



# Global Environment Facility

## Summary of Document GEF/C.31/5

### Comparative Advantages of the GEF Agencies

#### **Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.31/5, *Comparative Advantages of the GEF Agencies*, agrees to the description of the comparative advantages of the GEF Agencies presented in the document and requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the country concerned, to assess the comparative advantage of the GEF agency proposed to manage a project during the PIF review.

GEF agencies are requested to focus their involvement in GEF project activities within their respective comparative advantages. In specific cases of integrated projects that include components where the expertise and experience of a GEF agency is lacking or weak, partnerships with other GEF agencies should be established with clear complementary roles, so that all aspects of the project can be well managed.

The Council agrees that that the categorizations and description of comparative advantages presented in the document should be reassessed when the strategic programming areas for GEF-5 are approved, taking into account as an additional factor information on project performance generated through the performance and outcome matrix under development by the GEF Evaluation Office as well as the result based management framework.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. In December 2006, Council requested the Secretariat to elaborate on the comparative advantages of the GEF agencies, taking into consideration the evaluation of the experience of the Executing Agencies presented to Council by the GEF Evaluation Office.
2. In this paper the Secretariat proposes a typology for the roles and comparative advantages of the GEF agencies in relation to their preparation and management of GEF projects. The typology is based on the main types of GEF interventions as described in the GEF Instrument (i.e. investments; capacity building and technical assistance; and assessments, tools, standards and norms) versus the areas of GEF interventions as described in the GEF focal area strategies.

3. The proposed typology, summarized in paragraph 25 and visualized as a diagram in Annex L, intends to provide a basis for a more clear division of labor and a more level playing field in project activities among the GEF agencies. As decided by Council in December 2006, the actual comparative advantage of a GEF agency to manage a proposed project will be assessed by the Secretariat during the PIF review in view of the specific required expertise, context and external partners.

4. The analysis of the agencies' comparative advantages is based on information they provided on their institutional mandate in relation to global environmental concerns, their actual capacity for managing GEF projects, and their field presence and contact networks. This information is summarized in annexes to this paper, providing a brief introduction to each agency's role in the GEF partnership. Information on overall performance in project implementation has not been included in this analysis due to lack of comparable external performance assessments.

5. The categorization and description of the GEF agencies' comparative advantages for the GEF will evolve over time and will need to be re-analyzed in the future, taking into consideration information generated by the emerging results based management framework for the GEF as well as the performance and outcomes matrix under development by the GEF Evaluation Office, to be presented to Council in December 2007.