



# Global Environment Facility

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## INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO GEF PROJECTS

# **Interim Report**

## **THE TASK**

1. The document, *GEF Business Plan FY08-10* (GEF/C.31/9), submitted to Council at its June 2007 meeting, proposed the following body of work to address the climate resiliency of GEF projects:

*“Tools to Assess the Impact of Climate Change on Project Results and Sustainability*

13. The GEF will undertake steps to mitigate the risk to the sustainability of GEF projects from the impacts of climate change. The Secretariat, in consultation with STAP, GEF Agencies and other external experts, will develop an assessment of the climate change risks in all focal areas and issues that need to be addressed in project design for Council review in November 2007. Thereafter the GEF will prepare, for Council review in June 2008, tools and guidelines to be used during project design for assessing climate change risk to GEF projects so that all GEF projects may include measures for alleviating or minimizing such risks. Beginning FY09, all GEF project proposals would be expected to be climate-proofed in accordance with the Council-approved guidelines.”

2. In response to this guidance, the GEF Secretariat (GEFSEC) endeavored to develop a functional methodology for considering and incorporating climate change adaptation strategies into the design of GEF-funded focal area activities. This is an interim progress report.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. The historic adaptation literature reveals that no single climate resiliency methodology has been successfully developed or implemented for the broad spectrum of focal areas and project investments that are resident at the GEF.

4. A literature review identified case studies, which provide practical lessons and examples of best practices, and climate change adaptation literature. Innovative screening and planning mechanisms were indentified.

5. Early climate resiliency approaches focus more on evaluating risks, rather than adaptation strategies. The impetus for these early approaches has often been to strengthen the argument for the implementation of climate change mitigation strategies. As the effects of climate change have become more evident, interest in adaptation has increased, and the context has been expanded to include sustainability on a wider scale. More recent climate change adaptation studies have built upon the lessons from the earlier body of work, while considering socioeconomic scenarios, stakeholder participation, and focusing on risks, vulnerabilities and the strengthening of adaptive capacity.

6. The framework and tools included in the review can be divided into several categories, as specified in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change:

- Complete frameworks and supporting toolkits
- Cross-cutting issues and multi-sector approaches
- Socioeconomic scenarios
- Decision tools
- Stakeholder approaches
- Sector-specific Tools.

## **METHODOLOGY FOR INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO GEF PROJECTS**

7. A prototype methodology was developed, building on prior experience and tools, as well as in consultation with relevant stakeholders both inside and outside the GEF network. Testing of the prototype methodology and screening tool will require four steps:

1. Development of screening criteria for the GEFSEC to apply to all projects to ensure that the proposed activities, outputs, and outcomes will be resilient to climate change.
2. A collaborative process to create three focal area-specific adaptation assessment tools.
3. Assessment of focal area management activities utilizing the prescribed focal area-specific tools, thus creating focal area-specific operational tools for GEF Agencies to employ during project development.
4. Alpha testing internally and Beta testing with adaptation experts.

8. The screening process will be employed by the GEFSEC to ensure that proposals consider and incorporate climate change adaptation strategies. The proposed methodology and screening tool will initially address the following screening criteria:

- Focal Area
  - Biodiversity
  - Climate Change
  - International Waters
  - Land Degradation
  - Ozone Depletion

- Persistent Organic Pollutants
  
- Geographic Scale
  - Niche
  - Regional
  - National
  - International
  
- Political Feasibility
- Institutional and Policy Framework
- Capacity and Adaptation Awareness Level
- Additional Screening Criteria (to be determined)

A prototype screening tool is presented in Appendix I.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

9. Methodological development will continue. It is proposed that the GEFSEC work with its Agencies and other relevant stakeholders to further develop the climate change adaptation integration methodology with the goal of conducting an internal Alpha test in late 2009. Once the methodology has been clearly defined, a broader Beta test will be conducted including both internal and external stakeholders.

10. The GEFSEC will continue to report to the Council as progress is achieved.

## *Appendix I: Prototype Climate Change Adaptation Screening Tool*

### 1. Type of Project

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- International Waters
- Land Degradation
- Ozone Depletion
- Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Capacity Building
- Cross Cutting Issues
- Corporate Programs
- Conflict Resolution

### 2. Ecosystem Type

- Arid and semi-arid zone ecosystems
  - Grasslands and savannahs
  - Warm desert and semi-desert
  - Tundra communities and cold desert biomes
- Coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems
- Mangroves
  - Coral reefs
  - Seagrasses
  - Pelagic or open-ocean communities
  - Deep-sea communities
  - Rivers
  - Lakes
  - Wetlands
- Forest ecosystems
  - Boreal and temperate needleleaf forests
  - Temperate broadleaf and mixed forests
  - Tropical moist forests
  - Tropical dry forests
  - Forest plantations
- Mountain ecosystems
- Agricultural ecosystems

### 3. Geographic Scale

- Niche
- Regional
- National

- International

4. Time Scale

- 1 year or less
- 1 - 5 years
- 5 - 10 years
- 10 - 15 years
- 15 years or more

5. Capacity and Adaptation Awareness Level

- Low
- Medium
- High

6. Institutional and Policy Framework

- Low
- Medium
- High