



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2003

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Decision by Mail – February 2003

Decision 1/2003 Allocation for Over-disbursed Projects

1. The Council approves, on an exceptional basis, an increase of US\$7,074,430.44 in the allocation of GEF resources to the projects indicated in the attachment to this decision to cover over-disbursed amounts under these projects resulting from the SDR/US dollar exchange rate fluctuation. In addition, the Council understands that as a results of such exchange rate fluctuations 11 projects experienced under-disbursement of their GEF allocations and that US\$1,940,346.64 will be added back to the available commitment authority of the GEF Trust Fund.
2. The Council welcomes the action proposed by the World Bank to denominate on-going and future GEF-financed projects in US dollars so as to remedy disbursement unpredictability due to such exchange rate fluctuations and notes that this approval is a one-time only adjustment.

Decision 2/2003 GEF 2002 Annual Report

1. The Council, having reviewed the draft text for the [GEF 2002 Annual Report](#), approves the report.

21st Council Meeting – May 2003

Decision 3/2003 Appointment of the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility

1. The Council unanimously approves the [appointment](#) of Mr. Len Good as CEO/Chairperson of the Facility for a three year term beginning July 12, 2003. The Council expresses its strong support for the appointment of Mr. Good, noting his excellent qualifications for the position. The Council looks forward to working under his leadership and to providing its full support to him.
2. Noting that the process of selecting the CEO could be improved with a view to ensuring greater transparency and communication, more time for reflection and consultation within constituencies, and fuller consultation with all Council Members throughout the process, the Council agrees to review the process for selecting the CEO/Chairperson and to more clearly define the steps to be followed. To this end, the Secretariat is requested to prepare a note exploring options to enhance the process for selecting the CEO for Council review. An interim report should be submitted for Council review at its meeting in November 2003, and a final report should be submitted to Council Members at the

meeting in May 2004. Council Members are invited to present information on their experience and their views on how to improve the process to the Secretariat.

Decision 4/2003 Review of Relations with Conventions

1. The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/C.21/4, *Relations with Conventions*, takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international agreements and welcomes the continuing collaboration between the GEF and the Conventions. More specifically, the Council:
 - (a) Requests the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity to prepare a project proposal for Council approval aimed at assisting developing country Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to develop the critical national capacity necessary to access, register and retrieve information to allow effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House.
 - (b) Authorizes the CEO to approve financing for projects for the preparation of national communications to the UNFCCC using the new guidelines adopted by COP8 and the operational guidelines for expedited approval to be prepared by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat and circulated to the Council for comment. The operational guidelines will specify the maximum level of funding which may be approved through expedited procedures. Projects for GEF financing greater than this level will be prepared in accordance with the GEF project cycle for full-size projects.
 - (c) Requests the GEF Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare for Council review at its meeting in November 2004 a draft memorandum between the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention outlining arrangements to give effect to Article 13, paragraph 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention.
 - (d) Requests the Secretariat to discuss with the Secretariat of the UNCCD arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the CCD, taking into account the proposed designation of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention.

Decision 5/2003 LDC Trust Fund

1. Council took note of the progress in resource mobilization for the [LDC fund](#) and its operation in accordance with the initial guidance of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. The Council approves the corporate budget and Implementing Agency fee proposed for the two-year period, FY 03-04. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to keep it and the Conference of the parties informed of progress with regard to the LDC fund.

Decision 6/2003 Operational Program on Sustainable Land Management

1. The Council reviewed the [Draft Operational Program on Sustainable Land Management](#) (document GEF/C.21/6), and approves it, subject to the comments made during the Council meeting, as a framework to operationalize the land degradation focal area.
2. The Council recognized that in the framework of capacity building projects to be funded under the operational program, the elaboration of national action plans, sub-regional action plans, regional action plans, and national reports are considered components.
3. The Council agreed that the process of determining incremental costs should be made more transparent, and its application more pragmatic.

