

27<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting  
December 19, 2019  
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 04

**WORK PROGRAM  
FOR THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND**

### **Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/04, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising of nine projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 16, 2020.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$59.95 million from the LDCF, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

[See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the third Work Program for LDCF projects to be considered by Council in the GEF-7 cycle. It requests a total of \$59.95 million for nine projects to address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation priorities.<sup>1</sup>
2. Four projects are multi-trust fund (MTF) projects combining resources from the LDCF with the GEF Trust Fund. These projects are presented to both the GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council in December 2019 for approval of respective portions to enable coordinated project preparations and implementation.
3. The proposed Work Program utilizes almost all resources available in the LDCF as of November 2019. Some contributions announced at the LDCF Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Event, held on September 24, 2019, were already made available for this Work Program, enabling the LDCF to provide timely support to more LDCs. Additional donor contributions are expected to be provided on or after December 2019, while one donor decided to defer. Finally, a number of technically cleared projects were not included in the Work Program due to resource limitations.
4. As of October 31, 2019, LDCF resources available for funding decisions for November 2019 amounted to \$64.77 million.<sup>2, 3</sup>
5. This Work Program includes projects from nine least developed countries (LDCs), namely Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Vanuatu. Seven out of the nine LDCs are accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period.
6. These LDCF projects are expected to mobilize \$341.88 million in co-financing for the total LDCF project financing amount of \$54.78 million.<sup>4</sup> Each dollar provided by the LDCF is to

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<sup>1</sup> The requested amounts are inclusive of GEF project financing (\$54.78 million) and Agency fees (\$5.17 million). It does not include project preparation grants (PPGs) and PPG fees.

<sup>2</sup> GEF, 2019, [\*Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund \(Financial Report prepared by the Trustee\)\*](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/Inf.02.

<sup>3</sup> No projects for the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) were submitted for consideration for the Work Program.

<sup>4</sup> The co-financing figure is calculated based on the 2018 Co-Financing Policy (GEF, 2018, Policy: FI/PL/01). The co-financing is applied to GEF project financing, which means a grant or concessional financing provided from any GEF-managed trust fund to support the implementation of any Full-Sized Project, Medium-Sized Project, Enabling Activity or Program, excluding Co-Financing, Agency Fees and PPGs.

be matched by \$6.24 in financing provided by a variety of sources.<sup>5</sup>

7. The proposed Work Program contains projects that contribute to the goals and objectives of the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.<sup>6</sup> The Work Program addresses all three strategic objectives set forth in the strategy, namely:

- (a) Objective 1: Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation;
- (b) Objective 2: Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact; and
- (c) Objective 3: Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate adaptation.

8. The Work Program encompasses a range of adaptation priorities, including agriculture and food systems, fisheries and aquaculture development, coastal zone management, and sustainable land management. Multiple benefits in land degradation and biodiversity are to be realized in a cross-cutting manner through MTFs.

9. This cover note summarizes key aspects of the proposed Work Program, including analysis of factors for strategic prioritization, results and impacts through contributions to core indicators, status of LDCF resource use, and project descriptions.

## CONTEXT

10. The December 2019 Work Program is presented at a juncture when global calls for action for adaptation are being discussed and issued at the highest political level. The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) launched a report titled *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience* on September 10, 2019. The report stated unequivocally that climate impacts are here, now, and taking a toll on families, homes, property, and livelihoods. However, ambitious adaptation is not quite happening at the pace and scale needed, as climate impacts and risks are not fully considered by decision-makers in public and private sectors. The report identified seven key systems affected by climate change, including food, natural environment, and cities, in which accelerated action is needed. A Year of Action on adaptation was subsequently launched by the GCA, to drive a set of action tracks that are essential to

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<sup>5</sup> The co-financing ratio is calculated based the amount of co-financing (\$341.88 million) mobilized for the five LDCF projects and the LDCF portion only of the four MTFs.

<sup>6</sup> GEF, 2018, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements July 2018 to June 2022](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF24/03.

jump-start the needed transitions.

