GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

49th GEF Council Meeting
October 20 – 22, 2015
Washington, D.C.

# PROGRESS REPORT ON
# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
# APPROACH PAPER

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.      In June 2015, the Council welcomed the document GEF/C.48/07/Rev.01, *GEF Knowledge Management Approach Paper*, and requested the Secretariat to provide "an update on progress at the fall 2015 Council Meeting."

2.      The Council paper set the foundation for significant improvement in the GEF's approach to knowledge management (KM) over the GEF-6 period and beyond. It presented the GEF's potential added value on knowledge management, outlined key challenges and opportunities, and proposed a guiding framework for KM, including a set of proposed KM products and activities.

3.      As articulated in the paper, the purpose of KM in the GEF context is to facilitate the capture, exchange and uptake of knowledge within and beyond the GEF Partnership with two key objectives:

> (a)      to inform global, regional and national policy dialogues on options and approaches to reverse the course of environmental degradation, and
>
> (b)      to improve the impact of GEF-supported projects and programs.

**IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE**

**Configuration of KM within the GEF Secretariat**

4.      The KM approach paper set forth a roadmap for 2015, outlining a number of preliminary steps towards achieving these objectives. In line with this roadmap, the Secretariat has created a KM Work Stream within its newly configured Policy, Partnerships and Operations (PPO) Unit. A dedicated KM budget is being constructed to support the activities of this work stream in line with the approach previously presented to Council.

5.      Since the creation of the KM Work Stream, the Secretariat has been conducting in-depth consultations, including a survey, within the Secretariat in order to understand and incorporate staff perspectives into the design of an internal KM work program for the Secretariat that will help integrate knowledge generation, use and dissemination more systematically into the way the Secretariat operates. A forward looking internal KM workshop is being planned for Secretariat staff to discuss the outcome of these consultations and to provide feedback to the KM team on proposed next steps. This will also help identify KM training needs of the Secretariat staff, if any.

6.      In addition, given that activities in support of the GEF's KM work and the Results-based Management (RBM) action plan[1] are closely related and mutually reinforcing, the two work-streams are being developed simultaneously, including the upgrade of the GEF IT platform, including the GEF's project management information system (PMIS). It is envisaged that the upgrading of the PMIS will substantially improve the stock of information that can be captured

---

[1] Council Document GEF/C.48/Inf.07, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the Results-based Management Action Plan*

from the GEF portfolio, enabling improved generation of portfolio-based knowledge. KM has also been an important consideration in the ongoing redesign of the website and the GEF's intranet, as they constitute two key tools for information sharing, knowledge dissemination and learning.

**Outreach to GEF Partners and the Establishment of the KM Advisory Group**

7.      In the meantime, the Secretariat's KM team has also begun to reach out to key GEF stakeholders, including GEF Agencies, STAP, IEO, CSO network, countries and the Conventions, in order to initiate collaboration on the implementation, planning and execution of the new KM approach. In accordance with the KM Approach Paper, the vehicle for this collaboration will be the soon to be established KM Advisory Group, consisting of representatives from interested members of the GEF Partnership. This Group will support the KM Agenda and will function as a sounding board for KM initiatives in order to achieve the objectives set forth in the approach paper.

8.      GEF stakeholders have been requested to nominate a representative each to serve on the KM Advisory Group which will be launched in early October and will hold a workshop immediately after the Fall Council meeting. It will then continue to meet virtually and deliberate on a regular basis, developing and following a KM implementation plan for the GEF Partnership. It is envisaged that the Group would hold face-to-face meetings regularly, after Council meetings and that there would be smaller task forces formed within the KM Advisory Group to undertake specific collaborative KM initiatives that Group members would identify and propose. Currently, a draft terms of reference and a work program has been drafted for the KM Advisory Group and circulated to Group members for feedback.

**Upcoming Activities of the KM Advisory Group**

9.      The KM approach of the GEF intends to build on past and current KM efforts at the Secretariat as well as throughout the GEF Partnership. Many GEF partners (including GEF agencies, member countries, IEO, STAP, CSOs, etc.) have relevant KM initiatives already underway and significant KM systems in place. In implementing the KM approach, it will be very important to take full advantage of, link with and leverage these existing endeavours. Accordingly, the KM Advisory Group of the GEF is envisaged to serve as a knowledge exchange platform where GEF partners can come together to become aware of, leverage and learn from each other's KM efforts, towards building links with each other's systems.

10.     It is expected that a number of preliminary assessments will be undertaken with insights and contribution from the KM Advisory Group, informing the Group's deliberations during its first workshop in October 2015 and beyond. Such preliminary assessments could, in the short term, include:

(a)     an assessment of GEFSEC and GEF Partner (Agency, Convention, Donor, OFP, CSO, STAP, IEO, etc.) Priority Knowledge Needs – key learning questions

(b)     a baseline analysis of demand for actual and potential GEF-generated knowledge within and outside of the GEF partnership

(c)     an assessment of the existing "GEF Knowledge/Data Asset"

(d)     an inventory of knowledge products, activities and platforms financed by the GEF to date via its corporate budget as well its portfolio of projects and programs; and an assessment of their use and effectiveness

(e)     an IT analysis of existing GEF Partner KM platforms, systems and learning tools to identify synergy and opportunities for linkage/exchange/sharing of data and knowledge

In the longer term, it is envisaged that further assessments could be undertaken, including:

(f)     a compilation of best practice examples for public and private sector KM systems (external to the GEF Partnership) relevant to the needs of the GEF

(g)     extraction of lessons learned from the existing GEF project portfolio on key topics by mining the GEF database

(h)     an assessment of STAP KM papers as guide to future GEF KM efforts

(i)     a review of current and potential think-tank and academic partnerships, with plans for any new efforts

11.     The KM Advisory Group will guide the preparation of a more detailed KM implementation plan for the GEF Partnership (with clear targets, roles and budgets) that builds on the assessments above. This may include design of a GEF Partnership-wide KM system, a forward publications plan including in-depth technical studies conducted jointly by GEF partners, a detailed plan for a GEF knowledge products repository, GEF communities of practice, an awards program for best practice, etc.