Background Documents

GEF Focal Points and entities wishing to pursue accreditation should familiarize themselves with the following background documents:

- Broadening the GEF Partnership under Paragraph 28 of the GEF Instrument
- GEF Instrument
- GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards
- GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming
- GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards
- Accreditation Procedure for GEF Project Agencies
- Glossary of Terms and Descriptions Relating to the Accreditation of GEF Project Agencies
- GEF Practices on Disclosure of Information

These documents are available on the GEF website: www.thegef.org.

Accreditation to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

How Your Institution Can Become a GEF Agency and Have Direct Access to GEF Funding

For information on accreditation, guidelines and application forms, please visit:

http://www.thegef.org/gef/agencies_accreditation

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Broadening GEF Partnership

The GEF Council has approved, in May 2011, a pilot to accredit new institutions to serve as GEF project implementing partners. Accredited institutions will be called “GEF Project Agencies.”

Upon accreditation, GEF Project Agencies will be entitled to work directly with the GEF Secretariat and Trustee to assist recipient countries in the preparation and implementation of GEF-financed projects. This will enable them to access resources from GEF-managed trust funds directly.

Under the pilot, the GEF will be able to accredit up to 10 institutions to serve as GEF Project Agencies, with the goal of accredditing at least five national institutions with a regional balance. Therefore, applications from national institutions will have priority in terms of review by the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Accreditation Panel. The GEF will seek to accredit at least one national institution from an LDC and at least one from a lower-middle income country.

Eligibility

Institutions eligible for accreditation under the pilot are:
- national institutions
- regional organizations
- civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations
- United Nations specialized agencies and programs
- other international organizations

Each applicant will be assessed according to the degree to which it adds value to the GEF partnership and aligns strategically with the GEF’s objectives.

Value-added review criteria include:
- Relevance to the GEF
- Demonstration of Environmental or Climate Change Adaptation Results
- Scale of Engagement
- Capacity to Leverage Co-financing
- Institutional Efficiency
- Networks and Contacts

To be accredited as a GEF Project Agency, applicants will need to document that they can fully meet all of the GEF Fiduciary Standards as well as applicable GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards.

Application Process

The Council will review applications for accreditation at its meetings in spring 2012 and fall 2012. Application will have two stages.

Applicants will need to submit a Stage 1 Application to the Secretariat by December 31, 2011 to be considered for the spring 2012 Council Meeting. Applicants will need to submit a Stage 1 Application to the Secretariat by June 30, 2012 for the fall 2012 Council Meeting.

A letter of support from a GEF country Operational Focal Point (OFP) needs to be submitted with Stage 1 Application. This letter is to demonstrate that at least one GEF country OFP supports the application. It must also identify an idea for an initial GEF project with an indicative amount of resources that could be allocated from the country’s allocation, if the project were to be developed.

If approved by the Council, Applicants will move forward to Stage 2 of the Accreditation Process - the GEF Accreditation Panel Review. At this stage, applicants will need to pay an accreditation fee of $25,000. This fee will not be refunded, even if the applicant fails to be accredited.