11. At the United Nations Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit, held on 23 September 2019, leaders from governments, private sector, and civil society announced ambitious action to address climate change. The Summit served as a global milestone to build momentum and help mobilize action, and to advance efforts to address and manage the impacts and risks of climate change, particularly in those countries and communities that are most vulnerable. A number of actions towards a resilient future and climate change adaptation were pledged, including those from governments and private sector entities in the LDCs.

12. Major scientific assessments are helping to identify solutions that are systemic and integrated. The *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystem* indicated many land-related responses that contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation can also combat desertification and land degradation and enhance food security. The report also stated that “...appropriate design of policies, institutions and governance systems at all scales can contribute to land-related adaptation and mitigation while facilitating the pursuit of climate-adaptive development pathways.” Nowhere is the need for transformative action more evident than the LDCs, which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and yet the least able to adapt.

13. Against this background, this Work Program presents a cohort of ambitious initiatives that support immediate adaptation priorities in nine LDCs while embracing systemic approaches towards transformational impact. Continuing with the GEF-7 focus on systemic change, the projects are seeking to integrate adaptation planning across landscapes and value chains, and foster innovation in both technologies and financing to catalyze private sector action. Key economic systems targeted by interventions include cities, food, and land use, which indicate an alignment of LDCF support to help catalyze systemic change that the GEF strives to achieve in the GEF-7 period.

14. The Work Program of the LDCF is a contribution to its role serving the Paris Agreement and helps fulfil GEF’s role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

#### **LDCF WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

15. The LDCF Work Program requests the total financing of \$59.95 million for nine projects.<sup>7</sup>

16. The Work Program encompasses a range of climate change adaptation priorities, with a

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<sup>7</sup> This amount is for GEF project financing and Agency fees. In addition, the PPGs and PPG fees total \$1.51 million.

number of projects focusing on agriculture and food systems and others addressing fisheries and aquaculture development, coastal zone management, and sustainable land management with cross-cutting land degradation neutrality (LDN) benefits. The cohort of projects seeks to facilitate technology transfer and innovation in financing and market access, job creation and enhanced resilience in livelihoods, enhancing fragility and security concerns through policies and land-based measures to address poverty, conflict, and displacement.

17. The Work Program proposes to support initiatives in nine LDCs, including one LDC small island developing State (SIDS), Vanuatu. The LDCs supported by this Work Program are: DRC, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

18. Among these countries, Malawi, South Sudan, and Sudan had GEF-6 pipelined projects. Accordingly, the GEF Secretariat carried out consultations with these countries to discuss adaptation priorities and how/whether the pipelined initiatives would fit the country priorities to be supported by the LDCF in GEF-7, in line with operational improvements outlined in the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change. As a result, Malawi has requested support for a new initiative, while Sudan has updated its proposal. South Sudan, based on consultations, were motivated to develop a new, innovative concept. Its proposal is an MTF with two implementing Agencies. The projects included in the Work Program are based on current national priorities for adaptation and for LDCF support as confirmed by the Operational Focal Points (OFPs) of respective countries.

19. Some of the key systems affected by climate change identified in the GCA report, including food, cities, natural environment, and disaster risk management, are the priorities addressed by the projects for this Work Program. The proposed actions have the potential to contribute to the action tracks for the GCA, which have been launched for the Year of Action. For example, the project in Myanmar is promoting innovative options across the landscape for resilient livelihoods, in line with the goals of the nature-based solutions action track. The MTF in Tanzania seeks to build resilience through sustainable land management in a metropolitan area, thus contributing to the resilient cities and nature-based solutions action tracks.

20. Eight out of the nine projects, four of which are MTFs with land degradation focal area resources, contain land-based actions and relevant policy and institutional measures. These interventions appear to be well-aligned with the findings of the IPCC Special Report that land-related climate change adaptation responses have the potential to address desertification, food security, and land degradation concerns. These interventions are thus effectively capitalizing on GEF's unique position to serve multiple multilateral environmental conventions.