Decision 7/2003 Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [Work Program](#) submitted to Council in document GEF/C.21/7 and approves it¹ subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by close of business on May 30, 2003².
2. The Council finds that, with the exception of:
 - (a) Chad: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Moyen-Chari.
 - (b) Guinea-Bissau: Coastal and Biodiversity Management Project.

¹ One Council Member, in light of national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, did not support the projects proposal: *Syria: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management*

² To permit the World Bank to meet its Board approval date and thereby retain the link between the GEF component and the IBRD loan, Council Members agreed, because of exceptional circumstances, to provide their final comments on the project, *China: Gansu/Xinjiang Pastoral Development* by May 16, 2003, rather than by May 30, 2003

- (c) Slovak Republic: Global Programme to Demonstrate the Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Successful Implementation of Available, non-Combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Each project presented to it as part of the Work Program (i) is or would be consistent with the Instrumental and GEF policies and procedures and (ii) may be endorsed by the CREO for final approval by the Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the Council's comments on the work program accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

3. With respect to the three projects listed above, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive final project documents and transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the Implementing Agency. Such projects may be reviewed at a subsequent Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

Decision 8/2003 Issues Note: A Framework for Programming Resources for Enhanced Performance and Results at the Country Level

1. The Council discussed the issues and principles in document GEF/C.21/8, [*A Framework for Programming Resources for Enhanced Performance and Results at the Country Level.*](#)
2. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to establish and chair a working group of technical experts to prepare elements of a framework for GEF performance-based allocations for Council review and approval. In establishing the technical experts working group, the Secretariat is requested to solicit nominations of experts Council Members. In carrying out its work, the working group is requested to take into account the discussions of the Council on document GEF/C.21/8 and comments received from Council Members on earlier drafts documents. The working group should present its report to the Council for review and comment at its meeting in November 2003. In undertaking its work, the working group is requested to consult with the Council by sharing ideas and preliminary drafts for comment.

Decision 9/2003 GEF Business Plan FY04-06

1. The Council, having reviewed the [*GEF Business Plan FY04-06*](#), welcomes the plan's strategic approach to planning so as to enhance impacts of GEF-supported activities.

The Council approves the business plan, subject to comments made by the Council at the meeting, as a basis for programming of GEF resources, taking into account other related decisions of the Council, including its decision on the programming of resources for enhanced performance. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to prepare a proposed GEF Business Plan FY05-07 for Council review and approval at its meeting in November 2003.

Decision 10/2003 Review of Fee-Based System

1. Council reviewed document GEF/C.21/10, [A Proposal for a Revised Fee Structure](#), and agrees that the current system for determining project fees should continue to be applied. This includes a freeze on the flat fees for enabling activities and medium size projects at current levels. The Council requests the Secretariat to prepare for its review in May 2004 a paper on the fee system that will consider:
 - (a) A distinction in the fees depending on project type (for instance, full size free standing projects, full size projects associated with a larger project if an agency; full size projects with cofinancing, medium sized projects, and enabling activities).
 - (b) In reviewing fees for medium sized projects and enabling activities, the comparative advantages of the agencies and mechanisms designed to address the expected growth in the number of medium sized projects.
 - (c) Mechanisms that could lead to more administrative efficiency.
 - (d) Different incentives to reduce fees such as: competitive bidding; a set level of fees with the possibility of bonuses based on defined criteria; a floor for fees above which greater scrutiny would be given to the justification for higher fees; and use of the corporate budget as an incentive to reduce fees.
2. The Council requests the Secretariat to monitor the trend in fees and to report on such trends at its meeting in May 2004.

Decision 11/2003 GEF FY04 Corporate Budget

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.21/11 [GEF FY04 Corporate Budget](#)³, and approves the proposed FY04 corporate budget of \$22.978 million, subject to the comments made during the Council meeting comprising:

³ A [corrigendum to the GEF FY04 Corporate Budget](#) corrected the proposed budget for Legal Services.

