



**ยุทธศาสตร์โครงการและแผนการจัดสรรเงิน
กองทุนสิ่งแวดล้อมโลกในช่วง GEF-5
(กรกฎาคม ๒๕๕๓-มิถุนายน ๒๕๕๗)**

**Thailand's National Portfolio
Formulation Document
(July 2010-June 2014)**



**กระทรวงทรัพยากรธรรมชาติและสิ่งแวดล้อม
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**



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Thailand's National Portfolio under GEF-5

Submitted to

Global Environment Facility

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
THAILAND

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ABBREVIATION

AHPIS	ASEAN Heritage Parks on Prevention and Control of Invasive Species
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BAT	Best Available Technology
BD	Biodiversity
BEP	Best Practice
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
CC	Climate Change
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
ESEA	East and Southeast Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GA	GEF Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ICT	Information and communication technology
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IOC	International Oceanographic Commission
IW	International Waters
LD	Land Degradation
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
NFP	National Focal Point
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPDF	National Portfolio Formulation Document
NPFE	National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PIF	Project Identification Form
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAMSAR	Convention of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
SDS-SEA	Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
U-POPs	Unintentional-Persistent Organic Pollutants
WB	World Bank

INTRODUCTION

The National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) serves as a priority setting tool for Thailand to identify and describe the national strategic priorities under each of the GEF focal areas. The National Portfolio Formulation Document (NPDF) as output also includes an indicative list of project concepts that could be developed to achieve the objectives. The NPFE for Thailand was carried out during April to June 2011.

Thailand has started the process of national consultation on GEF-5 since the country received the notification of GEF-5 from the GEF Secretariat. The NFP has introduced the GEF-5 and general criteria of priority areas of Thailand, based on national development priorities, Convention implementation priorities and GEF-5 focal areas, to interested parties/organizations/institutions for their proposal preparation. After the approval of the NPFE, Thailand's GEF-NFP established a working group to carry out the exercise. Led by the Director of the Office of International Cooperation on Natural Resources and Environment, the working group members consist of the NFPs for the Conventions/thematic areas (Office of Natural Resource and Environmental Policy and Planning, Department of Land Development, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Pollution Control Department and Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation) and a national expert on multilateral environmental agreements. The working group was responsible for the NPFE process. The draft NPDF was prepared and submitted to the National Project Review Committee for approval and resulted in the NPDF final version.

THAILAND'S NPFE PROCESS

Under the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, the working group, as the first step, introduced the GEF focal area strategies for GEF-5, the national sustainable development criteria and the national strategies to address the Conventions to the national stakeholders for their consideration in preparing the concept papers. The national stakeholders included public agencies, public organizations, NGOs and local government organizations. The GEF-NFP invited the relevant organizations to submit the concept papers/prePIFs since the early of 2011, prior to the implementation of NPFE.

Two national consultations were organized to carry out the NPFE. The first national consultation was carried out on the 20th April, 2011. About 120 participants from central and local public and private agencies and NGOs such as Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of national focal points for UNFCCC, CBD, POPs and UNCCD. Also participated were representatives of academic institutes including Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Naresuan University, representatives of NGOs (Sustainable Development Fund, WWF and Thai Fund Foundation) and representatives of GEF Agencies (UNDP, World Bank, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO and ADB). The aims of the consultation were to familiarize the participants with the GEF-5 focal areas, STAR, outside-STAR allocation and NPFE process; presenting GEF Agencies' expertise and interested areas, providing national policies and focus areas. The consultation was also to clarify

and agree on prioritization criteria, submission timeframe and mechanism for project approval.

The outcomes of the first national consultation satisfied the objectives described above. The basic criteria for selection of concept paper/proposal, the review and approval mechanism were agreed. The national consultation also provided good opportunities for bilateral consultation among GEF Agencies and national agencies. The timeframe for concept paper submission was also agreed.