#### **ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION**

21. In line with the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change,

factors to be considered for the strategic prioritization of projects by the LDCF/SCCF Council for Work Program-based approvals include the following, with the alignment with national needs and priorities being the most important factor to consider:

- Alignment with needs and priorities identified in national plans, such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), and national sustainability development strategies;
- Alignment with priorities in the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, such as opportunities to foster innovation and investments for technology transfer;
- Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support, including GEF multi-trust fund programming and other funding sources including the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and
- Level of LDCF resources previously accessed by the country, to help facilitate access by countries underserved by the LDCF to date.

22. Additional factors were further considered:

- Potential for private sector engagement;
- Geographical balance of LDCF support provided;
- Extenuating circumstances, such as natural disasters; and
- Timing of technical approval of projects.

23. The following sections summarize an analysis of how the proposed Work Program addressed factors for strategic prioritization among proposals that were ready for support.

24. Alignment with national needs and priorities: The nine projects for the Work Program articulated their alignments with current priorities as identified in the NAPAs, National Climate Adaptation Strategies, current policy approaches to relevant themes, such as agriculture, food security and livelihoods, sustainable land management, and/or other key national strategies related to adaptation. The project in Myanmar by FAO to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacities of rice-producing communities responds directly to Myanmar's NAPA, which has identified action in the agriculture sector as a first priority to reduce vulnerability of rural and subsistence farmers. The project also contributes to the implementation of the country's Rice Sector Development Strategy, National Export Strategy for Rice, as well as the national Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan.

25. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support: All projects are catalyzing additional financing from a variety of sources, including governments, GEF Agencies, private sector, and

others. The projects in the Work Program articulated leveraging opportunities and expected support more clearly. For instance, the project in DRC by UNIDO to promote innovation, transfer, and deployment of adaptation technologies in the agriculture value chain will catalyze over \$40 million in co-financing, including \$15 million in private sector loans, \$5 million in equity from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and other sources. The Tanzania MTF by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to build resilience in its new capital region through sustainable land management and climate change adaptation is mobilizing \$215 million in co-financing in total for the GEF Trust Fund and LDCF project financing, including an AfDB infrastructure loan of \$138 million and \$34.69 million investments from the Government of Tanzania. The LDCF resources will contribute to improvement resilience for the urban area, including a better early warning system, measures to reduce flood impacts, climate risk mapping. The GEF Trust Fund resources will be used to mainstreaming sustainable land management measures in urban planning and the preservation of green spaces. Together, the GEF support seeks to reduce the pressures of rapid urbanization on key components of the ecosystem for the city, through efficient land use planning and integration of informal settlements.

26. Alignment with Programming Strategy priorities: The cohort of projects address all three strategic objectives and entry points as articulated in the 2018-2022 Programming Strategy, to (i) reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for adaptation; (ii) mainstream adaptation and resilience for systemic impacts; and (iii) foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate adaptation. For instance, the FAO project in the North Darfur region of Sudan seeks to reduce the vulnerability of pastoral and farming communities to climate change and improve their social protection, aligned with objectives 1 and 2 of the Programming Strategy priorities. Practices and innovative approaches for livestock production, agricultural production and water management, facilitated by extension officers, will be utilized by agriculture and livestock producers to lower their risks and exposure to climate change impacts. The UNDP project in Guinea addresses all three objectives for the Programming Strategy, encompassing development of a framework for promoting climate smart agriculture, enhancing access to finance for climate smart agro-sylvo-pastoral technologies and through microfinance development, and mainstreaming of adaptation and climate information into local practices.

27. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: For seven out of the nine LDCs included in this Work Program, this is the first time for them to access the LDCF in the GEF-7 period. They were therefore prioritized. The Work Program also includes countries with low utilization of LDCF resources to date. In particular, South Sudan has had the second lowest cumulative resource utilization among the 47 LDCs, with \$10.27 million. Guinea, Myanmar, and Tanzania have also had modest access to the LDCF to date, with \$22.19 million, \$20.17 million, and

\$17.80 million respectively.<sup>8</sup>

28. **Geographical balance:** Efforts continue to be made to present a geographically balanced portfolio. The Work Program includes projects from seven African LDCs (DRC, Guinea, Mali, Malawi, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania), one Asian LDC (Myanmar), and one Pacific LDC SIDS (Vanuatu).