- (a) An amount of \$22.606 million for the resource requirements of the seven GEF units (GEF Secretariat, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit, the three Implementing Agencies, Trustee, and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel) in the provision of corporate management services.
- (b) An amount of \$0.372 million for the proposed continuation of the special initiative for enhancing country-level coordination and country ownership of GEF-financed activities by strengthening national operational focal points.

Decision 12/2003 Cofinancing

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.20/6/Rev.1, [Cofinancing](#)⁴, approves the proposed policy and procedures subject to comments made at the meeting. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the Executing Agencies acting under expanded opportunities: (a) to implement the policy when preparing future work programs submitted for Council approval and when proposing any projects eligible for CEO approval under expedited procedures; and (b) to report to Council in each GEF business plan on the overall progress in implementing the policy.

Decision 13/2003 Monitoring and Evaluation

1. The Council reviewed the [terms of reference for an independent monitoring and evaluation unit](#) presented in document GEF/C.21/12 and requested the Secretariat to revise the terms of reference, taking into account the comments made at the meeting and any written comments submitted by Council Members by May 31, 2003. The revised terms of reference should be circulated by June 30, 2003, to the Council for decision by mail. After approval of the terms of reference, the CEO is requested to initiate an open and transparent recruitment process for the director of the independent monitoring and evaluation unit with a view to proposing to the Council at its meeting in November 2003, a candidate for appointment to the position.
2. The Council reviewed the proposed monitoring and evaluation work plan for FY03-06 presented in document GEF/C.21/13, and accepts it as an interim plan to guide the unit's work in FY04. The director of the independent monitoring and evaluation unit should prepare a work plan for Council review at its meeting in May 2004. The Council also approves an amount of US\$2.165 million to cover the resource requirements of the unit in FY04 as part of the FY04 corporate budget approved by the Council under agenda

⁴ The Cofinancing document was presented at the 20th Council Meeting in October 2002. Based on **Decision 18/2002**, the Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised paper, which was reviewed and approved at the 21st Council meeting.

item 12. The Council notes that this increase in the budget is to prepare contributions for OPS3 and should not be considered part of the baseline budget of the unit.

3. The Council requested the monitoring and evaluation unit to prepare a report for consideration at its meeting in November 2003 on the follow-up to the monitoring and evaluation reports before the meeting (documents GEF/C.21/Inf.6 ([Project Performance Report 2002](#)) and GEF/C.21/Inf.7 ([GEF Secretariat Managed Project Review 2002](#))).

Decision 14/2003 Action Plan to Respond to the Recommendations of the Second GEF Assembly, the Policy Recommendations of the Third Replenishment, the OPS2 and the WSSD

1. The Council reviewed the document GEF/C.21/Inf.4, [Action Plan to respond to the recommendations of the Second GEF Assembly, the Policy Recommendations of the Third Replenishment, the Second Overall Performance Study of the GEF and the World Summit on Sustainable Development](#). The Council requested the Secretariat to revise the action plan on the basis of its comments and present it for Council review at its meeting in November 2003. Council Members are invited to submit written comments on the Action Plan to the Secretariat by June 30, 2003.

Decision by Mail – July 2003

Decision 15/2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

1. The Council, having reviewed the [revised terms of reference for an independent monitoring and evaluation unit](#) dated July 14, 2003, approves the terms of reference and requests the CEO to initiate an open and transparent recruitment process for the Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit with a view to proposing to the Council at its meeting in November 2003 a candidate for appointment to the position.

Decision by Mail – August 2003

Decision 16/2003 Intersessional Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) posted on July 24, 2003, and approves it, with the exception of the project proposal entitled *Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for the Cartagena Protocol*, and subject to the comments of Council Members received by the Secretariat.

