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GEF INITIATIVES FOR RIO + 20

Table of Contents

Background.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Objectives of RIO + 20.....	3
Organization.....	3
GEF-Led Activities.....	4
Lessons learned from investing in Rio convention activities: 20 years of knowledge and impact	4
Showcasing of GEF-funded projects and best practices.....	4
Activities of the GEF with Partners	7
Events, forums and workshops	7
Joint initiatives with Rio conventions.....	8
Communication outreach activities	9
CONCLUSION	10
ANNEX 1: PROPOSED GEF RIO +20 INITIATIVES AND BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	11

BACKGROUND

The Council recognizes that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development offers a unique opportunity for the GEF to contribute towards raising global awareness on meeting the challenges of sustainable development. For this purpose, and as reflected in this document, the GEF intends to carry out the following special initiatives¹ to support the following activities:

- A retrospective analysis to be coordinated by the GEF Secretariat, on the lessons learned from the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Rio Summit and the impact of GEF supported activities over the past 20 years including related national communications and reports to the Rio conventions;
- A highlight of the lessons learned from 20 of among the most significant GEF projects carried out since the GEF Facility was designed, and the publication of a related commemorative book for further dissemination;
- International meetings, workshops and events designed to promote and synergize initiatives related to Rio +20 objectives;
- Quality inputs to strengthen national communications and reports to the Rio conventions;
- Stimulate collaboration at the national and regional levels on achieving global environmental benefits;
- Greater integration, synergy and support to/with the Rio convention secretariats;
- Expansion of the GEF partners network;
- Communication outreach (publications, audiovisual and other materials); and
- The publication of a new book on 20 years of energy efficiency investments by the GEF.

¹ The Secretariat estimates that the allocation required to carry out these activities is of US\$ 490,750, reflected in the GEF Secretariat's corporate budget for FY11-FY12

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations General Assembly called (in GA 64/236) for a UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012 to take stock, 20 years after the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or the Rio Earth Summit), that became the birthplace of the three Rio Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)).
2. To that end the 65th United Nations General Assembly, inter alia, encouraged “the United Nations development system to support, as appropriate, national country preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, upon request of national authorities.”²
3. The GEF was conceived at the margins of the UNCED, and became a principal financial mechanism for the climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and ozone depletion UN conventions. Since its 1991 pilot phase, the GEF has provided incremental grant financing to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to address numerous global environmental challenges and sustainable development issues within its mandate.
4. The GEF plays a unique and prominent role in relation to the Rio Conventions, with 20 years of experience in providing resources for developing countries to fulfill their commitments before these conventions. Given this long experience, the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with its implementing and executing agencies, intends to share this body of experience during the conference, known as “Rio +20”, due to take place in Rio de Janeiro on June 4-6, 2012.
5. Intergovernmental consultations leading to the Rio +20 Conference started with the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York in May 2010. Countries met again in the UN Headquarters March 7-8 for a second session of the Committee. The third session will be held in Brazil on May 29-30, 2012. In addition, many countries including Germany, India and Monaco have announced their own plans to organize preparatory meetings on issues related to the conference themes. The GEF Secretariat has been invited to participate.
6. Rio +20 presents a landmark opportunity for the GEF to not only share the lessons learned from 20 years of operation but also to help reflect on the evolution of international financing for global public good. This proposal builds on key initiatives approved by the GEF council, in particular the International year of Biodiversity in 2010, the International Year of Deserts and Desertification in 2006, and the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002.
7. The GEF Council members are invited to consider these activities and approve additional resources for the GEF’s contributions to Rio +20 as part of FY11-12 corporate budget, to be included as special initiatives. Upon completion, the GEF Secretariat will report back to the council on the achievements of the Rio +20 with a special highlight on the GEF funded activities.

² <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/support-natl-prep.pdf>

OBJECTIVES OF RIO + 20

8. The stated goal of Rio +20 is based on the lessons learned since the original Rio Summit: to define and agree on a set of concrete and measurable objectives and actions aiming at a rejuvenated institutional framework for a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

9. Delegates during 2011-2012 are specifically expected to:

- Discuss a timetable for drafting a negotiating document that is designed to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development,
- Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and
- Address new and emerging challenges³

10. Delegates should meet these objectives through targeted community, national and international events designed build awareness on the negative consequences of the status quo on the Millennium Development Goals, particularly on food security, poverty, migration and conflict environments.