29. **Additional factors:** The inclusion of a project from Vanuatu in this Work Program is helping this LDC SIDS access resources in a timely manner prior to its scheduled graduation from the LDC status in 2020. The LDCF has made efforts to support Vanuatu to fully access LDCF resources up to the current GEF-7 cap of \$10 million. The timely provision of support, including frequent communication and consultations during the concept development, is important to enable and build capacity in the country as it readies to graduate from the LDC status.

30. A number of projects for this Work Program highlighted the potential for private sector engagement, as implementation partners and/or beneficiaries. For example, the MTF in Mali for resilient, productive, and sustainable landscapes will utilize the LDCF support to build capacity of local private sector actors to develop and test adaptation innovations for the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, pool support, and connect to similar incubator initiatives. The AfDB project in Malawi will strengthen the value chain for the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and promote enterprises that complement the fish value chain and alternative livelihoods.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION AND AGENCY**

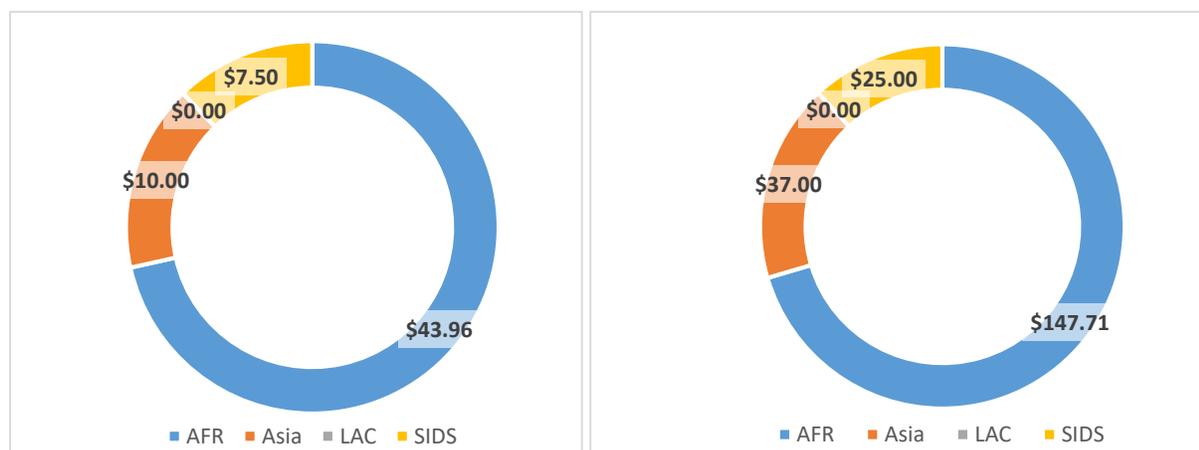
31. Among the nine projects for this Work Program, seven countries are in the African region, one in Asia, and one is from the Pacific LDC SIDS. Including this Work Program, the total number of LDCs to receive LDCF support in the GEF-7 period is 27 countries. Upon approval of this Work Program, 57 percent of the LDCs have successfully accessed LDCF resources in the GEF-7 period.

32. Figure 1 depicts distributions of LDCF financing in the December 2019 LDCF Work Program by region, and cumulative GEF-7 LDCF financing by region, including GEF project financing, PPGs, and fees. For this Work Program, 71.5 percent of resources are programmed in Africa, followed by 16.3 percent in Asia and 12.2 percent in SIDS. Cumulatively for the GEF-7 period, 70.4 percent of the LDCF resources have been programmed in Africa, followed by 17.6 percent in Asia and 11.9 percent in SIDS.

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<sup>8</sup> The Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund provides an overview of cumulative access to LDCF resources by eligible countries (see: GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/03).