2. The Council finds that, with the exception of the project entitled, *Mali: Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Inner Niger Delta and its Transition Areas, Mopti Region*, each project presented to it as part of the work program: (i) is or would be consistent with the Instrument and GEF Policies and procedures and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the [Council's comments on the work program](#) accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
3. With respect to the project listed above, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive the draft final project document and transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing the project document for final approval by the Implementing Agency. The project may be reviewed at a subsequent Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

Decision by Mail – October 2003

Decision 17/2003 Report to the ninth CoP to the UNFCCC

1. The Council, having reviewed the draft [Report of the GEF to the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), approves the report for submission to the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

22nd Council Meeting – November 2003

Decision 18/2003 Participation of Council Members in Council Meetings

1. The Council expresses its regret that the Council Member representing the Caribbean constituency was not able to participate in the meeting recognizing the paramount importance of participation of all constituency groupings in Council meetings. The Council recalls that the GEF has always operated in a spirit of inclusiveness and partnership for the purpose of managing the global environment, and it called for a practical and sustainable solution that would ensure that all constituencies can be fully represented in Council meetings. Global Environment Facility.

2. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to consult with the World Bank and the host government with a view to identifying a solution and to propose steps to ensure the representation of all constituencies at GEF Council meetings.
3. The Secretariat is requested to inform the Council by mail no later than March 15, 2004 of the progress that has been made in identifying a solution, including proposals for the organization of the next Council meeting in May 2004.

Decision 19/2003 Appointment of Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

1. The Council takes note of the information that was provided by the CEO/Chairman on the progress that has been made in the selection of a candidate for [appointment to the position of coordinator of the GEF independent monitoring and evaluation unit](#). The Council welcomes the proposal of the CEO/Chairman that he undertake further consultations with the other members of the selection committee with a view to making a proposal to the Council by mail in December on the next steps to be followed in the process.

Decision 20/2003 Relations with Conventions

1. The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/C.22/4/Rev.2, [Relations with Conventions](#), takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international agreements and welcomes the continuing collaboration between the GEF and the Conventions. More specifically, the Council:
 - (a) Welcomes efforts to coordinate the CBD's review process of the financial mechanism with the work to be undertaken for the third Study of GEF's Overall Performance.
 - (b) Requests the GEF Secretariat in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat of the CBD to inform the first Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on the experience and lessons learned through the GEF activities undertaken pursuant to the GEF Initial Strategy for assisting countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol with a view to contributing to the formulation of guidance as to how developing countries may work with the financial mechanism to best build upon such experience.
 - (c) Requests the GEF Secretariat in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies to inform the ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC of the steps that have been undertaken to operationalize in an expeditious manner financing for the preparation of second national communications.

- (d) Welcomes the decision of the sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD to identify the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention and requests the CEO to collaborate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding on arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD. The CEO is requested to submit a draft MOU to the Council for its review and comment in sufficient time so that the views of the Council may be reflected in the draft MOU to be presented to the seventh session of the COP for its consideration in 2005.
- (e) Invites Council Members to submit to the Secretariat any comments that they may have on the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the COP to the Stockholm Convention and the GEF Council by December 31, 2003, so that the GEF Secretariat can reflect Members' views in its collaboration with the Convention Secretariat to revise the draft MOU.
- (f) Also invites Council Members to submit to the Secretariat by December 31, 2003, any comments that they may have on the elements of the terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism by the COP to the Stockholm Convention (see document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/24 on the website www.pops.int) so that the GEF Secretariat can reflect Members' views in its consultations with the Convention Secretariat on the preparation of draft terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism.
- (g) Agrees that eligibility for POPs enabling activities should be extended to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are in the process of becoming Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
- (h) Requests the GEF Secretariat to seek further information and justification from the Secretariat of the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol as to why South Africa, as a developing country, cannot seek financing from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol for the phase out of methyl bromide. In presenting this information to the Council, the Secretariat is also requested to provide information on the needs of South Africa, including the types of activities and technology that would need to be financed, the cost of those activities, and information on how such resources might be accommodated within the resource targets for GEF 3 presented in the business plan.

