

**November 2007 Council Meeting
Introduction to Work Program – GEF/C.32/6 Rev.1**

Thank you Chairman,

Members of the Council, the CEO proposes a work program containing 27 free-standing concept proposals and 14 concept proposals under three programmatic approaches, requesting a total of \$235.03 million. Inclusive of Agency fees this will come to a total of \$259.51 million total resources requested.

Total co-financing in this work program amounts to \$1.55 billion, which when added to the total GEF allocation provides a total work program value of \$1.79 billion – a co-financing ratio of 6.25 as compared to the historical average of 4. This work program is the third work program for GEF Council review and approval in GEF-4, but it is the first to apply the new project cycle that was approved by Council in June 2007. This work program therefore includes a collection of proposed concepts using the new Project Identification Form (PIF). The narrative of the work program describes the overall coherence of the concepts with the focal area objectives and its focus on policy and strategic issues. All concept proposals and the programmatic approaches have been reviewed and considered in conformity with the focal area strategies and strategic programming for GEF-4, and screened for their capacity to deliver the largest impact from a portfolio perspective.

In starting this new style of work program, I would like to say a few words on what the new project cycle entails and how we have prepared the Work Program documents.

Firstly, PIFs are technically reviewed by GEF Sec staff. Comments by the Convention Secretariats and STAP are also taken into account during review of the PIF and in future, any PIF screening done by STAP on PIFs will be made available on the GEF website. Agencies and countries are informed of the status of any PIFs that have been cleared and the ones that are not cleared, within the service standard of 10 working days from receipt of the PIF. Next, after a period of discussion between GEF Sec, Country and GEF Agency, the final version of any agreed PIFs is provided to the CEO for her clearance.

The PIFs are proposed by the CEO to the Work Program and the work program cover note is composed of all the PIFs that have been cleared and proposed for submission. At this stage, the work program is posted on the web at least four weeks prior to a Council meeting or an intersessional meeting. Council reviews and approves the work program subject to comments made in writing before the Council. In addition, other Council member comments may be submitted to the Secretariat within two weeks after the Council meeting, i.e. by November 30, 2007 in this case.

After Work Program approval, GEF Agencies set to work to prepare the project with the relevant countries while taking into consideration all Council comments when preparing the final project document. They would also explain how the comments from Council, STAP and GEF

Secretariat are incorporated in the final project document that will be submitted to the Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

When the final project document is ready, it will be submitted to the CEO for endorsement and a response is provided within ten working days. After the Secretariat reviews the project and recommends it for endorsement, the final project document will be posted on the web for four weeks. Council will have the chance to review the final project documents and provide comments within the four week period. At the end of that period, the CEO will endorse the project, after taking into account any Council comments.

In the case of MSPs, any PIFs are reviewed by GEF Secretariat and after approval by the CEO are posted on the website for information. Later, when the final MSP project document is ready, it will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat for approval. After the GEF Secretariat reviews the project and recommends it for approval by CEO, the final MSP project document will be posted on the web for two weeks. Council will have the chance to review the final project documents and provide comments within the two week period. At the end of that period, the CEO will approve the project after taking into account any Council comments.

Following the application of the new project cycle, the Secretariat has redesigned the operational calendar on the timing for submission of PIFs for work programs during the Council meetings and intersessionally for 2008. We are posting these calendars on the GEF website for greater transparency and clarity.

The proposed work program has been designed to inaugurate a new era for GEF in the achievement of global environmental impacts that goes beyond the summation of individual projects. In addition to the proposed financing of concepts for free-standing full-sized projects, the current work program reflects a change in the way GEF finances projects, from programming most funds for individual initiatives on to financing programmatic approaches that achieve stated aims by means of projects within an overarching framework. We believe this increased diversity will help deliver the strategic objectives of GEF-4 in a more effective way. However, we recognize that there is a need for clarification on the entry criteria and approval procedures for any program and will prepare for April 2008 meeting a policy paper to explain the proposed system for dealing with programmatic approaches.

The three initial programmatic approaches submitted for Council review under this expanded framework include the following:

- (a) India: The Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management Partnership Program(SLEM)
- (b) China Biodiversity Partnership Framework for Action (CBPF)
- (c) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

The features of the three programmatic approaches are as follows:

India SLEM: This is a program with a total programmed amount of \$30 million against cofinancing of \$300 million submitted to Council for endorsement of the approach and the related PIFs submitted in the November work program. The GEF focal point of India has

endorsed the use of \$10 million from the biodiversity RAF resources, \$15 million from the Land Degradation Focal Area and \$5 million from the Climate Change/SPA. Additional project PIFs under the program (which could be FSP or MSP) will be submitted on a rolling basis to the Secretariat for review and be presented to subsequent Work Programs.

The Council is asked to endorse the overall program and to approve 13.6 \$ million for the two project concepts.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM): This is a program for which there is no planned and fixed amount of GEF resources. It is being launched at the November WP and will run throughout GEF-4. What we have submitted for November WP is the overall GEF-4 SFM program document and the first batch of eligible projects under the program. For each following work program, any new projects under the program may be submitted. The program will be financed through the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. Even though there is a cap of \$50 million from the Land Degradation Focal Area to be used for the projects under the SFM program in GEF-4, countries are also encouraged to use their RAF resources under the biodiversity and climate change focal areas for projects under the SFM program. Since it is the responsibility of the country to make that decision, we are not able to predict which country will use what share of their RAF resources, and so we cannot set a ceiling for the SFM program. We are asking Council today to approve the overall program document, including the eligibility criteria for the projects, as well as the first batch of project PIFs that have been reviewed and are considered to be eligible under the SFM program.

Any future project PIFs under the SFM program would go through the normal GEF project cycle and any future PIFs for FSPs will need to be entered into future work programs for approval (and normal project cycle procedures will also be followed for MSPs).

China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBPF): This is a program for which there is no planned and fixed amount of GEF resources. the China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBFP) will run throughout GEF-4 using primarily RAF resources from biodiversity. The Chinese government has not decided yet whether they wish to use all GEF-4 BD RAF resources for this program. Hence, there is no fixed amount to be approved by the GEF Council. We are asking Council for approval of two project PIFs that are eligible under the CBFP Program using RAF resources on biodiversity.

Any future project PIFs that will be submitted under the CBPF will go through the normal GEF project cycle and PIFs for FSPs will need to be entered into future work programs for approval (and likewise normal procedures for MSPs).

Finally, I would like to bring Council's attention to a regional project in the international waters focal area entitled: *"Development and Adoption of a Strategic Action Program for Balancing Water Uses and Sustainable Natural Resource Management in the Orange-Senqu River Transboundary Basin"*. Some partners to this project have expressed reservations regarding their possible co-financing. We received this message after constitution of the work program and the posting of the work program on the web. We therefore recommend Council

approval of this project be withheld until a resolution of this issue is reached in consultation with the partners.

We are happy to respond to questions and requests for clarifications.

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