**Figure 1. Distribution of LDCF Financing in December 2019 Work Program by Region in \$ million (left) and Cumulative GEF-7 LDCF Financing by Region in \$ million (right)**



33. Table 1 presents a summary of country allocation of resources from the LDCF for this Work Program, as well as for the GEF-7 period. The figures are inclusive of PPGs and fees. With this Work Program, 11 LDCs have accessed the full \$10 million cap for the GEF-7 period, while 16 more countries have accessed resources under the cap. Altogether, approximately \$210 million of LDCF resources have been included in three Work Programs in the GEF-7 period. Those that have not yet received LDCF support in GEF-7 include: Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Nepal, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Yemen.

**Table 1. Amount of LDCF Financing in December 2019 Work Program by Country and Cumulative GEF-7 LDCF Financing by Country**

	Resources Requested in December 2019 LDCF Work Program (with PPGs and Fees)	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including December 2019 Work Program (with PPGs and Fees)
Country	\$ millions	\$ millions
Angola	\$0.00	\$10.00
Bangladesh	\$0.00	\$10.00
Cambodia	\$0.00	\$10.00
Chad	\$0.00	\$9.75
DR Congo	\$10.00	\$10.00
Ethiopia	\$0.00	\$10.00
Gambia	\$0.00	\$10.00
Guinea	\$9.91	\$9.91

	<b>Resources Requested in December 2019 LDCF Work Program (with PPGs and Fees)</b>	<b>GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including December 2019 Work Program (with PPGs and Fees)</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>
Guinea-Bissau	\$0.00	\$6.73
Kiribati	\$0.00	\$5.00
Lao PDR	\$0.00	\$4.00
Malawi	\$5.00	\$5.00
Mali	\$2.56	\$2.56
Mauritania	\$0.00	\$5.00
Mozambique	\$0.00	\$10.00
Myanmar	\$10.00	\$10.00
Rwanda	\$0.00	\$9.37
Solomon Islands	\$0.00	\$5.00
South Sudan	\$9.50	\$9.50
Sudan	\$2.77	\$7.77
Tanzania	\$4.23	\$4.23
Timor Leste	\$0.00	\$3.00
Togo	\$0.00	\$10.00
Tuvalu	\$0.00	\$5.00
Uganda	\$0.00	\$10.00
Vanuatu	\$7.50	\$10.00
Zambia	\$0.00	\$7.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61.46</b>	<b>\$209.71</b>

34. Table 2 presents the total amount of resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the December 2019 Work Program as well as cumulative, GEF-7 programming by Agency. Four GEF Agencies, namely AfDB, FAO, UNDP, and UNIDO are represented in the December 2019 LDCF Work Program. UNDP, with three projects, one of which jointly implemented with UNIDO, has the largest share of total requested LDCF resources at 40.9 percent or \$25.13 million, followed by FAO with 24.9 percent of requested resources for three projects for \$15.33 million. UNIDO is requesting 19.2 percent for two projects, including one implemented jointly with UNDP, for \$11.78 million. This is the first significant programming engagement by UNIDO in the LDCF: to date, the UNIDO's LDCF funding approval was at \$5.2 million. AfDB has two projects requesting \$9.23 million, or 15.0 percent.

35. Cumulatively, the three Work Programs in the GEF-7 period have been constituted with engagement of seven GEF Agencies. UNDP has programmed 29.2 percent of total resources at \$61.23 million, closely followed by FAO with 28.7 percent and \$60.24 million. AfDB has a share of 18.6 percent at \$38.97 million, and ADB with 8.3 percent at \$17.50 million.

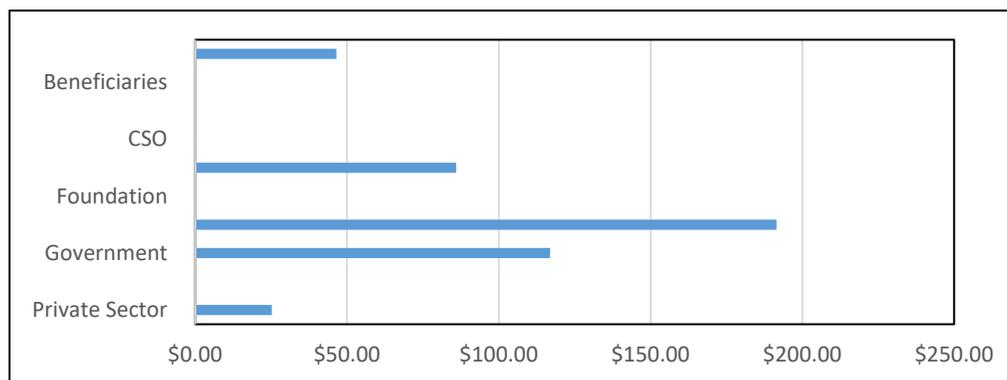
**Table 2. Amount of Requested LDCF Resources by Agency in the December 2019 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date**