Decision 21/2003 Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [Work Program](#) submitted to Council in document GEF/C.22/5 and approves it⁵ subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by close of business December 5, 2003.
2. The Council also reviewed the project, *Global: Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of the Cartagena Protocol*, that was originally included in the Intersessional Work Program circulated to the Council on July 25, 2003.
3. The Council finds that, with the exception of:
 - (a) Chile: Conserving Globally Significant Biodiversity along the Chilean Coast (UNDP)
 - (b) China: Hai River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (World Bank)
 - (c) Vietnam: Forest Sector Development Project (World Bank)
 - (d) Global: Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol (UNEP)
 - (e) Global: Fuel Cells Financing Initiative for Distributed Generation Applications (World Bank/IFC);projects presented to it as part of the work program (i) are or would be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the Council's comments on the work program accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
4. With respect to the projects specified above, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive the draft final project document for each project and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior

⁵ One Council Member, in light of national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, opposed the following project proposals: *Cuba: Generation and Delivery of Renewable Energy Based Modern Energy Services in Cuba; the Case of Isla de la Juventud; Regional: Towards a Convention and Action Program for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment, Phase II* (due to financing for Iran); and *Global: Add-on for Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project* (due to financing for Libya).

to the CEO endorsing the project document for final approval by the Implementing Agency. Such projects may be reviewed at a subsequent Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

Decision 22/2003 GEF Business Plan FY05-07

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.22/6, [GEF Business Plan FY05-07](#), takes note of the business plan, without approving it, and of comments made by the Council at the meeting, as a provisional basis for programming of GEF resources, taking into account other related decisions of the Council. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to prepare a proposed GEF Business Plan FY06-08 for Council review at its meeting in November 2004.

Decision 23/2003 Action Plan

1. The Council reviewed the [Action Plan to Respond to Recommendations for Improving GEF's Performance](#), document GEF/C.22/7, and invites Council Members to submit written comments on the plan to the Secretariat by December 19, 2003. The Council requests the Secretariat to revise the Action Plan on the basis of the comments received and to circulate the revised Action Plan to the Council for approval by mail.

Decision 24/2003 Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity Building

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.22/8, [Strategic Approach to Enhancing Capacity Building](#), approves the strategic approach and requests the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and the monitoring and evaluation unit, to undertake further work to operationalize it. This will include the development of:
 - (a) Targets and indicators for measuring results and impacts of capacity building activities.
 - (b) Operational modalities and project criteria for the implementation of the strategic approach, including for the enhancement of capacity building components within GEF projects and for country capacity building programs for LDCs and SIDS.
 - (c) Proposals for Council consideration for a technical support program.
2. The GEF Secretariat is requested to report to the Council at its meeting in May 2004, and regularly thereafter, on the development and implementation of the strategic approach.

Decision 25/2003 Progress of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.22/9, [Progress Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit](#), takes note of the progress made under the Monitoring and Evaluation work program since the last meeting. The Council requests the independent GEF M&E Director to prepare for consideration at its meeting in May 2004 a four year rolling M&E work plan together with an annual work program and budget, taking into account the terms of reference for the monitoring and evaluation unit approved in July 2003. The Director is requested to include in the work plan steps to develop procedures to clarify how the monitoring and evaluation unit relates to the Council and the GEF family, including a process for management responses to its reports, and proposals addressing how monitoring and evaluation products are to be applied within the GEF. The work plan should also include steps to ensure implementation of the policy decisions related to monitoring and evaluation from the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

Decision 26/2003 Third Study of GEF's Overall Performance

1. The Council having reviewed document GEF/C.22/10, [Third Study of GEF's Overall Performance \(OPS 3\) – Evaluative Framework](#), agrees that the study should be prepared by an independent team of evaluators as was done for OPS1 and OPS2. The Council also agrees that the terms of reference for OPS3 should be concluded as early as possible in 2004 and should include information on the process for selecting the independent team of evaluators and on how the study should be conducted. The Council welcomes the offer of the Council Member from Canada to take a lead in preparing the terms of reference. The Canadian Council Member is requested to consult with the other Council Members, the GEF monitoring and evaluation unit, and the GEF Secretariat in carrying out this task. The Council requests the Secretariat to circulate the proposed terms of reference to all Council Members for approval by mail by February 1, 2004.