11. The GEF, in its role as a leading public funder and catalyst of innovative ideas for the environment hopes to contribute to achieving these objectives, mainly by communicating to the world some of the features and key contributions to sustainable development by this pioneering and unique facility set up in the context of the Rio Earth Summit.

ORGANIZATION

12. This section details the objectives and target audiences of GEF's proposed contributions to the Rio +20 process. Collaborating with the UNCSD and other partners will increase global awareness on the GEF's impact over its 20 year history toward sustainable development, particularly among fragile and conflict states. For each activity, a strong emphasis is placed on the GEF's role in catalyzing global environmental benefits in the developing world with a wide range of partners. Moreover, strengthening the dialogue with the GEF network partners will further contribute to enhancing the GEF's effectiveness, leverage and impact in the implementation of its programs and projects.

³ <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=61>

13. The primary target audiences to the Rio +20 Summit include the following:
- Political and economic leaders, and other decision-makers;
 - Developing countries looking for support in national preparations for the UNCSD Rio 2012, particularly through successful GEF-supported initiatives;
 - Leaders of corporate sectors with direct impact on biodiversity and climate change including land, water and ocean use, food and agriculture, and key players in their associated value chains;
 - Media and other opinion-shapers including civil society.
14. The GEF's contribution to Rio +20 will be organized through two major components. The first will be GEF-led activities. The second will be joint projects with the Rio conventions, GEF Agencies and countries.

GEF-LED ACTIVITIES

Lessons learned from investing in Rio convention activities: 20 years of knowledge and impact

15. A considerable body of information has been amassed through GEF-funded national and specialized reports arising from the Rio and Stockholm conventions. The GEF will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made during these last 20 years, with a special focus on key priorities that countries have identified under the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Stockholm Convention. The GEF Secretariat will take the lead in conducting this analysis in collaboration with United Nations Environment Program.

16. The review will also include an assessment of the national communications and reports the GEF has supported, in particular in relation to climate change.

Expected outcomes: This assessment will become a central contribution of the GEF to the Rio +20 Summit. It will help improve national communications to the Rio conventions and to share/disseminate knowledge, innovation and experiences of countries in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating land degradation and desertification over the last two decades.

Budget: \$91,000 is sought from the GEF Trust Fund to support expert consultants contributing in the compilation, analysis and edition of the information generated under this initiative. An additional \$50,000 is being sought from other sources under a co-financing arrangement.

Showcasing of GEF-funded projects and best practices

17. **20 Projects over 20 Years Initiative:** To illustrate the GEF's key contributions since Rio, the GEF will organize an awards ceremony that showcases GEF-funded projects that have achieved exceptional results. The goal is to promote exemplary sets of successful experiences based on the leverage, cost effectiveness, innovation, stakeholder engagement, convention

support, impact and replication. The awards ceremony should be held in the periphery of the GEF fall Council meeting.

18. Additionally, the retrospective analysis of knowledge and impact will be made available in the GEF website and used in the publication of a commemorative book illustrating the key achievements made through GEF projects, in particular the 20 that will be especially recognized in the awards ceremony.

Expected outcomes: Capitalizing on the Rio +20 platform, this initiative will increase awareness about the GEF, stimulate environmental initiatives and innovation, and facilitate best practices dissemination and implementation.

Budget: The estimated budget for this activity is \$89,750, (\$20,000 for the awards ceremony costs, and \$69,750 to develop and publish the ‘best practices’ commemorative book).

19. **New publication on energy efficiency:** Over the years, the GEF has financed a range of climate change mitigation projects. Many of these projects have now been completed and have had significant impacts. The GEF will perform and publish an in-depth study on these impacts, including an accurate accounting of the tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated by these GEF investments, as well as the number and types of technology transferred due to these GEF projects. This activity will be undertaken in close coordination with GEF Agencies and countries.

Expected outcome: Wide dissemination of the knowledge accumulated from the GEF projects, through the publication of 1000 copies of a soft cover book on greenhouse gas mitigation, to be launched at the Council meeting in November and at the Rio +20 summit, as well as promoted on the web.

Budget: \$20,000 to cover edition and publication costs.

20. **The Scientific and Advisory Panel (STAP) contribution:** One of the characteristics that makes the GEF unique is an innovative institutional arrangement linking its Secretariat with strategic implementing partners, an independent Evaluation Office, and especially, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). The contribution of the latter two will be prominently featured throughout the GEF’s participation in the Rio +20 process.

21. In particular, the role of the STAP in providing scientific support and guidance to the GEF has allowed for a level of innovation and creation of knowledge that has benefited countries beyond the direct financial investments provided in support of environment related projects/activities. The international scientific community is, however, insufficiently aware of the important work of the GEF and the STAP and the resulting project track record of the GEF.