Agency	Resources Requested in December 2019 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)		GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including December 2019 Work Program (with PPG and Fees)	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$17.50	8.3%
AfDB	\$9.23	15.0%	\$38.97	18.6%
FAO	\$15.33	24.9%	\$60.24	28.7%
UNDP	\$25.13	40.9%	\$61.23	29.2%
UNEP	\$0.00	0.0%	\$5.00	2.4%
UNIDO	\$11.78	19.2%	\$11.78	5.6%
WB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$15.00	7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61.46</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$209.71</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**DISTRIBUTION OF CO-FINANCING**

36. Distribution of co-financing by co-financier types for the LDCF and MTF projects in the December 2019 Work Program is shown below in Figure 2. This distribution of co-financing includes amounts for MTFs mobilized by the LDCF as well as the GEF Trust Fund.<sup>9</sup> The GEF Agencies, governments, and donor Agencies are the largest providers of co-financing.

**Figure 2. Distribution of Co-Financing for December 2019 LDCF Work Program (\$ million)**



<sup>9</sup> For MTFs, co-financing mobilized by each funding source (GEF Trust Fund and LDCF) is presented in the project documents. The total co-financing mobilized by the LDCF portion of this Work Program is \$341.88 million, which was used to calculate the co-financing ratio of 6.24 presented earlier in this document. On the other hand, more detailed indicative sources of co-financing for MTFs are presented in the project documents without further specific attribution to each GEF financing source. As such, the analysis on the distribution of co-financing by co-financier types is presented for the whole LDCF Work Program, inclusive of the GEF Trust Fund support for MTFs. The total co-financing mobilized by the Work Program is \$466.20 million.

## OBSERVATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

37. After a promising start in GEF-7 to provide timely support to more LDCs, this Work Program presents a portfolio that is smaller in size than the June 2019 Work Program, due to the smaller balance available for programming. Among the pledges announced at the LDCF Pledging Event held on September 24, 2019, some contributions were already made available for this Work Program. This has enabled the LDCF to provide timely support to a larger number of countries by increasing the available balance for programming. Additional contributions are expected to be deposited by the end of December 2019 and beyond, which will be used for the next Work Program while one donor has decided to defer contributions. There is thus a critical need to strive for continued and more predictable support to the LDCF from donors and to consider expanding the donor base. Furthermore, consultations on the timing of the payments with some donors may be warranted, so that resources could be made available before the Work Program constitution is taking place.

38. Opportunities to support integration through MTF projects continue to be utilized by countries. This LDCF Work Program includes four MTF projects, which is a unique feature of the GEF to support integration and synergistic approaches to address multiple global environmental concerns. These four MTFs are addressing climate change adaptation and land degradation priorities while also addressing biodiversity concerns in two projects. Recent scientific findings, notably the IPCC Special Report, have confirmed the potential for land-based actions to address climate adaptation, desertification, food security, and land degradation concerns in synergy. Coordinated opportunities for MTFs were difficult to support under the previous strategy, due to uncertainties associated with timing of Council approval for the GEF Trust Fund and LDCF/SCCF portions. The GEF Secretariat will continue its efforts to facilitate MTF programming as appropriate, taking into consideration national needs, opportunities for larger, systemic impact, and programming priorities.

