

Revision of the GEF Focal Area Strategies: Draft TOR for Advisory Groups to the CEO and Provisional Time Table

Draft TOR for the GEF Technical Advisory Groups on Focal Area Strategies

Background

1. The policy recommendations for GEF 4 request a revision of the focal area strategies, taking into account cross-cutting issues of sustainable forest and sound chemicals management. Working drafts of strategies for the six focal areas and two additional cross-cutting papers on sustainable forest management and sound chemicals management were presented to Council in December 2006.

2. Based on the comments and guidance from Council, the focal area strategies will be further developed in order to sharpen their focus and to harmonize and integrate approaches in the different focal areas. This will enable the GEF to better serve its clients and to make a stronger impact in responding to the challenges of managing the global environment in GEF-4. The revised strategies will provide the basis for a simplified approach to GEF's operational programs and strategic objectives for consideration by Council in June 2007.

3. In order to ensure a broad and consultative process, the CEO of the GEF will establish five Technical Advisory Groups: biodiversity (BD), climate change (CC), sustainable land management (LD), international waters (IW), and sound chemicals management (including the POP and ODS focal areas), as well as a coordinating Strategy Advisory Group.

Composition of the Technical Advisory Groups

4. For each Technical Advisory Group, the CEO will invite as participants:
- 1 Council member from the recipient countries ,
 - 1 Council member from the donor countries ,
 - 1 person from STAP,
 - 1-2 persons contributing in their individual capacity as external experts,
 - 1 person from the Secretariat of the relevant Convention, and
 - 1 person from the GEFSEC focal area team.

Tasks for the Technical Advisory Groups:

5. Each Technical Advisory Group will revise the particular focal area strategy to focus on a clear set of issues reflecting major global environmental concerns to be addressed in the focal area during GEF-4. 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. Each Technical Advisory Group will propose a set of measurable indicators of global outcomes and impacts for each issue area. The proposed indicators will feed into 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. Each Technical Advisory Group will identify and analyze cross-cutting issues relevant to its focal area and propose ways to integrate these issues in the focal area strategy.

8. The Technical Advisory Groups will interact with the coordinating Strategy Advisory Group to develop more harmonized and integrated approaches across focal areas to capacity building, knowledge management and learning, and to a stronger engagement of the private sector.

Working mode and time frame

9. The Technical Advisory Groups will work by correspondence and by tele-conferences as needed. The member from the GEFSEC focal area team will serve as technical secretary for the group. The Advisory Groups will submit their outputs to the CEO of the GEF. Drafts will be circulated to GEF agencies, the GEF Evaluation Office, STAP, Convention Secretariats, the NGO Network and Council Members for comments during the process.

10. The time frame is tight and includes the following milestones (cf. also the attached provisional time table):

- By Dec. 2006, members of the Technical Advisory Groups will have read the working drafts, inputs from Council and relevant background material;
- By January 2007, the Technical Advisory Groups will have prepared first draft strategy papers for review by the SAG and circulation to interested parties (cf. paragraph 9);
- By February 2007, the Technical Advisory Groups will have incorporated cross-cutting issues, capacity building, KM and PS engagement following guidance from the SAG;
- By March 2007, the Technical Advisory Groups will have prepared final draft strategy papers for review by the SAG and circulation to stakeholders.

Draft TOR for the GEF Strategy Advisory Group

Background

1. The policy recommendations for GEF 4 request a revision of the focal area strategies, taking into account cross-cutting issues of sustainable forest and sound chemicals management. Working drafts of strategies for the six focal areas and two additional cross-cutting papers on sustainable forest management and sound chemicals management were presented to Council in December 2006.
2. Based on the comments and guidance from Council, the focal area strategies will be further developed in order to sharpen their focus and to harmonize and integrate approaches in the different focal areas. This will enable the GEF to better serve its clients and to make a stronger impact in responding to the challenges of managing the global environment in GEF-4. The revised strategies will provide the basis for a simplified approach to GEF's operational programs and strategic objectives for consideration by Council in June 2007.
3. In order to ensure a broad and consultative process, the CEO of the GEF will establish five Technical Advisory Groups (on biodiversity, climate change, sustainable land management, international waters, and sound chemicals management) and a coordinating Strategy Advisory Group.