The consultation working group for NPFE reviewed the submitted concept papers/prePIFs. About 50 concept papers/prePIFs were submitted. Two internal meetings of the working group was organized. Based on the submissions and the criteria, the papers were ranked in priorities and listed. The results were presented to the second national consultation which organized on the 8th June 2011. About 130 participants from central and local public and private agencies and NGOs that participated in the first consultation attended the second consultation. Among them were representatives of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affair, the national focal points for UNFCCC, CBD, POPs and UNCCD. Also participated were representatives of academic institutes including Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Naresuan University, representatives of NGOs (Sustainable Development Fund, WWF and Thai Fund Foundation) and representatives of GEF Agencies (UNDP, World Bank, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO and ADB). The consultation participants reviewed, discussed, and agreed on the proposed project list. The proposed project list was then submitted to the National Project Review Committee for approval as national portfolio for GEF-5.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES TO THAILAND

Thailand, as a party to UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD and other international agreements has actively implemented her obligations. This section briefly discusses the global environmental issues under the conventions and strategic framework of GEF.

Climate Change

Despite its relatively low GHG emission, Thailand has adopted various policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The main options to reduce GHG emissions are in the energy and land use change and forestry sectors. Over the past decades, Thailand has continuously promoted energy conservation and implemented measures to accelerate the use of alternative fuels to support GHG reduction efforts. Thailand has also consistently expanded forest areas as well as protected existing natural conserved forests to enhance the GHG sink.

The Thai Government has implemented several plans and measures to enhance energy efficiency and alternative energy for more than two decades. The 10th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2007-2011) has set energy intensity target from 1.4:1 to 1:1 and share of renewable to total energy to increase from 0.5% to 8% by the 2011. Several adopted key measures were development of public transport

system in urban areas, compulsory and voluntary energy audit and more incentives to industry and services to improve energy efficiency. The measures would cost Thailand up to US\$ 300 million. A more ambitious goal to increase the share of renewable energy to 20% of total by 2022 has also been proposed. The major cities of Thailand such as Bangkok have also planned and participated in GHG mitigation efforts. The recent competitive land uses between bio-energy and food security complicate the contribution to global GHG mitigation of Thailand. To meet the goals, much more aggressive policies towards innovative and cost-effective technologies are needed to overcome these competing uses of resources.

In forestry, the past substantial efforts to expand forest areas have been carried out in the form of conserved forests, reforestation and rehabilitation of deforested areas, and expansion of community forest and commercial forest. Thailand continues to implement the policies that enhance conservation and rehabilitation in watershed areas and maintain productive capacity of the economic forests. Increasing demand for bioenergy, the need for food security and environmental protection are key conditions to balance between human survival and good environment. Thailand has adopted win-win options to reduce GHG emissions. Such options are limited and cheaper environmental-friendly technologies are needed.

The challenges to Thailand are clearly the simultaneous enhancement of the national GHG mitigation and maintenance of the national sustainable development path. This requires an integration of various environmentally sound technologies to enhance energy conservation and energy efficiency, to promote bio-energy while ensuring food security and livelihood of farmers. It also needs to effectively integrate and synchronize climate change, biodiversity and land use to ensure the interactive positive effects of their measures.

On climate change, Thailand gives high priorities in the areas of enhancement of green economy, increase of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, carbon sink enhancement and synergy among climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.

Biodiversity

Thailand has regularly prepared and implemented national policies and strategies on biodiversity since early of 1990s. As a party to the UNCBD, Thailand has actively implemented its obligations. The country has submitted the Fourth National Report to UNCBD in 2009. At present, the country is implementing its third National Policies, Measures and Plans for Sustainable Conservation and Utilization of Biodiversity (2008-2012).

The biodiversity policy of Thailand focuses on protection and restoration of conservation areas that are important to ecology and hence conservation of biodiversity. To implement the policy, a combined efforts to conduct survey, develop database and uses of technologies and knowledge to efficiently conserve and utilize the resources.

With strong vision of being the leaders in sustainable conservation and utilization of biodiversity and key target to reduce the loss of biodiversity, in consistent with the

10th and 11th National Economic and Social Development Plans, five strategies have been drawn up:

1. Protecting all components of biodiversity
2. Promoting the sustainable utilization of biodiversity
3. Reducing the threats to biodiversity
4. Promoting research, training, education and public awareness as well as biodiversity network
5. Enhancing capacity of Thailand to implement its obligations on UNCBD

Expansion of agricultural land and shifting cultivation as well as large development projects are the key factors in threatening biodiversity. In Thailand, threatened species consist of 121 mammals, 184 birds, 33 reptiles, 5 amphibians, 218 fishes and more than 1,130 plants. Biodiversity loss and genetic degradation could seriously hamper sustainable development of the country. Rice culture in Thailand exists for more than a century. Rice genetics in Thailand has been rapidly eroded. The same is true to a large number of other indigenous plants across the country. The reduction of biodiversity occurs in different natural ecosystems including forests, coral reef, wetlands, islands and mountainous areas. Five freshwater species in Thailand has already been extinct and more than 30 are endangered.