39. This Work Program presents initiatives with potential to leverage, and learn from, global initiatives on climate adaptation. For example, the GCA and the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit have created positive momentum for adaptation at the global level. Notably, the GCA Year of Action has also articulated more impactful action tracks: the cohort of projects addressing land-based actions in this Work Program is expected to help enhance GEF's engagement in the action tracks on nature-based solutions as well as resilient cities. These global initiatives are energizing the adaptation discourse with engagement of developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS, and cultivating action-based alliances. The GEF and its partnership are engaging with these global initiatives to address priorities of mutual concern, as well as to contribute to the global knowledge sharing.

40. Seven out of the nine LDCs supported in this Work Program are accessing LDCF resources for the first time in the GEF-7 period. Upon approval of this Work Program, 27 LDCs,

or 57 percent of the LDCs, have successfully accessed LDCF resources since the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy roll-out in July 2018. Such success is due to the proactive engagement of countries and Agencies. The GEF Secretariat is committed to continue its engagement with them, and to work closely with donors to mobilize timely voluntary contributions to the LDCF.

41. Coordination with GCF continues to help support efficient programming. The GCF and GEF have initiated the coordinated engagement pilot in 2018. For Malawi, a GEF-6 pipelined project was proposed to support the NAP process. Since then, Malawi has received NAP support from the GCF, enabling the country to utilize the GEF-7 LDCF resources for implementation of its adaptation priorities articulated in the planning process. In the DRC, the GCF has been supporting the Readiness Program to advance the NAP process for priority sectors. One of the main outcomes of the Readiness Program aims to foster private sector engagement to promote the country's attractiveness to investors and companies in climate-sensitive economic sectors and services. The proposed LDCF project is directly aligned with the NAP process supported by the GCF. Also, the Myanmar project seeks to coordinate with a GCF project, complementing and building on the activities to be implemented with GCF support. These measures enable the two funds to enhance complementarity at the country level, and also facilitate the LDCF resources to be used towards more impactful, implementation-oriented initiatives informed by outcomes and progress of GCF support.

## **RESULTS AND IMPACTS**

42. The projects presented in the LDCF Work Program cover various interventions to deliver adaptation benefits aligned with the Programming Strategy. The updated results framework for adaptation to climate change for the LDCF and SCCF (2018-2022) introduces four core indicators. Contributions of these LDCF projects on the core indicators are as follows:

- (i) Number of direct beneficiaries: 7,464,459 persons, of which 3,814,694 or 51 percent are female
- (ii) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 157,500 hectares
- (iii) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 63 policies and plans
- (iv) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 45,400 persons, of which 23,370 or 51 percent are female.

43. The nine projects in this Work Program respond to the ambition and requirements set out in the GEF Policy on Gender Equality. The projects are seeking to provide equal opportunities to women and to men to enhance capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures. As stipulated in the Policy, all projects considered gender

issues in their initial project design and most projects clearly describe plans to carry out a gender analysis and to develop a gender action plan during project preparation. All projects in this Work Program provided specific information on the number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender and 78 percent of the projects explicitly state that they expect to develop sex disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators. In line with GEF's Gender Implementation Strategy, most of the projects in this Work Program indicate that they expect to include gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote women's empowerment, and 100 percent of the projects expect to close gender gaps including:

- (i) Access and control of natural resources (78 percent)
- (ii) Participation and decision making (100 percent)
- (iii) Socio-economic benefits and services (78 percent).

44. The Corporate Scorecard now includes a section on adaptation to include core indicators, which will be tracked at the CEO endorsement, mid-term, and terminal stages.

#### **LDCF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS<sup>10</sup>**

45. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): *Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Resilience to Climate Change through Promoting Innovation, Transfer and Large-Scale Deployment of Adaptation-Oriented Technologies in Priority Agriculture Value-Chains and Creating Jobs* (GEF ID 10377); Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$40,730,000. This project aims to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience to climate change through promoting innovation, transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies and services by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and create jobs. DRC is increasingly experiencing frequency and intensity of combination of climate hazards and their impacts, including: irregular rainfall severely effecting agricultural production and food security; higher humidity due to extreme rainfalls affecting processing and preservation of certain crops; and increased extreme weather events contributing to destruction of infrastructure. DRC's National Plan of Action and ongoing planning efforts call for adaptation action focused on food, water and energy security. Accounting for 90 percent of all enterprises in the country, SMEs are the driving force for inclusive economic and social development in DRC. The project will transform early stage climate adaptation-oriented technologies and services into commercial enterprises through identification and incubation of high impact potential adaptation innovations by SMEs. It will also catalyze innovative financing for large-scale deployment of climate adaptation-oriented technologies and solutions to build resilience of vulnerable groups through awareness