Composition of the Strategy Advisory Group

4. The Strategy Advisory Group will be comprised of:
 - 1 person nominated by each of the Technical Advisory Groups (five members in total),
 - The Chair of STAP, and
 - 4 persons appointed in their individual capacity as external experts.

Tasks for the Strategy Advisory Group:

5. The Strategy Advisory Group will consider the priority issues identified in the focal area strategies, assess whether they together appropriately reflect major global environmental concerns, and propose changes if needed. The Advisory Strategy Group will propose a simplified approach to the GEF's Operational Programs and Strategic Priorities.
6. The Strategy Advisory Group will provide inputs to an indicator framework for global outcomes and impacts of GEF-4 interventions. The proposed indicators will feed into 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. The Strategy Advisory Group will identify and analyze cross-cutting issues relevant to the GEF and review how these issues are incorporated into the focal area strategies.
8. The Strategy Advisory Group will develop more harmonized and integrated approaches across focal areas to: adaptation to climate change; capacity building; knowledge management

and learning; and technology support. The Strategy Advisory Group will bear in mind the need to encourage innovative approaches, to provide enough flexibility to address emerging issues and urgent demands, and to respond to changing opportunities and challenges.

9. The Advisory Strategy Group will prepare an overall GEF-4 Strategy Paper that integrates, aggregates and gives global environmental perspective to the focal area strategies.

Working mode and time frame

10. The Advisory Group will meet twice in Washington DC during the process and otherwise work by correspondence and by tele-conferences as needed. The GEFSEC will provide a technical secretary for the group. The Advisory Group will submit their outputs to the CEO of the GEF. Drafts will be circulated to GEF agencies, the GEF Evaluation Office, STAP, Convention Secretariats, the NGO Network and Council Members for comments during the process.

11. The time frame is tight and includes the following milestones (cf. also the attached provisional time table):

- By Dec. 2006, the Strategy Advisory Group will have read the working drafts, inputs from Council and relevant background material;
- By January 2007, the Strategy Advisory Group will have prepared a first guidance paper for the TAGs on cross-cutting issues (including adaptation) and harmonized approaches to capacity building, knowledge management and technology support;
- By February 2007, the Strategy Advisory Group will have reviewed the draft strategies produced by the TAGs, provided input to an indicator framework and developed a proposal for a simplified approach to GEF's operational programs and strategic priorities;
- By March 2007, the Strategy Advisory Group will have prepared a final draft strategy paper for circulation to stakeholders;
- By April 2007, the Strategy Advisory Groups will have reviewed and if necessary fine-tuned the focal area strategies and prepared a final draft overall strategy paper, ready for submission to the GEF Council.

Provisional time table for revision of GEF strategies

	TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUPS	STRATEGY ADVISORY GROUP	STAKEHOLDERS*
DECEMBER 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review working drafts and guidance from Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review working drafts and guidance from Council 	Comments (submitted by mid December)
JANUARY 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose thematic priorities (programmatic objectives) Propose indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose harmonized approach to capacity building, KM and PS engagement First mapping of cross-cutting issues 	
FEBRUARY 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and incorporate cross-cutting issues Incorporate capacity building, KM and PS engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map thematic priorities (programmatic objectives), analyze gaps, overlaps and cross-cutting issues Review indicators, develop indicator framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First drafts circulated to stakeholders for comments
MARCH 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine thematic priorities incl. cross-cutting issues Refine indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft overall strategy paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second drafts circulated
APRIL 2007		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and if necessary fine tune strategies Refine overall strategy 	
MAY 2007			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft strategies submitted to Council

* Stakeholders include the Council members, the GEF agencies, the EO, the STAP, the Convention Secretariats and the NGO Network.