On biodiversity, Thailand gives high priorities in the areas of balance between conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, rehabilitation of biodiversity and genetic resources and enhancement of capacity to implement the obligations to the Convention and Protocols.

Land Degradation

As a party to the UNCCD, Thailand prepared the National Action Plan in 2004 in which four key strategies were outlined:

1. Development of a geo-information technology system for agricultural land-use zoning,
2. Development of soil and water resources to increase productivity,
3. Establishment and strengthening Volunteer Soil Doctors learning centers and sub-district centers for land development services,
4. Renovation of the administrative system of the organization to focus on learning and working under the principles of good governance.

Land degradation is one of the most serious threats to sustainable agricultural land use in Thailand. As reported in the National Action Plan, as many as 17.4 million hectares of land in Thailand is under pressure of soil erosion by water. More than 4 million hectares in the highland (mountainous slope, valley slope, more than 35% slope) were under severe to extremely severe soil erosion by water while about 2 million hectares were found in the lowland areas (alluvial plane, footslope, hill less than 35% slope). Also, 33 million hectares of agricultural land in Thailand have also been under different types of problems especially saline soil, acid sulfate soil, sandy and very sandy soils and shallow soils. Increasing drought and flood due to climate change and climate variability and overexploitation and inappropriate use of land resources are the main causes for land degradation.

There are several key challenges to combating land degradation and desertification that generally applied to Thailand. This includes establishment of an integrated national mechanism to implement UNCCD; raising awareness and strengthening capacities of all stakeholders to combat land degradation; strengthening effective law enforcement; enhancing the national capacity in soil and land degradation assessment and monitoring; developing land use models that incorporate human factors that inducing land degradation and desertification; developing effective information system on land degradation and desertification; developing policies to enhance sustainable land use development and developing economic instruments to support sustainable land use management.

Various policies and measures have been carried out to combat the land degradation and desertification in Thailand. Effective weather forecast and early warning system, good water resource development and management, land rehabilitation and soil improvement, appropriate soil and water conservation and reforest and afforestation are the main approaches applied.

One of the challenges facing Thailand is to expand and rehabilitate the degraded mangrove forest system. The co-benefits of forest resources to climate, biodiversity and land use are the key drivers. The synergy of climate change, biodiversity and land degradation calls for a sustainable forest management in Thailand. This requires a careful preparation of conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and mangrove forest resources and biological systems.

Under the focal area strategy of GEF-5, Thailand emphasizes the activities that apply the sufficiency economy philosophy in planning and managing land resources. Also given priority is the synergy among land degradation, climate change and biodiversity.

International Waters

Transboundary waters on rivers or seas require specific attentions and management approaches. Cooperative management for sustainable and mutual benefits has been carried out between Thailand and its neighboring countries. Strengthen technical and management cooperation remains important issues and key challenge to the region. Similar to other resources, international or transboundary waters encompass various multilateral natural resources and environmental agreement, such as RAMSAR, CITES, MARPOL and IGOs such as IOC, COBSEA, PEMSEA. Thailand has been participating in regional cooperative projects such as SDS-SEA, BOBLME or those in South China Sea.

Transboundary management and cooperative effort in Thailand have been mainstreamed into national economic, social and environmental development strategies, particularly those related to climate change, biodiversity and coastal ecological system. The challenges to Thailand on transboundary waters remain the strengthening of technical and management cooperation and efficient mobilization of resources among the stakeholders. Effective monitoring and assessment of management and information is critical to the operation of management system.

