



Global Environment Facility

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GEF Council
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**REVIEW OF GEF SUPPORT TO NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
AND COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING RECIPIENT
COUNTRY CONSTITUENCIES**

1. At its meeting in May 1999, the Council reviewed document GEF/C.13/13, *Constituencies and Assistance for Country Level Coordination*, and approved activities and associated financial resources to strengthen constituency and country level coordination in recipient countries for a three-year period.
2. The Council requested the GEF Secretariat to reach agreement with the Implementing Agencies on the modalities for providing support
 - (a) to improve the coordination and consultation role of the Council Members representing recipient country constituencies, and
 - (b) to strengthen the national coordination role of the national focal points.
3. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies were also requested to report annually to the Council on the use of the resources provided for this purpose.
4. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies reached agreement on guidelines for the provision of support to eligible Council Members. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies also agreed on guidelines for the provision of support to strengthen the national coordination activities of the GEF national focal points. These guidelines are consistent with the original proposal approved by the Council and make it clear that support is to be provided through one of the Implementing Agencies. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies revised these guidelines in June 2000 to include international travel for focal points to constituency coordination meetings convened by the Council Member in their region.
5. Each Implementing Agency prepared administrative arrangements necessary to facilitate the transfer of resources to its field offices in accordance with its internal rules and procedures.
6. As a first step towards operationalizing this support, eligible Council Members as well as the national focal points were requested to identify the Implementing Agency field office with which they wished to work.

SUPPORT TO ELIGIBLE COUNCIL MEMBERS

7. One Council Member received support to conduct video conferences with the members of the constituency in preparation for a constituency meeting. This constituency meeting will be covered by the Council Member support and is scheduled to take place before this Council Meeting.

SUPPORT TO NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

8. Since June 1999, 110 countries responded by identifying the Implementing Agency through which they wished to receive the support, of which 99 countries identified UNDP field office which they wished to work with and 11 countries chose the World Bank mission. Seventy eight countries have submitted an annual budget plan, after which the requested funds were disbursed to the field office of

the Implementing Agency concerned for the requested support. Upon receipt of a report on expenditures for the first year, funds will be disbursed for the second year in accordance with a new annual budget plan. So far eight budget plans have been approved for the second year. Annex A lists the countries that have requested support.

9. In January 2000, national focal points and Council Members were requested to give their comments on the impact of this support and any recommendations to improve its effectiveness. Responses were received from the focal points of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cambodia*, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Malawi, Nepal, Niue, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sudan*, Turkey*, and Vietnam. Based on this information and on very positive reports from the implementing agencies, the support was used for activities such as:

- (a) access to the internet;
- (b) access to GEF documents and translations into the local language;
- (c) establishment of GEF units and local level coordination meetings and dialogues. These meetings and dialogues often include the NGO community;
- (d) awareness activities and training seminars, including use of Country Dialogue Workshop material available on the web to organize national meetings; and
- (e) organizing workshops on biodiversity and climate change with the aim of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10. One national focal point expressed interest receiving support to attend constituency meetings.

11. Most of the responses indicated that, since awareness of GEF activities is inadequate, support for GEF focal points is very important. Comments on the effectiveness of the support have been positive and encouraging. The use of the internet connection provided through the focal point support increased accessibility to information about the GEF at the country level, particularly in island countries.

12. Most countries expressed their appreciation for receiving the support. Requests were made to provide the focal points with information circulars and reports, video material and posters about the GEF. Reference was made to the GEF web site, and it was suggested that information available through the web site be increased. One response indicated problems because of incompleteness of information and that no coordination meetings had taken place. Another response indicated a delay in provision of the support. In Annex B and C information has been included on disbursement of funds by UNDP and the World Bank respectively in the first and second year.

* These countries responded to the mid term review by requesting point support for the first time.

13. When the Council approved this support for the national focal points, it understood that the support would be available for a three year period, beginning in FY00, and that thereafter GEF matters should have been internalized into the functioning of focal points and the agencies they represent in their Governments. In exceptional cases, Council could consider providing support beyond the three years.

14. As noted in paragraph 7 above, 110 countries have requested focal point support and the Secretariat and the implementing agencies continue to receive new requests for support through the implementing agencies. In approving resources for this support, it was estimated that the required resources would be \$639,000 in the first year and \$588,000 for the second and third years to provide support to 100 countries for a period of three years. This was based on an estimated range of costs between \$2,000 to \$8,000 per year, with an expectation that most countries needs' could be met at an average cost of \$5,000. In the first year, the annual budgets for most countries were at the top of the range (\$8,000).