22. As a preparatory step that will lead up to Rio +20, the GEF Secretariat and STAP will organize special sessions within the ‘*Planet under Pressure Conference*’, to be held in March 2012 in London. This Conference aims at providing scientific input for global leaders and decision makers who convene in Rio to assess many of the environmental challenges the planet faces and determine the actions that can be taken. The GEF Secretariat and STAP are planning to hold two sessions to explore and learn from the science of global environmental benefits.

The first session, tentatively titled: “*The Tragedies and Hopes of the Global Commons: Biodiversity, Climate and the Oceans as Global Benefits*,” will present an overview of the latest scientific thinking on the global commons, including biodiversity, the oceans, and climate. The second session will focus on how this scientific knowledge can best inform action, and focus on the case of the GEF. These will determine the context/background to the scientific meeting on the global commons that the GEF and STAP will lead just before Rio +20.

23. In June 2012, the STAP will hold a Scientific Forum, ‘*Science of the Global Commons*’, to be held at the Rio +20 Summit. This forum will be composed of leading scientists, including participants from the ‘*Planet under Pressure Conference*’, to discuss scientific issues related to *protection of the global commons relevant to the assembled global decision makers*.

Expected outcomes: Preparation though these high level, global international scientific meetings, of the background to the scientific issues to be carried out throughout the Rio +20 Summit and subsequent activities. Both the scientific forums and the Rio +20 Summit will significantly help generate and disseminate high levels of scientific knowledge/information that should influence policy makers towards implementing concrete environment protection measures.

Budget: \$10,000 to support STAP’s contribution to the Rio +20 Summit, to be complemented by \$65,000 expected from other sources as co-financing.

24. **The GEF Evaluation Office** will synthesize evaluative evidence coming from the four overall performance studies conducted in the history of the GEF in relation to its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in responding to the goals of the Rio Earth Summit and conventions, and in support of the sustainable development priorities of countries. The Evaluation Office will highlight the lessons, experiences and good practices of the GEF on financial mobilization, catalytic effect, leverage power, and global governance as well as on the GEF results in affecting global environmental trends. The exercise will be conducted in collaboration of a reference group composed of representatives of the GEF Council and Secretariat, STAP, GEF Agencies, conventions and participating countries. The final document (e-document) could be presented in a public, internet-based forum.

Expected outcomes: Objective analysis and compilation of lessons learned through GEF initiatives in terms of good practices, leverage, and impact on environmental trends.

Budget: \$50,000

ACTIVITIES OF THE GEF WITH PARTNERS

Events, forums and workshops

25. In order to increase the impact of the Rio +20 related Summit, the GEF will organize several joint activities with UN partners, including events, forums and workshops, leading to and at the Rio +20 Summit. A significant portion of the cost of these initiatives is expected to be borne by the GEF partners as a contribution to Rio +20.

26. The GEF will have a prominent role in the *First Global Summit of Legislators* organized by the Government of Brazil and the Mayor of Rio, hosted by GLOBE International and GLOBE Brazil. The Legislators Summit will take place on the 25th – 27th of May 2012, the weekend prior to the Rio +20 World Summit. This event will seek to place national legislation, natural capital and scrutiny at the heart of implementing the Rio agenda. The event will be attended by heads of Senates, Congresses, Parliaments, and Chairs of relevant parliamentary committees and will negotiate a legislator's protocol to be ratified in the respective legislatures of the participating parliaments. Responding to an invitation by Globe and the Brazilian Parliament, the GEF will participate in the planning committee that will be working from May 2011 up to the Rio +20 event. The GEF will not be contributing funds directly to the Legislators Forum, but will rather play a significant role in the preparation for and will participate in the forum itself.

27. The 20 Years Anniversary of the GEF offers an unprecedented opportunity to reflect on its future. The international finance landscape has evolved dramatically since the Earth Summit of 1992, and particularly over the past four years. The GEF Secretariat will seek the support of a professional organization and niche strategy company to assist in refining GEF's approach towards the next decade, based on its 20 years of experience in financing global public goods. This reflection will assess how the GEF's experience has carved its position internationally, and how it should continue to evolve to meet the new challenges ahead. This will be showcased during Rio +20 as supporting material for discussions with countries, donors and other stakeholders.

