

25th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 20, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 05

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.25/02, *Work Program for Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising six projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by 7 January 2019.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$44.86 million, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

[See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the first Work Program submitted for the consideration of the LDCF/SCCF Council. It requests a total of \$44.86 million from the LDCF Trust Fund, inclusive of Agency fees, for six projects. In addition, these projects request project preparation grants (PPGs) and fees totaling \$985,500. Among these six projects, one is a multi-trust fund (MTF) project with the GEF Trust Fund. As of September 30, 2018, LDCF resources available for new funding decisions amounted to \$69.81 million.¹
2. Countries supported by this first LDCF Work Program include Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Sudan.
3. These six projects mobilize \$139.95 million in co-financing, meaning each dollar provided by the LDCF is matched by \$3.1 in leveraged financing provided by other sources.
4. The proposed Work Program contains projects that contribute to the goals and objectives of the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.² The Work Program addresses all three strategic objectives set forth in the strategy.
5. The proposed Work Program encompasses a range of adaptation priorities, including urban and rural resilience building through water supply and sanitation management, climate proofing rural settlements, strengthening capacities of agro-pastoral communities to plan for and adapt to climate change, and strengthening climate monitoring capacities and early warning systems and information to respond to climate shocks.
6. This cover note summarizes key aspects of the proposed Work Program, including analysis of factors for strategic prioritization, contributions to Core Indicators, status of use of LDCF resources, and project descriptions.

WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

7. This first Work Program for the LDCF requests the total of \$44.86 million for six projects, inclusive of Agency fees, all of which are national projects that address current country priorities for adaptation. Additional \$985,500 is requested for PPGs and fees.
8. These six projects presented for the Council consideration consist of all proposals that were technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat.

¹ GEF Trustee, 2018, [Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.25/Inf.02.

² GEF, 2018, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements July 2018 to June 2022](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF24/03.

9. Among the six projects, four are submitted by countries (Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Sudan) that had GEF-6 pipelined projects. Accordingly, the GEF Secretariat carried out consultations with these countries to discuss adaptation priorities and how/whether the pipelined initiatives would fit the country priorities to be supported by GEF-7, in line operational improvements outlined in the GEF strategy approved by the 24th LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2018. The projects included in the Work Program have been confirmed by the Operational Focal Points (OFP) of respective countries to be the current national priorities for adaptation and for LDCF support.

10. Additional five proposals submitted for consideration did not complete the technical review or had not yet reflected results of consultations on current national priorities in light of GEF-6 pipelined projects. As such, they were deferred to future Work Program considerations.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION

11. In line with the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, factors to be considered for the strategic prioritization of projects by the LDCF/SCCF Council for Work Program-based approvals include the following, with the alignment with national needs and priorities being the most important factor to consider:

- Alignment with needs and priorities identified in national plans, such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), and national sustainability development strategies;
- Alignment with priorities in the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, such as opportunities to foster innovation and investments for technology transfer;
- Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support, including GEF MTF programming and other funding sources including the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and
- Level of LDCF resources previously accessed by the country, to help facilitate access by countries underserved by the LDCF to date.

12. Additional factors to be considered for further consideration include:

- Potential for private sector engagement;
- Geographical balance of LDCF support provided;
- Extenuating circumstances, such as natural disasters; and
- Timing of technical approval of projects.

13. The following sections summarize an analysis of how the proposed Work Program addresses factors for strategic prioritization.

14. Alignment with national needs and priorities: All six projects articulated their alignments with current priorities as identified in the NAPAs, National Climate Adaptation Strategy and Mitigation Strategies, current policy approaches to relevant themes, such as human settlement, vulnerability, and/or other key national strategies related to adaptation. The projects seek to address a range of adaptation priorities, including urban and rural resilience building through water supply and sanitation management, climate proofing rural settlements, strengthening capacities of agro-pastoral communities to plan for and adapt to climate change, and strengthening climate monitoring capacities and early warning systems and information to respond to climate shocks.

15. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support: All projects are catalyzing additional financing from various sources. For example, the Chad project by the African Development Bank (AfDB) is mobilizing investments and grants from AfDB sources in line with its Country Assistance Strategy, and is additional to the AfDB financed baseline project for water supply and sanitation in rural and peri-urban communities for climate adaptation. The project in Mozambique by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is mobilizing significant in-kind co-financing from government sources, as well as the GCF readiness grant for the NAP process. Altogether, approximately \$140 million in co-financing is expected to be leveraged and catalyzed with the LDCF investments for these six projects. The World Bank project in Sudan is a MTF project, requesting support from the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF, to catalyze cross-cutting support to address multiple global environmental concerns.

16. Alignment with Programming Strategy priorities: The cohort of projects, taken together, are addressing all three strategic objectives and entry points as articulated in the current strategy, to (1) reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for adaptation; (2) mainstream adaptation and resilience for systemic impacts; and (3) foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate adaptation. Examples of innovations fostered include the use of remote sensing for monitoring groundwater abstraction and use in Chad, and application of the ecosystem-based adaptation practices in Mauritania by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to increase the resilience of arid ecosystems, reduce soil erosion, and improve water supply, and improving food security. The project in Rwanda is based on an innovative approach that combines the landscape approach with the community-based approach to adaptation, underpinned by increased knowledge, climate information, and climate-risk informed planning. The project recognizes and aims to address the country specific condition of high population density of agriculture-dependent vulnerable households, where land scarcity has forced both settlements and farming on very steep slopes. Project descriptions below provide further information.

17. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: This Work Program includes countries that have had low levels of LDCF resource access to date. Among the six countries, Guinea-Bissau's level of LDCF access to date has been at \$17.95 million, which is in the lowest quartile of resource access among the 47 LDCs. Mozambique and Mauritania have also had moderate levels of LDCF resource access at \$21.73 million and \$25.16 million respectively, as reported in

the Progress Report on the LDCF and SCCF.³

18. **Additional factors:** All six projects highlight the potential for private sector engagement, as implementation partners and/or beneficiaries. For example, the Mauritania project includes the Mauritania Copper Mines as a co-financier for the project, and seeks to support the integration of climate change impacts and adaptation into the planning and implementation of interventions for their community projects.

19. The proposed Work Program includes three GEF-6 pipelined projects, which were originally technically cleared in October 2017 (Chad), June 2017 (Guinea-Bissau), and March 2017 (Sudan). The Sudan project has been revised from the original pipelined initiative to request additional resources from the LDCF and also as an MTF. Mauritania proposed another project for the Work Program consideration as a current adaptation priority, instead of its GEF-6 pipelined project. Further information on consultations with countries is presented in the Progress Report on the LDCF and SCCF. On geographical balance, please see the section below.

DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION AND AGENCY

20. All six projects presented in this Work Program are national projects from Africa. Six LDCs will benefit from this Work Program. No projects from LDCs in other regions have been submitted to the GEF Secretariat to date in the GEF-7 period for consideration. Furthermore, no regional or global projects have been submitted to date in the GEF-7 period.

21. Four GEF Agencies are represented in the December 2018 Work Program. UNDP, with three projects, seeks to program 57 percent of the requested resources, followed by AfDB at 21 percent, UNEP, with 11 percent, and the World Bank, with 11 percent. Table 1 presents the amount of resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees.

OBSERVATIONS AND EARLY LESSONS LEARNED

22. The GEF Secretariat undertook extensive consultations with countries and discussions with Agencies to present this first LDCF Work Program. Some observations and lessons learned from the effort to date are summarized in this section.

23. The new strategy and operational improvements introduced significant changes that merited the efforts to reach out to countries and to consult with them. Overall, national counterparts expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to pose questions, to learn directly from the GEF Secretariat about agreed changes, and to consult on programming. The engagement of the GEF Secretariat to date in the GEF-7 period has been a crucial and beneficial element of country outreach and effective programming, especially within the LDC context.

