Africa	23.900	12.257	-	11.643
Sudan	5.700	-	-	5.700

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

Countries in the group have collective access to US\$M 148.60 in GEF - 4. No country in the group can access more than US\$M 3.10 in GEF - 4.

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Syria	4.900	0.125	-	4.775
Tanzania	4.800	0.060	-	4.740
Thailand	14.700	1.181	-	13.519
Turkey	17.500	-	-	17.500
Uganda	3.100	0.227	-	2.873
Ukraine	18.900	-	-	18.900
Uzbekistan	9.300	-	-	9.300
Venezuela	8.800	-	-	8.800
Vietnam	8.500	1.231	-	7.269
Subtotal for Countries with Individual Allocation	751.400	91.182	89.129	571.089

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Countries in Group				
Afghanistan		-	-	
Albania		-	-	
Angola		-	-	
Antigua And Barbuda		-	-	
Armenia		-	-	
Bahamas		-	-	
Bahrain		-	-	
Barbados		-	-	
Belize		-	-	
Benin		-	-	
Bhutan		-	-	
Bosnia-Herzegovina		-	1.045	
Botswana		-	-	
Burkina Faso		-	0.971	
Burundi		-	-	
Cameroon		-	-	
Cape Verde		-	-	
Central African Republic		-	-	
Chad		-	-	
Comoros		-	-	
Congo		-	-	
Congo DR		-	-	
Cook Islands		-	-	
Costa Rica		-	-	
Cote d'Ivoire		-	-	
Croatia		-	-	
Cyprus		-	-	
Djibouti		-	1.100	
Dominica		-	-	
Dominican Republic		-	-	
Ecuador		-	-	
El Salvador		-	-	
Equatorial Guinea		-	-	
Eritrea		-	-	
Estonia		-	-	
Fiji		-	-	
Gabon		-	-	

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Gambia		-	-	
Georgia		-	-	
Ghana		-	-	
Grenada		-	-	
Guatemala		-	-	
Guinea		-	-	
Guinea-Bissau		-	-	
Guyana		-	1.100	
Haiti		-	1.075	
Honduras		-	-	
Israel		-	-	
Jamaica		-	-	
Jordan		-	-	
Kiribati		-	-	
Kuwait		-	-	
Kyrgyzstan		-	-	
Lao PDR		-	-	
Lebanon		-	-	
Lesotho		-	-	
Liberia		-	-	
Libya		-	-	
Macedonia		-	-	
Madagascar		-	1.100	
Malawi		-	-	
Maldives		-	-	
Mali		-	-	
Malta		-	-	
Marshall Islands		-	1.075	
Mauritania		-	-	
Mauritius		1.006	-	
Micronesia		-	-	
Moldova		-	-	
Mongolia		-	-	
Montenegro		-	1.076	
Mozambique		-	-	
Myanmar		-	-	
Namibia		-	-	
Nauru		-	-	

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** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

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Annex A

<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Nepal		-	-	
Nicaragua		-	-	
Niger		-	-	
Niue		-	-	
Oman		-	-	
Palau		-	1.075	
Panama		-	-	
Papua New Guinea		-	-	
Paraguay		-	-	
Qatar		-	-	
Republic Of Korea		-	-	
Rwanda		-	-	
Samoa		-	-	
San Marino		-	-	
Sao Tome and Principe		-	-	
Saudi Arabia		-	-	
Senegal		-	-	
Serbia		-	-	
Seychelles		-	-	
Sierra Leone		-	-	
Singapore		-	-	
Solomon Islands		-	-	
Sri Lanka		-	0.891	
St. Kitts And Nevis		-	-	
St. Lucia		-	-	
St. Vincent and Grenadine		-	-	
Suriname		-	-	
Swaziland		-	-	
Tajikistan		-	1.075	
Timor Leste		-	-	
Togo		-	-	
Tonga		-	-	
Trinidad and Tobago		-	-	
Tunisia		-	-	
Turkmenistan		-	-	
Tuvalu		-	-	
United Arab Emirates		-	-	
Uruguay		1.040	-	

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

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<i>Country</i>	<i>Country/Group Allocation**</i>	<i>Utilization**</i>	<i>Pipeline**</i>	<i>Available for Programming**</i>
Vanuatu		-	-	
Yemen		-	-	
Zambia		-	-	
Zimbabwe		-	-	
Subtotal for Countries in Group	148.600	2.046	11.583	134.971

* All amounts in US\$M and include GEF Agency Fees.