Expected outcomes: Greatly increased awareness among donor and developing country leaders, parliamentarians, and the international community in general, on the impact and evolving role of the GEF in the delivery of global public goods. Tools and inputs will be developed to strengthen the GEF's future outlook, as well as strategies and processes to better serve the needs of developing countries, in particular in its role as a financial mechanism of the three original Rio conventions.

Budget: \$80,000 (\$70,000 for the forward-looking GEF niche-positioning exercise and \$10,000 in support of the GEF's participation in the first Global Summit of Legislators). The contribution of the Government of Brazil for the week's events is foreseen to exceed \$1,000,000.

28. The German government is organizing a major global conference on *Water in the Green Economy* on November 16 -18, 2011. The GEF's long-standing work in financing projects that contribute to integrated water resources management and balancing of competing uses of water will be on the agenda as a critical component of the discussions that will look into the strengthening of the position of water within the new conceptual framework of the Green Economy. For this purpose, the GEF will facilitate the participation of selected GEF project

partners to the conference, in order to present relevant GEF projects. Additionally a special session will be hosted by the GEF CEO for water ministers from developing countries.

Expected outcome: Increased support from country leaders on the importance of water protection and conservation in the Green Economy Framework.

Budget: \$50,000 to cover exhibits, travel and other costs. The contribution of the German Government, organizer of the conference, has not been quantified but is expected to be considerable.

29. Collaboration with the Earth Journalists Network (James Fahn) in 2 initiatives to support **media capacity building** in the environmental field in developing countries will organize regional media trainings for developing country journalists, to build African media capacity to cover climate change in the lead-up to the 2011 United Nations COP17 Climate Change Summit in South Africa. Top journalists from the region will then be provided with fellowships to cover the Summit.

Expected outcomes: This program will improve the quantity and quality of climate change coverage in local African media, help raise awareness about climate change and strategies for adaptation, and build local journalist networks to carry out this work in a sustained fashion.

Budget: \$90,000 (\$40,000 from GEF and \$50,000 expected co-financing)

Joint initiatives with Rio conventions

30. Over the years, the GEF's relationships with the Rio conventions have been shaped through formal and informal interactions, resulting in cooperative relationships with satisfactory outcomes. Nevertheless during the discussions for the fifth replenishment period of the GEF (GEF-5), GEF contributing participants expressed that additional step could be taken to deepen GEF relationships with the convention secretariats. For this purpose, the GEF intends to strengthen avenues for communication and develop new ones.

31. For example, the GEF and the Rio conventions have been collaborating in the *Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion*. This Pavilion will culminate with a major event in Rio +20. This pavilion will expand on what began at the CBD-10 in Nagoya as a collaborative outreach activity including the Rio convention secretariats, the GEF and other partners to raise awareness, share information about the latest findings from science, and practice on the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification /land degradation.

At key events in 2011 and 2012, the Ecosystem Pavilion will offer a multifunctional space where side events will be held alongside capacity-development workshops and brain storming sessions. Interviews and debates will be streamed live to audiences while the partners meet in small groups to formulate strategies on the new institutional environment for sustainable development.

The pavilion will be featured at UNCCD COP 10, in October 2011, Changwon, Republic of Korea, the UNFCCC COP 17/CMP 7, Durban, South Africa, in December 2011, the UNCSD Rio Summit, Rio de Janeiro, in June 2012; and the CBD COP11, India, in October 2012.

Expected outcomes: Promotion of GEF activities and dissemination of best practices/initiatives during 4 COPs; strengthening of the GEF-conventions collaborations/synergies.

Budget: \$50,000 to cover the basic costs for the pavilion (including transportation), to which an additional \$150,000 is expected as co-financing.

Communication outreach activities

32. **Website/social media:** The GEF will liaise with the UNCSD in order to ensure GEF visibility in the context of Rio +20, including also through the use of electronic media. More specifically, the GEF will provide content and publications to be published on the official event website (<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>), showcasing success stories from the field and sharing knowledge products. GEF will further boost the visibility of the GEF contribution to the Rio +20 Summit by organizing focused communication campaigns using the already established social media network (Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube).

33. **Video:** To also position the GEF as a knowledge facility, the GEF will produce a series of video interviews with personalities chosen among governments, environmental organizations, academies, and international organizations that can testify and comment on GEF contributions to the global body of knowledge on sustainable development. Interviews will be brief (max 1-2 minutes) and produced in a consistent format.

34. **Press/promotional materials:** In collaboration with the United Nations agencies, the GEF will produce a press kit, which will include fact sheets, backgrounds and press releases on key events, to provide the media with a coherent package of GEF's role in the Rio 2012 network. The kit will be posted online and updated throughout the year. The final press kit for the Rio Summit will be available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese; GEF will be among the UN System media contacts to direct journalists and arrange interviews.

