



Global Environment Facility

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

1. This paper is a progress report on the work that has been undertaken under the Capacity Development Initiative. It updates the information that was presented to the Council in the *Progress Report on the Capacity Development Initiative* (GEF/C.15/Inf.4) prepared for the Council meeting in May 2000.

ASSESSMENT PHASE

2. The CDI is being carried out in two principal phases: the first is the assessment phase, and the second in the planning phase that will result in the preparation of a strategy for capacity development for the global environment and an action plan for GEF initiatives within the framework of the strategy.

3. The assessment phase was launched in March 2000 and completed in September 2000. The main objectives of this phase were to gain a better understanding of:

- (a) capacity development needs and priorities of countries to address global environmental challenges,
- (b) on-going global (bilateral and multilateral) efforts to assist such capacity development, and
- (c) lessons learned from GEF activities that could contribute to the development of a strategy and action plan for further action.

4. The activities of the assessment phase led to the preparation of the following studies:

- (a) four regional assessments of country needs and priorities prepared for Africa, Asia/Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean together with an assessment of country needs and priorities of the Small Island Developing States,
- (b) assessment of scientific and technical capacity development needs,
- (c) assessment of lessons learned from GEF-financed activities and capacity development activities undertaken through GEF projects,
- (d) assessment of capacity development efforts of other multilateral and bilateral institutions; and
- (e) compilation of decisions of the Conferences of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concerning capacity development, including guidance to the financial mechanism, together with relevant decisions of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD).

5. The findings of these assessments, together with other information gathered from regional workshops, national reports and consultations, will provide the basis for formulating a comprehensive strategy that addresses how the global community can best provide support for capacity development to manage the global environment along with a targeted action plan outlining the GEF niche in contributing to the implementation of such a strategy

Assessment of Country Needs

6. The assessment of country needs was undertaken on a regional basis. For each region, a group of three to four experts from the region with expertise in biodiversity, climate change, and/or land degradation issues were requested to prepare a regional report.¹

7. The regional experts based their work on national reports and communications submitted to Conventions as well as other available country-related reports. In addition, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to all countries in the region. The information provided in the questionnaires was supplemented by information gathered through follow-up interviews.²

8. Fourteen countries identified a national team that prepared a rapid assessment of in-country capacity development needs in order to provide more in-depth information for use in the regional reports. The regional experts, in consultation with the CDI steering committee, identified the countries in each region requested to undertake the national reports³. The regional experts were available to work with the national teams to assist them in the preparation of their national reports. A list of countries prepared national reports is attached at Annex A.

Consultation Process

9. The CDI is premised on a fully consultative and participatory process involving a broad range of stakeholders. One way to facilitate wide and effective consultation is to provide an opportunity for countries to discuss and exchange views on the work that is being undertaken. During the assessment phase, the CDI organized five regional meetings and took advantage of other consultative opportunities to allow the regional experts to dialogue with stakeholders.

Convention meetings

10. The regional experts made presentations on their preliminary findings and consulted with Parties during the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nairobi, May 23, 2000) and the meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Framework Convention on

¹ See *Progress Report on the Capacity Development Initiative* (GEF/C.15/Inf.4),) for the selection criteria followed to choose the regional experts. A list of experts invited to prepare the assessment reports is included in attachment 1 of the report.

² The questionnaires were distributed to the GEF Focal Points, Conventions' Focal Points, GEF accredited NGOs, experts on the STAP Roster experts, field office staff of the Implementing Agencies, chairs of Small Grant Committee and GEF project directors.

³ Please see *Progress Report on the Capacity Development Initiative* (GEF/C.15/Inf.4), Annex C: Agreed Criteria for the Selection of three to four In-country studies in the region.

Climate Change (Bonn, June 14, 2000). During the meeting of Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Lyon, September 6, 2000), the regional experts presented their final reports to the Parties. In addition to these presentations, the experts met with the Parties in regional group meetings to further discuss their studies and findings. Plans are being made for the regional experts to make a similar presentation at the fourth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification in December 2000.

Regional Workshops

11. With the kind collaboration of the host governments, a workshop was organized in each of the four regions during which the regional experts gathered information and exchanged views with representatives of the countries on their findings and draft reports. In addition to these four regional workshops, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) organized a workshop for which the CDI supported the attendance of representatives from the small island developing states to participate in a discussion of the CDI report on the capacity development needs and priorities of the SIDS. A list of countries hosting the workshops is found at Annex A.

12. The CDI supported two representatives from each country in the region to attend the appropriate regional meeting, and the GEF encouraged all countries of the region to send representatives involved in biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation to the workshop.. In addition, the CDI also supported three NGO representatives from the region, nominated by the NGO network, to attend the meeting. In total, more than 300 representatives from over 100 countries participated in the workshops.