³ GEF, 2018, [Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.25/03.

Table 1. Amount of LDCF Resources by Agency in the December 2018 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date (including December 2018 Work Program)

Agency	Resources Requested in December 2018 LDCF Work Program with PPGs and Fees		Total GEF-7 LDCF Resources Including December 2018 Work Program with PPGs and Fees	
	\$ million	% of resources	\$ million	% of resources
ADB		0.0%		0.0%
AfDB	9.75	21.3%	9.75	21.3%
BOAD		0.0%		0.0%
CAF		0.0%		0.0%
CI		0.0%		0.0%
DBSA		0.0%		0.0%
EBRD		0.0%		0.0%
FAO		0.0%		0.0%
FECO		0.0%		0.0%
Funbio		0.0%		0.0%
IADB		0.0%		0.0%
IFAD		0.0%		0.0%
IUCN		0.0%		0.0%
UNDP	26.10	56.9%	26.10	56.9%
UNEP	5.00	10.9%	5.00	10.9%
UNIDO		0.0%		0.0%
World Bank	5.00	10.9%	5.00	10.9%
WWF-US		0.0%		0.0%
Totals	45.85	100.0%	45.85	100.0%

24. During consultations, the GEF Secretariat encountered instances where the project endorsements may have been made with limited or outdated information on eligibility, without sufficient consultations/coordination, or based on incomplete reflections on current national priorities. In one country, a GEF-6 pipelined project was confirmed as a priority at a Ministerial level, while two weeks later another Agency submitted a non-pipelined proposal with an endorsement. In two countries, upon discussing with the GEF Secretariat, the OFP requested to reconsider the endorsement to carry out further consultations.

25. Efforts to ensure complementarity with the GCF were enhanced by sharing information on pending proposals between the two funds, with a focus on readiness and NAP support, which was identified as a potential area of overlap. Based on this discussion, the GEF requested one country to reconsider the proposal, as a similar proposal for the NAP process was also being reviewed by the GCF.

26. Government re-organization and delayed responses from some countries impacted the feasibility for timely consultations and programming. Two countries underwent government reorganization during the process of planning consultations. In one country, the process was

halted pending the re-appointment of the GEF line ministry and OFP. Two countries were contacted by the GEF Secretariat to hold consultations to confirm current adaptation priorities for LDCF support. However, no responses were received to organize the discussions, delaying the project review process.

27. While such consultations require time, effort, and coordination among the GEF Secretariat, country counterparts, and relevant agencies, the GEF Secretariat will continue to engage with the LDCs, particularly with those with GEF-6 pipelined initiatives, for consultations. Such outreach and consultations have so far been shown to be an effective way to help ensure that the LDCF is responsive to the current national priorities and that countries are provided with the up-to-date information on programming modalities. Opportunities to further enhance efficiency of such meetings, for instance by combining efforts with national dialogues and other meetings, will also continue to be sought.

CORE INDICATORS REPORTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

28. The projects presented in the Work Program cover a wide range of interventions to deliver adaptation benefits aligned with the programming strategy. The updated results framework for adaption to climate change for the LDCF and SCCF (2018-2022) introduces four Core Indicators.⁴ Contributions of these six projects on the Core Indicators are as follows:

- (i) Number of direct beneficiaries (gender-segregated): 4,877,500 persons, of which 2,431,500 are female
- (ii) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 114,500 hectares
- (iii) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 28 policies and plans
- (iv) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures (gender-segregated): 5,310 persons, of which 2,050 are female.