Chemicals

Thailand has been fully aware of the problem of chemical hazards and the impacts on human health and environment. Thailand ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2005. As the national focal point, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, has coordinated and cooperated with relevant public and private sector including stakeholders to develop approaches to administer and manage the POPs. The National Implementation Plan (NIP) to fulfill the obligations under the Convention was approved and implemented in 2007. Three main themes are addressed:

- reduction/elimination of production, use and releases of POPs
- development of database and inventory data in relation to POPs
- Protection of human health and environment from the harmful impact of POPs

The Implementation strategies in consistent with the above policy are:

- institutional capacity building and its infrastructure
- database and POPs inventory
- human resource development
- technical and financial support for BAT/BEP and alternative substance used in the process to reduce/eliminate releases of POPs
- legislation and regulation relevant to POPs
- public awareness and education on generation, source categories and harmful effect of POPs
- monitoring of POPs releases from source categories
- research and development on health risk assessment from POPs exposure

Proper management and control of chemical uses and fulfillment of international obligations i.e. phasing out the 12 existing and 9 new persistent organic pollutants are the priorities of Thailand. The country will continue to fulfill its obligations to the Stockholm Convention in consistent with the national priorities in chemical management. This includes the control and phase out of POPs and management of related toxic wastes, application of BAT/BET and establishment of needed laboratories.

As stated in the NIP, Concerted efforts are needed to support the implementation of Thailand. The intentional POPs, with the close cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders and international assistance, could be addresses effectively. However, activities related to unintentional POPs require much stronger financial and technical support. This is one of the most challenges to Thailand to fulfill the obligations to the Convention.

PRIORITY PROJECTS UNDER STAR ALLOCATION

Thailand qualifies for the scheme of limited flexibility. Thailand has received a total STAR allocation of US\$ 31.63 million. Of the total, US\$ 20.14 million is allocated to climate change, US\$9.05 million to biodiversity and US\$ 2.48 million to land degradation. The STAR allocation and priority projects/programs of Thailand have been completed through the stakeholder consultation process through two national consultations. It is notable that the total indicative GEF-support fund for the qualified concept/prePIF papers is about double of the amount provided for GEF-5. Table 1 show the list of the projects and the proposed indicative support fund for STAR projects. These include national and regional projects under the STAR. There are 9 proposed projects under climate change, 9 projects under biodiversity and 4 projects under land degradation focal area. In addition, there are 4 synergy projects under the STAR and two of which are sustainable forest management. Note also that of the total 26 projects, three are regional ones. About US\$ 63 million of proposed GEF funding is under STAR. The largest proposed budget of about US\$ 34 million is under climate change, followed by about US\$ 19 million under biodiversity and about US\$ 10 million under land degradation. Two sustainable forest management projects are proposed with a total of US\$ 12 million of which US\$ 9 million contributed by climate change and biodiversity. A portion of STAR allocation is also provided to small grant projects (Table 1).

Table 1 Proposed project under STAR allocation (US\$ million)

No.	Project title	CC	BD	LD	SFM	GA
1	Achieving Low Carbon Cities Initiatives through Sustainable Development in Thailand	4				UNDP
2	Use of Agricultural Waste for Renewable Energy in Mae Hong Son Province	2				UNIDO
3	Reducing Methane Emission from Highland Rice Paddy Fields in Northern Thailand by Aerobic Rice Practices	0.6				FAO
4	Establishing a fleet of hydrogen fuelled 3-wheelers in Bangkok including refueling infrastructure	3.63				UNIDO
5	Sustainable Community Based Green City: Chiang Mai World Green City	1.3				UNEP
6	Reducing Cultivation Area with Burning of Agricultural Waste and Reforestation in Sloping area of Nan province	0.9				FAO

7	Greening Economy through Low Carbon SMEs Development in Thailand	2.33				UNIDO
8	Climate Change Program Supporting Thailand's Low Carbon Society and Sustainable Energy Use	11.84				WB
9	Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable (MRV) Technology for Measuring Carbon Dioxide Sequestration and other Benefits: A Case Study at Angkhang Royal Agricultural Station, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand	1.6				FAO
10	Strengthening Capacity and Incentives for Wildlife Conservation in the Western Forest Complex	2	4		2	WB
11	Eastern Sarus Crane Wetland Conservation Project Thailand		1.65			UNDP
12	Preserving Flora and Fauna Biodiversity Responsible Tourism Sector in Wetland, Mountain and Marine Landscapes in Thailand.		2.7			UNDP
13	Building Capacity in the Development of National Mechanisms and Frameworks in Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources		0.4			UNEP
14	Building Capacity for Effective Participation and Networking in the Implementation on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.		0.3			UNEP
15#	Developing and Enhancing Invasive Aliens Species Data Networking at the National and International Level.		0.25			UNEP
16#	Strengthening Management of ASEAN Heritage Parks on Prevention and Control of Invasive Alien Species (AHPIS) Project		1.75	0.25		UNEP
17	Maximizing Carbon Sink Capacity and Productive Landscape through Sustainable Conservation, Restoration and Management of Peat-swamp Ecosystems in Thailand	2.5	0.5		1	UNDP