Expected outcomes: Production of communication materials, wide dissemination of GEF products/knowledge collected and synthesized in the context of the Rio +20 summit.

Budget: \$30,000 (\$25,000 GEF funding and \$5,000 co-financing)

CONCLUSION

35. While institutional frameworks designed to spur sustainable development have already expanded since the first Rio conference, countries have yet to meet the potential of this landmark summit.

Today the need to act has never been greater – and the GEF has a unique role to play in strengthening the delivery channels of funding for meaningful sustainable development. It is the GEF and the GEF alone which serves as an operating entity of the financial mechanism for the UNFCCC, as well as the CBD, the Stockholm Convention and the UNCCD.

36. Under its International Waters focal area, GEF also finances activities to help countries collectively manage their transboundary surface water basins, groundwater basins, and coastal and marine systems.

37. Over its history it has a proven track record for catalyzing co-financing and while admittedly its current funds alone cannot meet the expanding needs of the developing world the GEF still has the experience and portfolio to help provide context and expertise as leaders meet in 2012.

Indeed the GEF through this knowledge holds a comparative advantage leaders may consider as they look to fund projects that help reduce poverty through Green Economies and other national priorities that aim at building a sustainable future for the next generation.⁴ Through the generation of innovative knowledge, technologies and in leveraging public and private funds towards supporting sustainable development initiatives that contribute to the protection of the environment, the GEF has played and shall continue to play a key catalyst and leader in the future.

The Rio +20 will be a springboard to bring back on the global agenda the goals and ideals that came out of the summit of the world leaders held in Rio twenty years ago.

⁴ <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/N1070657.pdf>

Annex 1: Proposed GEF Rio +20 Initiatives and Budgetary Requirements			
GEF Led Activities	GEF Contribution	Estimated⁵ Cofinancing	Total Cost US\$
Rio Conventions Enabling Activities & Reports Assessment <i>2 consultants, 90 days each, \$450/day</i> <i>Publication costs</i>	\$91,000 \$81,000 \$10,000	\$50,000	141,000
20/20: Showcasing of GEF Projects and Best Practices <i>Awards Ceremony</i> <i>Book Production and Publication</i>	\$89,750 \$20,000 \$69,750		\$89,750
Energy Efficiency Assessment & Publication <i>Consultant Costs</i> <i>Publication Costs (1,000 copies, soft cover)</i>	\$20,000 \$10,000 \$10,000		\$20,000
Scientific Forums - Collaboration with STAP Planet under Pressure conference GEF-STAP science Forum in Rio - Space rental GEF-STAP science Forum in Rio - participant travel, honoraria	\$10,000 \$10,000	\$65,000 \$20,000 \$15,000 \$30,000	\$75,000
GEF Evaluation Office Synthesis Evaluation	\$50,000		\$50,000
<i>Subtotal for GEF Led Activities</i>	<i>\$260,750</i>	<i>\$115,000</i>	<i>\$375,750</i>

Activities with GEF Partners	GEF Contribution	Estimated Cofinancing	Total Cost
GEF Meetings, Symposia, Workshops at Rio +20 <i>First Global Summit of Legislators</i> <i>The GEF in the next decade: reflections/materials/discussions</i>	\$80,000 \$10,000 \$70,000	<i>(see footnote)</i>	\$80,000
Water in the Green Economy Conference <i>Exhibits (production, rental, shipment)</i> <i>Travel and support costs for Officials of GEF Projects</i>	\$40,000 \$10,000 \$30,000	<i>(see footnote)</i>	\$40,000
Media Training in Africa with Earth Journalists Network	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$90,000
Joint Collaboration with Rio Conventions <i>Ecosystem pavilion - creation, transportation, rental</i>	\$50,000 \$50,000	\$150,000 \$150,000	\$200,000 \$200,000
UNCSD Official Website: GEF Contribution <i>Consultants</i>	\$5,000 \$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000 \$5,000
Video and Promotional Materials <i>Consultants/Misc.</i>	\$15,000 \$15,000		\$15,000
<i>Subtotal for activities with GEF Partners</i>	<i>\$230,000</i>	<i>\$205,000</i>	<i>\$435,000</i>
Total for All Activities	\$490,750	\$320,000	\$810,750

⁵These co-financing estimates do not take in consideration the direct contribution of partners such as the Government of Germany and Brazil when hosting related conferences