



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/C.30/5

Focal Area Strategies for GEF-4 – Working Drafts and Proposed Process

Recommended Council Decision

The Council reviewed document GEF/C.30/5, *Focal Area Strategies for GEF-4 – Working Drafts and Proposed Process*, and requests the Secretariat to continue its work to review, revise and focus the focal area strategies, taking into account cross-cutting issues of sustainable forest management and sound chemicals management. The Secretariat is requested to take into account comments made during the Council meeting and to consult further with Council Members, GEF agencies, STAP, Convention Secretariats and relevant experts in the preparation of the revised strategies. Council Members are invited to submit written comments on the working drafts of the strategies to the Secretariat by January 15, 2007.

The Secretariat is requested to submit to the Council for its review and approval at the Council meeting in June 2007 revised strategies in the six focal areas together with proposals for a simplified approach to the GEF's operational programs and strategic objectives.

1. The policy recommendations for the fourth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund request “the Secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF agencies, to review and revise as necessary the six focal area strategies for the Council’s meeting in December 2006, taking into account cross-cutting issues of sustainable forest and sound chemicals management. The revised strategies should provide the basis for a simplified approach to the GEF’s operational programs and strategic objectives which the Secretariat and GEF agencies should present to the Council in May/June 2007.”
2. Working drafts of strategies for the six focal areas and two additional chapters addressing the cross-cutting issues of sustainable forest management and sound chemicals management are presented in this paper. The draft strategies have been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the focal area inter-agency task forces. These papers are based on the focal area strategies prepared at the end of 2005 in preparation for programming document that was submitted to the negotiations on the fourth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.
3. The working drafts were circulated to Council Members in October 2006 for their comments. By the end of October 2006 comments had been received from Japan, Germany and

Canada pertaining to the individual focal area draft strategies as well as to the interlinkages and consistency between the draft strategies. These comments, together with comments from other Council Members that may be submitted to the Secretariat, will be taken into consideration in the further development of the focal area strategies as outlined below.

4. It is recognized that the strategies need further development in order to sharpen their focus, to harmonize and integrate approaches in the different focal areas, and to enable the GEF to make an impact in responding to the challenges of managing the global environment in GEF-4 and beyond.

5. The focal area strategies will be further revised to focus on a definite set of priority issues reflecting major global environmental concerns. A sharpened focus will better guide project proponents on possibilities and priorities for GEF funding. A focus on thematic issues will also provide a basis for considering a simplified approach to the Operational Programs and Strategic Objectives

6. The revised focal area strategies will incorporate measurable indicators of global outcomes and impacts of GEF interventions which will be elaborated through the ongoing work to develop a set of common quantitative indicators and tracking tools for each focal area as requested in the GEF-4 policy recommendations.

7. Cross-cutting issues need to be more systematically identified, analyzed and integrated in each focal area. For example, adaptation is addressed in the climate change strategy, and is strongly linked to the other focal areas. The issues of sustainable forest management and sound chemicals management are provisionally addressed in chapters X and XI. Additional cross-cutting themes include bio-energy and sustainable production of biomass (CC, BD and LD), carbon sequestration (CC, LD, BD and IW), integrated water resources management (IW, LD and BD), and integrated pest management (POP, LD, BD and IW).

8. There is a need for more harmonized and integrated approaches across focal areas to capacity building, knowledge management and learning, and engagement of the private sector.

9. Finally, the strategies need to enable and encourage innovative approaches, to provide enough flexibility to address emerging issues and urgent demands, and to respond to changing opportunities and challenges.

10. In order to further develop the focal area strategies as outlined above, the Secretariat will work with the focal area task forces to revise and harmonize the strategies and to incorporate comments and views from Council Members. The working drafts will be shared more broadly with GEF agencies and with STAP, and the STAP has been invited to discuss the drafts at its next meeting in February 2007. The Secretariat will also be seeking inputs and comments from the Convention Secretariats and outside experts. Revised drafts of the strategies will be circulated to Council Members for another round of comment in March 2007. Proposed final strategies will be submitted to Council by early May 2007. The Secretariat will also present a proposal for a simplified approach to the operational programs and strategic objectives of the GEF.