18#	Establishment and Operation of Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand		0.66			UNEP
19	Sustainable Management Models for Local Government Organizations to Enhance Biodiversity Protection and Utilization in Thailand's Selected Eco-Regions		3			UNDP
20	Strengthening National Capacity in Flora and Fauna Taxonomy and Systematics for Biodiversity Conservation Management		1.5			UNDP
21	Development of a Model Community in Natural Resources Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Highland Biodiversity		0.29			UNDP
22#	Land Degradation Assessment and Monitoring for Sustainable Land Management Decision Support and Scaling up of Best Practices		1.5	3.9		FAO
23	Effective Land Use and Land Management in Agricultural Sector			3.5		UNDP
24	Economic forest plantation in land reform areas by cabinet resolution, 2012-2014			1.08		FAO
25	Reducing land degradation and greenhouse gas emissions in the Thai cassava sector			1.5		FAO
26	Assessment of crop residue removal for energy and its impact on sustainable soil management			0.004		FAO/ UNEP/ UNIDO
27	Small Grants Program, 2010 – 2014	1	0.4			
Total		33.7	18.9	10.234	3	

refers to regional projects

PRIORITY PROJECTS UNDER OUTSIDE-STAR ALLOCATION

There are 9 outside-STAR proposed projects with a total indicative support of about US\$ 32 million. Note that one of the projects also requests for partial support from STAR (biodiversity). Of the total 9 projects, five are international waters related and the remaining projects are under the persistent organic pollutants. Note that the proposed projects include national and regional ones.

Table 2 Priority projects in focal areas outside the STAR (US\$ million)

No.	Project title	IW	Chemicals	GA
1*	Establishment and Operation of Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	0.99		UNEP
2	Implementing the Strategic Action Programm for the South China Sea	16.2		UNEP/ FAO
3	Dam Ecosystem Management, Hydrological Services, and Capacity Building on ICT-based Real Time Water Level Monitoring and Forecasting System for Water Resources in Thailand's Large Dams and Associated Transboundary River Basins	2		UNEP
4	Thai-Myanmar Telemetry System for Water Resources Management in Kok River Basin	1.013		UNEP
5	Establishment of Song Watershed Committee for Climate Change Adaptation	0.18		UNEP
6	Introduction of BAT and BEP in the Thermal Process in the Metallurgical Industry in the ESEA Region		6.65	UNIDO
7	The Establishment of Pilot Central Crematorium Facility in Thailand for Control of Unintentionally Released Persistent Organic Pollutants from Crematory		3.25	WB
8	Promoting BAT/BEP for scrap pre-treatment to reduce U-POPs releases from small and medium size metal recycling facilities.		0.976	UNIDO
9	Supporting the Implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan of 12 Initial and 9 new POPs in East and South East Asia.		0.99	UNEP
10	Potentially Contaminated Site Database System and Network for Environmental Management		0.10	UNEP/ UNIDO
Total		20.383	11.966	

* This project is partly supported by the biodiversity of STAR (number 18 of Table 1)

PRIORITY PROJECTS UNDER REGIONAL COOPERATION

The regional cooperation related to both STAR and outside-STAR projects. As shown in Table 3, the first three regional projects concern the biodiversity issues while the fourth project contributes to sustainable land management at the regional and global scale. The projects under the transboundary waters involve participation of the countries in the subregional level. For POPs, there are two regional projects aim at enhancing BAT and BEP in the Metallurgical industry and the monitoring of the POPs in the East and South East Asia. The total indicative funding for regional projects under the STAR is about US\$ 8.7 million while that under the outside-STAR is about US\$ 27 million.