** As of date October 10, 2007

Group (Climate Change)

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Annex A

ANNEX B: GUIDELINES FOR GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINTS TO MANAGE GEF RESOURCE

GEF RESOURCE ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK: GUIDELINES FOR COUNTRY OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINTS TO MANAGE GEF RESOURCES

Introduction

1. In March 2006, the GEF Secretariat sent GEF Operational Focal Points a first set of guidelines on how to manage GEF resources under the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) during GEF-4.¹ Based on the experience gained during the implementation of the RAF, the GEF amended those guidelines and reported the changes to the Council as part of its periodic progress report on the implementation of the RAF.

2. In June 2007, the GEF Council approved a new project cycle that significantly altered the GEF project approval process. Additionally, in September 2007, the GEF Council adopted new Focal Area Strategies that establish priorities for the use of GEF-4 resources.

3. These new guidelines consolidate the changes previously reported and reflect the new project cycle and the new focal area strategies. They replace the original guidelines to GEF Operational Focal Points describing how GEF resources will be managed under the Resource Allocation Framework.

Role of Operational Focal Points

4. The GEF Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) defines the level of resources available to each eligible country for GEF projects in biodiversity and climate change during GEF-4. Operational Focal Points should facilitate a consultation process involving key stakeholders, including the relevant Convention Focal Points, other relevant ministries, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, and the GEF Agencies, to identify country priorities in managing GEF resources under the RAF.² The types of [services and financial assistance the GEF provides to focal points](#) to carry out their responsibilities are described fully on the GEF website.³

Allocations under the RAF⁴

5. In each focal area, countries are assigned a country-specific allocation or are part of a group of countries which, collectively, has access to a group allocation.⁵ The [initial allocation](#) is for a four-year GEF replenishment period.⁶ It is expected that half the allocation would be utilized during the first two years. At the mid-point of each replenishment period (July 1, 2008 for GEF-4), 50% of the initial allocations will be reallocated based on a reapplication of the RAF

¹ The GEF-4 replenishment period is July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010.

² The [GEF's policy on public involvement](#) is available on the GEF website at <http://thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=78>

³ http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=16712&menu_id=42

⁴ Allocations under the RAF are not an entitlement. They are available to finance technically qualified projects that fall within the priorities identified in the GEF Focal Area Strategies.

⁵ In GEF-4 there are 88 countries that collectively can access \$146.8 million for biodiversity and 115 countries that collectively can access \$146.8 million for climate change.

⁶ http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=16880&menu_id=120

formula using updated indicators on the GEF Benefits Index (GBI) and GEF Performance Index (GPI).

6. Once the initial allocations have been finalized and subsequently after each reallocation, the GEF Secretariat will inform each recipient country

- whether it has an individual allocation or is part of a group,
- for a country that has an individual allocation: the amount of its allocation,
- for a country that is part of a group: the amount of the group allocation, and the number and names of the countries that are in the group.

7. All allocations under the RAF expire at the end of the replenishment period and any allocations that have not been utilized are returned to the GEF Trust Fund.

Programming Allocations and the GEF Pipeline

8. At the beginning of GEF-4, the GEF Secretariat discussed with each country how it might utilize its allocations for financing projects in the context of each country's commitments to the relevant global environmental conventions, of its sustainable development goals, and of the ongoing structural reforms of the GEF. These discussions formed the basis for the submission of specific project proposals by each country during GEF-4. The GEF Secretariat will hold follow-up discussions with countries on programming the allocations available to them, as needed.

9. Each GEF Operational Focal Point may identify specific priority projects for GEF financing under the RAF based on a national consultative process. Under the new project cycle these projects need to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat in the form of a [Project Identification Form \(PIF\)](#).⁷ This is a new form that summarizes the project concept in 4-8 pages and allows critical examination of the goals, costs and components of the project. The PIF for a project has to be prepared and submitted on behalf of the country by one of the GEF Agencies.⁸ It will include a letter of endorsement of the project from the country's Operational Focal Point indicating the amount that can be utilized out of the country's allocations under the RAF.⁹

10. The new project cycle significantly reduces the preparation time of GEF projects to 22 months. In addition, projects are approved at a much earlier stage: when they are submitted in a PIF. The streamlined approval process reduces the need for maintaining a large pipeline of projects under development.