Decision 27/2003 Performance Based Framework

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.22/11, [Performance-Based Framework for Allocation of GEF Resources](#), expresses its appreciation for the work carried out by the Technical Working Group to prepare the paper, which is a good step towards improving the performance of the system. The Council agrees that the Secretariat should work to develop a GEF-wide system based on global environmental priorities and country-level performance relevant to those priorities. In this regard, the Council requests the Secretariat to present to the May 2004 Council meeting a study of options to strengthen the current system of allocating GEF resources with a view to coming to a

conclusion in November 2004. The system should be consistent with the GEF Instrument, the environmental conventions for which the GEF is a financial mechanism, the Policy Recommendations of the Third Replenishment, Council decisions at the October 2002 meeting, and the Beijing Assembly Declaration.

2. In developing these options, the Secretariat shall consult with the Implementing and Executing Agencies, and member countries, and should consider the principles of simplicity, transparency, pragmatism, cost-effectiveness, comprehensiveness, country-drivenness, and equal opportunity for all recipient countries to have access to GEF resources. The Secretariat should include in the next document estimates of cost associated with each option.
3. The Council approves an addition to the GEF Secretariat Corporate budget of \$360,000 for expenses to be incurred over FY04. These resources will be used to finance consultants and to commission external studies. The Council requests the Secretariat to make provision for developing and maintaining the performance-based system in future budget requests, as necessary.

Decision 28/2003 Review of Experience with Executing Agencies under Expanded Opportunities

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.22/12, [*Review of Experience of Executing Agencies under Expanded Opportunities*](#), notes the progress that has been made and approves the following changes to the policy: (i) all executing agencies acting under the policy (Executing Agencies) and acting within their agreed scope for GEF operations will be given direct access to GEF resources for the implementation of GEF projects (medium and full size projects); and (ii) on a case-by-case basis, the CEO may approve PDF-A grants for the development of eligible concepts by an Executing Agency.
2. The Council requests the Secretariat and the Trustee to take immediate steps to negotiate with the Executing Agencies the agreements necessary to ensure their direct access to GEF resources. The Secretariat, Trustee and Executing Agencies are requested to aim to complete these agreements by May 2004.
3. The Council confirms the current scope of GEF operations for each agency as set out in the Business Plan, but requests the Secretariat to review this on the basis of a systematic review of institutional capacity in relation to GEF business needs (including capacity to mainstream GEF operations, to undertake the relevant sectoral dialogue and to mobilize cofinancing). The Secretariat is requested to work with the Implementing and Executing Agencies to prepare a scorecard on the institutional performance of the

Implementing and Executing Agencies and to report to the Council in November 2004. The Council also requests the Secretariat to further enhance the integration of Executing Agencies into GEF operations, in the ways identified in this review, in a cost-effective manner.

Decision 29/2003 Note on Collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Note on Collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development](#), GEF/C.22/13, approves the proposals contained therein for GEF activities related to the CSD meeting to be held in New York, April 2004. The Council requests the Secretariat to consult with the Secretariat of the CSD on strengthening the collaboration between the GEF and the CSD, taking into account the CSD future program and organization of work, and to report back to the Council at its meeting in May 2004 on the outcomes of those discussions and follow-up proposals.

Decision 30/2003 Initial Proposals for the Process of Selecting CEO/Chairman of the Facility

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.22/14, [Initial Proposals concerning the Process for Selection of the CEO/Chairman of the Facility](#), underscores that the process should be built upon the principles of transparency of information throughout the process, objectivity in applying clear selection criteria approved by all and independence of the selection process. The Council requests the Secretariat to prepare a revised proposal on the basis of the discussions during the Council meeting. The revised proposal should be submitted to the Council for its review and approval in May 2004.