Reports of the Assessment Phase

13. The regional experts prepared the following reports based on the information generated through the process and sources outlined above:

- (a) *Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities: Regional Report for Africa,*
- (b) *Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities: Regional Report for Asia and the Pacific,*
- (c) *Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities: Regional Report for Eastern Europe and Central Asia,*
- (d) *Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities: Regional Report for Latin America and the Caribbean, and*
- (e) *Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities: Report for Small Island Developing States.*

Synthesis Report

14. In August 2000, four CDI experts were invited to work with UNDP and the GEF Secretariat to synthesize the four regional reports and the SIDS report. They prepared the document entitled, *Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities: A Synthesis*. The report summarizes findings of the regional reports and provides information on: a) cross-regional priorities in thematic areas, b) cross-cutting (across regions and thematic areas) capacity development needs, and c) current approaches and lessons learned.

Assessment of Scientific and Technical Capacity Development Needs

15. Recognizing the important role that science and technology play in global environment issues, a separate assessment study was undertaken on scientific and technical capacity development needs. An expert identified by the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) reviewed the country assessment reports prepared by the regional experts as well as other documentation. The expert also presented his work at the STAP meeting in June 2000, to further consult on his assessment. The report, *Scientific and Technical Capacity Development: Needs and Priorities*, provides information on: a) scientific and technical capacity needs of countries related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, and b) specific roles that the scientific and technical community/ networks could play in capacity development.

The GEF Portfolio Assessment

16. The GEF undertakes substantial capacity-building activities through its projects. In order to better understand and improve GEF's capacity development activities, each Implementing Agency made an assessment of capacity development activities provided through its own portfolio. The report, *Assessment of Capacity Development in the GEF Portfolio*, provides recommendations based on the findings of the portfolio analysis.

17. The GEF monitoring and evaluation team has undertaken several studies relevant to the work of the CDI. It has prepared two reviews of the assistance provided to countries through enabling activities⁴, and the recommendations of these studies will contribute to the preparation of the strategy and action plan. It also commissioned a review of how best to ensure that capacity development is incorporated into project design entitled: *Integrating Capacity Development into GEF Project Design and Evaluation: Approach and Frameworks*. The assessment of capacity development activities through the GEF portfolio and these studies will be valuable inputs to the planning phase of the CDI.

Assessment of Capacity Development Efforts of Other Multilateral and Bilateral Institutions

18. Recognizing the importance of synergies and cooperation with other institutions in the field of capacity development, the CDI commissioned an assessment of capacity development efforts of other institutions. The expert reviewed projects, policies and strategies of other

⁴ *An Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities* (GEF/C.14/11) and *Review of Climate Change Enabling Activities* (GEF/C.16/10)

multilateral and bilateral organizations, regional development banks, and NGOs for building/developing capacity to manage the global environment. His report, *Assessment of Capacity Development Efforts of Other Development Cooperation Agencies*, is based on information generated through questionnaires, interviews, literature search, and selected visits to some organizations.

Compilation of Convention Guidance

19. Relevant provisions/decisions related to capacity building were provided by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

20. The development of a strategy and action plan will take full account of the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and requirements of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Decisions of the Conference of Parties at its sixth session (COP 6) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Hague, November 2000) will be of special significance in this regard.

21. All the reports produced under the assessment phase will be available at the Council's sixteenth meeting.

LAUNCHING OF THE NEXT PHASE: DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

22. The CDI steering committee met on August 22, 2000, to review the reports produced during the assessment phase and to discuss next steps in the planning phase of the CDI. In this phase, the CDI will develop a broad-based strategy and a GEF-specific action plan. The strategy will aim at outlining a coordinated global effort towards meeting identified capacity development needs to address global environment challenges. Its goal will be to promote coordination of capacity development efforts of bilateral and multilateral institutions with a view to providing collective international support for capacity development needs. The CDI will also develop an action plan to serve as a framework for GEF-financed activities that will contribute to the achievement of this strategy.

23. An initial discussion/ brainstorming for the development of a strategy and action plan for capacity development is scheduled to take place on October 10 and 11, 2000. Participants include the CDI Steering Committee (representatives of the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariats), regional experts, and representatives of multilateral and bilateral institutions and GEF accredited NGOs.

24. Once the initial strategy is developed, regional workshops (similar to the ones organized for the assessment phase) will take place to allow for an open consultation with representatives from countries. The draft strategy and action plan will also be posted on the Internet for comment.

25. The draft strategy and action plan will be submitted to the Council meeting in May 2001, for review and approval.

CO-FUNDING: THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND

26. In order to enrich and widen the participation in the consultation process under the CDI, the government of Finland has kindly agreed to provide co-funding for the CDI. This funding will be used to increase the number of consultations and the number of invited representatives to such consultations that would have been possible under the initial GEF allocation for the CDI.

ANNEX A: IN- COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS AND REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Region	Country 1	Country 2	Country 3	Workshop*
Africa	Senegal	South Africa	Uganda	Egypt (July 31 and August 1, 2000)
Asia/ Pacific	Indonesia	Nepal	Vietnam	China (July 27 and 28, 2000)
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Estonia	Hungary	Kazakhstan	Czech Republic (July 17 and 18, 2000)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Colombia	Guatemala	Peru	Brazil (July 31 and August 1, 2000)
Small Island Developing States	Barbados	Samoa		Samoa (July 28 and 29, 2000)