11. For each country with an individual allocation, the GEF Secretariat will maintain a pipeline of projects under preparation so that the allocations that have been utilized plus the

⁷ <http://thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=16674>

⁸ The [comparative advantage of the GEF Agencies](#) in carrying out specific types of projects is described more fully on the GEF website at http://thegef.org/uploadedFiles/Projects/Templates_and_Guidelines/GEF-C-31-5%20rev%201-June%2018-2007.pdf.

⁹ A [letter of endorsement template](#) is available on the GEF website at <http://thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=16674>.

projects in the pipeline do not exceed the expected allocations of the country for the replenishment period.

12. For countries in either the climate change or biodiversity group, the GEF Secretariat will maintain a pipeline of projects under preparation, so that the allocations that have been utilized for all countries in the group plus the projects in the pipeline for these countries do not exceed the expected allocation for countries in the group for the replenishment period.

Types of Projects that can be funded from the allocations

13. The RAF allocations can be used to finance the incremental cost of projects that support the strategic priorities outlined in the GEF Focal Area Strategies. A GEF grant to a project that lies wholly within a country and supports a single focal area is completely funded out of the relevant focal area RAF allocation for the country. A GEF grant to a project that supports priorities under multiple focal areas or that lies across multiple countries is shared across the relevant focal area RAF allocations of the participating countries. The GEF Agencies preparing the project will work with the participating countries to determine the appropriate share for each focal area and country.

14. Countries with individual allocations can also contribute part of their allocations to the small grants program in the country. A country with allocations larger than \$15 million in either the climate change or biodiversity focal area can contribute up to a total of \$2.4 million to sustain the Small Grants Program in the country. A country with an individual allocation less than \$15 million in both focal areas can contribute up to \$300,000 per year for the SGP program and will receive a matching amount from core funds available to SGP.

15. Countries in a group cannot make additional contributions to the Small Grants Program from the group allocation. Instead, the SGP program in these countries will be funded from the core funds available to the SGP program.

Utilization of Allocations and Country Endorsement

16. The GEF Secretariat will clear PIFs that have been endorsed by the Operational Focal Point in 10 business days. The GEF Secretariat will notify the relevant GEF Agencies of the CEO's decisions on all PIFs submitted to it.

17. Subject to the availability of GEF resources and RAF allocations to the country, the CEO will:

- a) Approve technically cleared PIFs for enabling activities requesting less than \$500,000 and the associated Agency fee, under expedited procedures.
- b) Approve technically cleared PIFs for medium size projects and the associated Agency fee, under expedited procedures.
- c) Approve Project Preparation Grants (PPG) for full and medium size projects

- d) Include full size projects and the associated Agency fee in a work program for approval by Council.¹⁰

18. All such approvals utilize the allocations available to the country. The total is then subtracted from the amount available for programming additional projects.

19. Approval of a project in a country in a group utilizes the group allocation. The total is deducted from the amount available for programming additional projects by countries in the group. To ensure equity in the use of the group allocation, approvals up to the first \$1 million plus associated Agency fees for each country will be done without a comparative assessment of the project against alternative projects from countries in the group. The GEF Secretariat will periodically review the demand for resources from all countries in the group in relation to the allocations available to group. On the basis of these reviews, the GEF Secretariat may approve projects in excess of \$1 million for a country based on a comparative assessment of all such projects.

20. PIFs and PPGs cancelled in accordance with GEF policy on cancellation result in an increase of the amount available for additional programming for the country or the group if these amounts were funded out of the allocations during the same replenishment period.

21. Under the new project cycle, a GEF Agency has up to 22 months to present fully prepared projects associated with an approved PIF for CEO endorsement. The CEO will endorse the project if it meets the technical criteria for CEO endorsement. Allocations that have been utilized and allocations that are available for additional programming will be adjusted for any changes in the project amount and associated Agency fees at the time of CEO endorsement.

Allocation Utilization Report

22. The GEF Secretariat will periodically report on the progress made in programming allocations available under the RAF. These reports will be publicly disseminated after the approval of each work program and if needed between work programs. The report will contain a summary of the resources allocated for each focal area to each country and each group, the amount that has been utilized, the amount that is in the GEF pipeline, and the amount that is available to finance additional programming in the focal area. The programming report will be sent to the Council, Operational Focal Points, as well as to the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies.

¹⁰ The GEF will maintain a pipeline of PIFs for projects that have been technically cleared but have either not been included in a Council work-program or are awaiting Council approval of the work-program.