Decision 31/2003 Confirmation of Participants joining the Constituency Groupings

1. The Council confirms the following [constituency groupings](#):
 - (a) Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
 - (b) Afghanistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen.
 - (c) Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
 - (d) Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Decision by Mail – December 2003

Decision 32/2003 Report to the Seventh CoP to the CBD

1. The Council, having reviewed the draft [Report of the GEF to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), approves the report for submission to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Annex

Attachment to Decision 1/2003

World Bank Group – GEF Program:

GEF Projects That Have Over Disbursed in US\$ Compared to GEF Council Approved Amounts

(December 30, 2002)

Country	Project Name	Project Type	Project Status	GEF Commitment Amount (US\$)	Disbursed Amount (in US\$)	Over-disbursed Amount in US\$
Belarus	Forest Biodiversity Protection	FSP	LCLS	1,000,000	1,032,156.54	(32,156.54)
Bhutan	Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	FSP	LCLS	10,000,000	10,513,254.64	(513,254.64)
China	Ship Waste Disposal	FSP	LCLS	30,000,000	32,309,401.27	(2,309,401.27)
Czech Republic	Kyjev Waste Heat Utilization	FSP	LCLS	5,800,000	6,048,069.23	(248,069.23)
Czech Republic	Biodiversity Protection	FSP	LCLS	2,000,000	2,122,733.40	(122,733.40)
Czech Republic	Phaseout of Ozone Depleting Substances	FSP	LCLS	2,300,000	2,408,680.38	(108,680.38)
Ecuador	Biodiversity Protection	FSP	LCLS	7,200,000	7,374,975.65	(174,975.65)
India	Alternate Energy	FSP	LCLS	26,000,000	26,159,153.24	(159,153.24)
Iran	Teheran Transport Emissions Reduction	FSP	LCLS	2,000,000	2,112,348.51	(112,348.51)
Mexico	Protected Areas Program (FANP)	FSP	LCLS	16,390,000	16,480,080.00	(90,080.00)
Mexico	High Efficiency Lighting Pilot	FSP	LCLS	10,000,000	10,718,523.30	(718,523.30)
Peru	National Trust Fund for Protected Areas	FSP	LCLS	5,000,000	5,223,986.59	(223,986.59)
Philippines	Leyte-Luzon Geothermal	FSP	LCLS	30,000,000	31,224,715.11	(1,224,715.11)
Seychelles	Biodiversity Conservation & Marine Pollution Abatement	FSP	LCLS	1,800,000	1,871,715.50	(71,715.50)
Slovak Republic	Biodiversity Protection	FSP	LCLS	2,300,000	2,456,823.24	(156,823.24)
Thailand	Promotion of Electricity Energy Efficiency	FSP	LCLS	9,500,000	9,706,861.45	(206,861.45)
Uganda	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park & Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Conservation	FSP	LCLS	4,000,000	4,350,423.02	(350,423.02)
Ukraine	Danube Delta Conservation	FSP	CLOS	1,500,000	1,546,473.73	(46,473.73)
Ukraine	Transcarpathian Biodiversity Conservation	FSP	LCLS	500,000	584,475.02	(84,475.02)
Regional	Water and Environmental Management of the Aral Sea Basin	PPA	CLOS	500,000	546,667.44	(46,667.44)
Mozambique	Transfrontier Conservation Areas Pilot and Institutional Strengthening	PPA	LCLS	427,000	449,400.00	(22,400.00)
Russian Federation	Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances	PPA	LCLS	1,000,000	1,041,072.09	(41,072.09)
Jordan	Gulf of Aqaba Environmental Action Plan	PPA	LCLS	295,000	304,441.09	(9,441.09)
	Total:	23		169,512,000.00	176,586,430.44	(7,074,430.44)