



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/C.30/8

Strategy for Financing Biosafety

Recommended Council Decision

The Council reviewed the proposed *Strategy for Financing Biosafety* (GEF/C.30/8) and approves it, subject to comments made at the Council meeting. The Council requests the Secretariat and the GEF Agencies to work with Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, within the context of the Strategy and the Resource Allocation Framework, to develop projects to support the implementation of the Protocol. The Council invites UNEP to collaborate with the GEF Secretariat to play a lead role in coordinating GEF's program of activities to support the implementation of the protocol.

Executive Summary

1. The Council, at its June 2005 meeting, requested the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and taking into account the results of the evaluation of the biosafety activities undertaken by the GEF Office of Evaluation, a proposed strategy on the most efficient and effective means to provide additional support to countries to strengthen their capacity to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB). The Secretariat prepared a strategy document, *Elements for a Biosafety Strategy*, which was reviewed and supported by Council during its meeting in November 2005 and that constitutes the basis for the Strategy. A *GEF Biosafety Strategy for Financing Biosafety Activities* was presented to the June 2006 Council meeting. Council's comments on the proposed Strategy have been incorporated in this revised Strategy.
2. The main objective of the strategy is to help build the capacity of eligible countries to implement the CPB through activities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Activities funded will address those areas considered key elements in the Updated Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the CPB, and that have been previously identified in a country's stock-taking analysis, as a way to tailor support to demonstrated country needs.
3. Support will be provided through regional and sub-regional projects when there are opportunities for cost-effective sharing of limited resources and coordination between national activities. Single-country projects will be implemented when the characteristics of the eligible country, assessed in the stock-taking analysis and the design of existing or planned future regional or sub-regional efforts in the area, recommend a national approach for the implementation of the CPB. In addition, issue-specific multi-country projects will be promoted as the best way to effectively support a group of countries lacking competence in a particular

field and assist them to build their capacities in that field. The involvement of a broad range of Implementing and Executing Agencies will be promoted based on each Agency's comparative advantage.

4. Special attention will be paid to ensure in-country coordination of roles and responsibilities, awareness raising, education on biosafety, access to information and public participation on decision making. Program level indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the strategy have been developed.

5. The document has the following annexes:

Annex A: Existing guidance from the COP

Annex B: GEF Biosafety support to date

Annex C: Set of indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the CPB.