29. These will also be reported on the adaptation section of the Corporate Scorecard, and will be tracked at the CEO endorsement, mid-term, and terminal stages.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

30. The AfDB project (10089), *Strengthening Rural and Urban Resilience to Climate Change and Variability by the Provision of Water Supply and Sanitation in Chad*, seeks to: Strengthen rural and urban resilience to climate change and variability by the provision of water supply and sanitation in Chad. The project's strategy is to reduce vulnerability, increase adaptive

⁴ GEF, 2018, [Updated Results Architecture for Adaptation to Climate Change under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund \(2018-2022\)](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.25/Inf.05.

capacity, and to enhance transfer of adaptation technology. The project is structured around four components: (i) mainstreaming Climate adaptation into the updated water and sanitation masterplan; (ii) improved access to climate-resilient water supply and sanitation; (iii) climate information and early warning systems strengthened; and (iv) knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. The LDCF resources will cover additional costs of increasing the resilience of the communities in the project area from climate variability and risks through: hard infrastructure, through incorporating climate change into the national water supply and sanitation masterplan, and using the local WASH committees to disseminate awareness of climate change and how to use water efficiently and plan for improved ground water management through strengthening the weather and ground water based monitoring, information, and early warning systems. Mapping of the groundwater resources and installation of ground water monitoring stations will enable certainty in siting of ground water wells which would not dry out during extreme dry weather events. The use of remote sensing for monitoring groundwater abstraction and use is innovative for Chad and the technique can provide objective measurements at potentially large scales, with quasi-continuous cover at low costs, and has high replication potential. The project will directly benefit an estimated 4.7 million people and place 1,100 hectares of land under more climate resilient management.

31. The UNDP project (GEF ID 10105), *Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Guinea-Bissau*, aims to strengthen the climate monitoring capabilities, early warning systems and information for responding to climate shocks and planning adaptation to climate change in Guinea-Bissau. The project is structured around three components: (i) Transfer of technologies and building operational human capacity for strengthening climate and environmental monitoring capacity; (ii) Climate information integrated into development plans and initiatives, early warning systems and local communities' decision makings pertaining to their livelihood options; and (iii) Knowledge management and scaling-up strategy. The project will deliver strengthened climate monitoring capabilities, early warning systems, and information base for responding to climate shocks and planning adaptation to climate change in Guinea-Bissau, benefitting an estimated 12,000 people directly, and training a targeted 500 individuals on climate risk and adaptation measures.

32. The UNEP Project (GEF ID 10103), *Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods in Three Arid Regions of Mauritania*, aims to increase the adaptive capacity of rural communities in the wilayas (regions) of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza. The project will deliver the following adaptation benefits: i) increasing the resilience of arid ecosystems to buffer against climate-induced droughts; ii) reducing soil erosion; iii) improving water supply by promoting groundwater recharge and water conservation; iv) providing non-forest timber products and alternative livelihoods; and vii) improving food security through the introduction of water-efficient farming techniques; directly benefitting 3,500 people and placing 1,300 hectares of land under climate resilient management. The project aims to achieve this through the implementation of three components: (i) Institutional capacity development for planning and implementing climate change adaptation in arid ecosystems of Mauritania; (ii) Resilience to climate change in the

three target wilayas; and knowledge on climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in arid ecosystems. The EbA approach is innovative in the Sahelian and Saharan ecosystem context, as it provides favorable cost-benefit ratios compared with hard infrastructure approaches and not only reduces climate vulnerability, but also provides a range of co-benefits, including carbon sequestration.

33. The UNDP project (GEF ID 10100), *Scaling Up Local Adaptation and Climate-Risk Informed Planning for Resilient Livelihoods*, seeks to support rural agro-pastoral communities and sub-national governments in Mozambique to plan for and adapt to climate change. The project will (i) implement on-the-ground adaptation measures that have been identified in Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) to directly benefit at least 7,000 people; and (ii) strengthen institutional and community capacity for resilience planning and budgeting, mainstreaming climate resilience into at least ten sub-national and sectoral plans. Specific measures to be financed include small-scale water harvesting and irrigation systems, water conservation measures and small infrastructure, crop diversification and seed dissemination to farmers, as well as, enhancing market access of rural communities by improving marketing infrastructure including post-harvest storage, packaging and processing and sales facilities. This will be accompanied by evidence-based scaling of micro-finance. In addition, the second component will support the development of at least five new LAPs and three provincial adaptation plans, and generate and disseminate lessons learned on best practice that will enable further upscaling and replication beyond the project's reach.