ANNEX A

COUNTRIES REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

<u>Algeria</u>	<u>Lesotho</u>
<u>Antigua & Barbuda</u>	<u>Lithuania</u>
<u>Argentina</u>	<u>Madagascar</u>
<u>Armenia</u>	<u>Malaysia</u>
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	<u>Malawi</u>
<u>Bangladesh</u>	<u>Maldives</u>
<u>Bahamas</u>	<u>Mali</u>
<u>Belarus</u>	<u>Marshall Islands</u>
<u>Belize</u>	<u>Mauritania*</u>
<u>Benin</u>	<u>Mauritius</u>
<u>Bolivia</u>	<u>Moldova</u>
<u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Mongolia*</u>
<u>Burkina Faso</u>	<u>Mozambique</u>
<u>Burundi</u>	<u>Nauru</u>
<u>Cameroon</u>	<u>Nepal</u>
<u>Central African Republic</u>	<u>Nicaragua</u>
<u>Chad</u>	<u>Niger</u>
<u>Chile</u>	<u>Nigeria*</u>
<u>China*</u>	<u>Niue</u>
<u>Colombia</u>	<u>Pakistan</u>
<u>Comoros</u>	<u>Palau</u>
<u>Congo, Democratic Republic of</u>	<u>Panama</u>
<u>Cook Islands</u>	<u>Peru</u>
<u>Costa Rica</u>	<u>Philippines</u>
<u>Cote d'Ivoire</u>	<u>Poland</u>
<u>Croatia*</u>	<u>Romania</u>
<u>Czech Republic</u>	<u>Russian Federation</u>
<u>Dominica</u>	<u>Samoa</u>
<u>Dominan Republic</u>	<u>Sao Tome & Principe</u>
<u>Egypt</u>	<u>Senegal</u>
<u>El Salvador</u>	<u>Slovak Republic</u>
<u>Eritrea*</u>	<u>Slovenia</u>
<u>Estonia</u>	<u>Solomon Islands</u>
<u>Ethiopia</u>	<u>South Africa*</u>
<u>Fiji</u>	<u>Sri Lanka</u>
<u>Gabon</u>	<u>St. Lucia</u>
<u>Gambia</u>	<u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</u>
<u>Georgia*</u>	<u>Syria</u>

Ghana
Guatemala*
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia*
Iran
Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Democratic Rep of
Korea, Republic of
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon

Sudan
Swaziland
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Tuvalu
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine*
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam
Zambia
Yemen

_ Countries underlined have already received the confirmation of approval of their requested funds.
* Countries with an asterisk are supported through the World Bank.

ANNEX B

GEF INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
REPORT AT APRIL 9, 2001

	UNDP chosen as IA NO OF COUNTRIES	Funds disbursed for 1 st year (including 3% Admin cost)		Funds disbursed for 2 nd year (including 3% Admin cost)	
		No of Countries	US\$	No of Countries	US\$
Africa					
FY 2000	28	11	96.600	-	-
FY 2001	-	9	77.750	-	-
Total	28	20	174.350	-	-
Arab States					
FY 2000	6	1	8.800	-	-
FY 2001		4	35.200	-	-
Total	6	5	44.000	-	-
Asia and Pacific					
FY 2000	24	10	87.300	-	-
FY 2001		7	61.400	1	8.250
Total	24	17	148.700	1	8.250
Europe and CIS					
FY 2000	19	11	96.800	-	-
FY 2001		5	44.000	3	24.750
Total	19	16	140.800	3	24.750
Latin America and the Caribbean					
FY 2000	20	10	87.150	-	
FY 2001	2	4	47.575	-	
Total	22	14	134.725	-	
TOTAL					
FY 2000	97	63	376.650	-	-
FY 2001	2	11	265.925	4	33.000
Total	99	74	642.575	4	33.000

ANNEX C

GEF INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND ELIGIBLE COUNCIL MEMBERS
REPORT AT APRIL 9, 2001

Africa	World Bank chosen as IA NO OF COUNTRIES	Funds disbursed for 1 st year (including 3% Admin cost)		Funds disbursed for 2 nd year (including 3% Admin cost)	
		No of Countries	US\$	No of Countries	US\$
FY 2000	1 (Nigeria)	1	\$8,755		
FY 2001	1 (Nigeria)			1	\$8,240
Total	1	1	\$8,755	1	\$8,240
Middle East and North Africa					
FY 2000					
FY 2001					
Total					
East Asia and Pacific					
FY 2000	3 (China, Indonesia, Mongolia)	2	\$17,510		
FY 2001	3 (China, Indonesia, Mongolia)	1	\$8,755	2	\$16,480
Total	3	3	\$26,265	2	\$16,480
Europe and Central Asia					
FY 2000	1 (Georgia)	1	\$8,755		
FY 2001	3 (Croatia, Georgia, Ukraine ^{**})	1	\$10,755	1	\$8,240
Total	3	2	\$19,510	1	\$8,240
Latin America and the Caribbean					
FY 2000					
FY 2001					
Total					
TOTAL					
FY 2000	5	4	\$35,020		
FY 2001	6	2	\$19,510	4	\$32,960
Total	11	6	\$54,530	4	\$32,960

* Includes Council Member Support.