Table 3 Regional projects under STAR and outside-STAR allocation

No.	Project title
1	Developing and Enhancing Invasive Aliens Species Data Networking at the National and International Level.
2	Strengthening Management of ASEAN Heritage Parks on Prevention and Control of Invasive Alien Species (AHPIS) Project
3	Establishment and Operation of Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand
4	Land Degradation Assessment and Monitoring for Sustainable Land Management Decision Support and Scaling up of Best Practices
5*	Implementing the Strategic Action Program for the South China Sea
6*	Dam Ecosystem Management, Hydrological Services, and Capacity Building on ICT-based Real Time Water Level Monitoring and Forecasting System for Water Resources in Thailand's Large Dams and Associated Transboundary River Basins
7*	Thai-Myanmar Telemetry System for Water Resources Management in Kok River Basin
8*	Establishment of Song Watershed Committee for Climate Change Adaptation
9*	Introduction of BAT and BEP in the Thermal Process in the Metallurgical Industry in the ESEA Region
10*	Supporting the Implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan of 12 Initial and 9 new POPs in East and South East Asia.

Note: Selected projects from Table 1 and 2; * refers to outside-STAR projects

ENABLING ACTIVITIES

In addition to the national portfolio under the GEF-5, Thailand plans to request for funding under enabling activities for the preparation of the Third National Communication under the UNFCCC. For the biodiversity, preparation of the Fourth NBSAP and the National Report of Cartagena Protocol, Nagoya Protocol and ABS with a total fund needed of about US\$ 1.5 million is envisaged. Likewise, the NFP for UNCCD also planned to request for funding for the enabling activities under the Convention.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OBLICATIONS TO THE CONVENTIONS

The proposed projects in the National Portfolio have been gone through the criteria established. Execution of the projects will be consistent with the national sustainable development priorities, the GEF supported focal areas and the implementation of Thailand to fulfill the obligations to the country under the respective conventions.

The emphasis on low carbon economy, energy efficiency and innovative technologies in energy sector under the STAR would contribute to the national focus on renewable and clean energy for the next two decades and simultaneously reduce or avoid GHG emissions of the country. Several projects emphasize community/local participation would also introduce practical/appropriate actions to enhance energy efficiency and conservation at local level. Likewise, the SFM would strengthen the national efforts to conserve forest areas and hence more carbon sink and biodiversity protection. Hence, the proposed projects will strengthen the capacity, especially the urban cities and local communities, to develop more integrated approaches to enhance energy efficiency and conservation. The achievement would definitely contribute to the global GHG mitigation efforts under the UNFCCC.

On biodiversity aspect, several conservation and sustainable utilization of biological resources, including the SFM, would induce local communities to recognize the importance of biodiversity to sustain the local livelihood. While capacity building projects will directly enhance national capacity to implement the conventions and protocols, the regional cooperation projects would support the protection of transboundary biodiversity and ecological systems. As indicated in the plan, the GEF projects will enhance national capacity to maintain biodiversity and strengthen the optimum uses of the biological resources and reduction of genetic loss. The implementation is consistent with the UNCBD and contributes to the global collective efforts to sustainable development.

With limited funding, the priority projects to address land degradation would address degraded land to enhance soil quality and reduce GHG emissions. The key point is to introduce the win-win solution to the small farmers in the vulnerable areas. It is also expected that experiences from Thailand would share with countries in the sub-region. Improvement of land resources will in many ways contribute to the livelihood of the poor farmers. The action will also reduce the pressure to forest resources. Such synergy means the positive effects on global efforts to address climate change and biodiversity.

Thailand emphasizes cooperative management in the transboundary waters. The proposed projects would strengthen the cooperation to ensure sustainable use and share of mutual benefits from transboundary water resources. The projects to address POPs would surely enhance the national and regional capacities to phase out and control POPs and hence their commitments to the Convention.

THE NPFE EXPERIENCES

The first national portfolio exercise of Thailand provided lessons and experiences in the GEF process that should be noted to improve the process in the future. The main experiences are:

1. The process is more systematic and transparent
2. Several proposals failed to meet the criteria due to poor preparation
3. Interested parties realize the need to prepare the best concept papers/prePIF to compete with others
4. Closer interaction between the GEF-NFP, Convention NFPs and interested parties

There are also several points that could enhance the NPFE process. Among them are:

1. Ability to critically assess the amount of funding request at this stage
2. Follow-up activities to enhance capacity of interested parties in preparing the concept paper/prePIF
3. documentation of previous performances to support the reviewing and capacity building process
4. A system to ensure the high quality of PIFs to be submitted in line or consistent with the concept papers/prePIFs as approved



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