34. The UNDP project (GEF ID 10096), *Ecosystems/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Program of Rwanda*, seeks to climate-proof Rwanda's rural settlement program, focusing on the districts of Gakenke and Kirehe. The project has both soft policy measures such as revising human settlement policy, rules, regulations and planning frameworks to mainstream climate risk into the rural settlement program; and on-the-ground adaptation investments including rehabilitation of at least 500 hectares of degraded land, upgrading housing and infrastructure for at least 500 households to more climate smart versions in four villages, and provide rainwater harvesting structures. By mainstreaming climate change into the rural settlement program, the proposed project will safeguard development gains. A blend of on-the-ground investment with policy measures, building on the government's rural settlement program, is expected to enable the project to deliver sustainable benefits that are replicable and scale-able.

35. The World Bank project (GEF ID 10083), *Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project-Additional Financing*, in Sudan is an LDCF and GEF MTF project, which proposes to blend the objectives of sustainable natural resource management with enhanced resilience of climate vulnerable communities in two provinces of Sudan. The total grant amount for this project is \$6.5 million, shared between the LDCF (\$5.0 million) and the GEF Trust Fund (\$1.5 million)

under the Land Degradation focal area.⁵ The project proposes to implement innovative climate resilient technologies and engagement of women cooperatives and private sector in testing and scaling up adaptation and landscape management approaches. The project also builds on the previous project in Sudan focusing on land degradation and by scaling up the project in two additional provinces. By bringing a focus on adaptation it will address the immediate priorities of Government of Sudan and ensure a high value for money of GEF's past investments. The proposal is well-aligned with Sudan's Nationally Determined Contribution and NAP and has been endorsed by the Sudanese government through a stakeholder consultation process.

⁵ For further information on this project under the GEF Trust Fund, please refer to: GEF, 2018, [Work Program for the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council document GEF/C.55/10.

ANNEX A: PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL APPROVAL

PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL APPROVAL

Under the LDCF Trust Fund

December 20, 2018

(all amounts shown in US\$)

No.	GEF ID	Focal Area	Country	Agency	Project Title	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Project Agency Fee	GEF Financing	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
1	10089	CC	Chad	AfDB	Strengthening Rural and Urban Resilience to Climate Change and Variability by the Provision of Water Supply and Sanitation in Chad	200,000	19,000	8,700,000	826,500	8,900,000	13,645,740	22,545,740
2	10105	CC	Guinea-Bissau	UNDP	Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Guinea Bissau	150,000	14,250	6,000,000	570,000	6,150,000	32,000,000	38,150,000
3	10103	CC	Mauritania	UNEP	Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods in Three Arid Regions of Mauritania	150,000	14,250	4,416,210	419,540	4,566,210	16,250,000	20,816,210
4	10100	CC	Mozambique	UNDP	Scaling up Local Adaptation and Climate-risk Informed Planning for Resilient Livelihoods	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	9,132,420	43,000,000	52,132,420
5	10096	CC	Rwanda	UNDP	Ecosystems/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Program of Rwanda	200,000	19,000	8,355,638	793,786	8,555,638	22,360,000	30,915,638
6	10083	CC	Sudan	WB	Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project*	-	-	4,566,210	433,790	4,566,210	12,700,000	17,266,210
Total						900,000	85,500	40,970,478	3,892,196	41,870,478	139,955,740	181,826,218

* This is a multi-trust fund project consisting of LDCF and GEFTF. The LDCF component is include in this Work Program while the GEFTF component can be found separately in the GEF Work Program.