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<sup>10</sup> The GEF project financing presented in this section for MTFs includes the LDCF share, and co-financing is the share mobilized by the LDCF portion of the MTFs.

building, market linkages, and establishment of financial mechanisms to between adaptation technology suppliers and buyers. Moreover, it will establish linkages with the ongoing national adaption planning process for climate resilience planning focused on technology innovation and finance. The project will strengthen the resilience of an estimated 100,000 direct beneficiaries and manage 37,5000 hectares of land for climate resilience.

46. Guinea: *Increased Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of the Most Vulnerable Communities to Climate Change in Forested Guinea* (GEF ID 10160); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,850,000; Co-financing: \$26,600,000. This project will reduce the vulnerability of communities in Forested Guinea to the additional risks posed by climate change through the adoption of climate smart agro-sylvo-pastoral strategies as a strategy to promote more sustainable and climate resilient land use and related activities. The project will deliver on its objective through the implementation of three components: (i) Frameworks for promoting a Climate Smart Agricultural model; (ii) Access to climate finance; and (iii) Climate information and mainstreaming adaptation into local practices. The project will directly benefit roughly 650,000 persons. The project will train 20,500 people; while placing an estimated 10,000 hectares of land under more climate-resilient management. In addition, four policies/plans will integrate climate resilience, including local development plans and related longer-term investment plans for scaling up climate smart agriculture.

47. Myanmar: *RICE-Adapt: Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Rice-Farming Communities in the lower Ayeyarwady and Sittaung River Basins* (GEF ID 10395); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$40,000,000. This project will focus on boosting climate resilience on the lower parts of the Ayeyarwady and Sittaung River basins. The target areas are among the highly vulnerable areas of the country to the effects of climate change and extreme events including cyclones and strong winds, floods and storm surges, intense rains, and sea level rise. The project has four components: (i) enhanced enabling environment for climate change adaptation mainstreaming in priority sectors through integrated policies and planning; (ii) promotion of nature-based solutions across the landscape for resilient livelihoods; (iii) scale up of adaptation technologies and innovations in selected value chains, and improving market access; and, (iv) monitoring and evaluation, communication and knowledge transfer. The project is expected to provide direct adaptation benefits to 162,000 people, train 5,000 people about adaptation actions, and increase the climate resilient management of 57,000 hectares of land. In addition, seven policies and plans will mainstream climate resilience.

48. Sudan: *Resilience of Pastoral and Farming Communities to Climate Change in North Darfur* (GEF ID 10159); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,429,680; Co-financing: \$10,000,000. This project aims to reduce climate vulnerability of pastoral and farming communities along the migratory routes in North Darfur and improve their social protection,

food security and nutritional status. It will enhance resilience by systematically addressing the prevailing conflicts over use of diminishing resources which is exacerbated by frequent droughts, climate variability and water shortages. The project is aligned with Sudan's NAP and Darfur specific policies to tackle climate change and build peace. It is in line with the LDCF objectives on adaptation technology transfer and climate mainstreaming and will contribute directly to addressing the climate risk and security agenda. The project will strengthen planning and decision-making capacity of communities and government by setting up a comprehensive conflict resolution mechanism and developing integrated land-use and sustainable livelihood plans. It will enhance capacity of extension workers and other government service providers to assist private producers identify, prioritize, and implement innovative climate resilient practices and businesses. The project also seeks to mainstream best practices and decision-making tools in key national and regional policy frameworks for uptake and impact at scale. It will directly benefit 50,000 people with 50 percent women beneficiaries and improve land management in 6,000 hectares. It will also build capacity of 10,000 extension services providers and private producers on climate resilient planning and practices. The project has a unique focus on women-headed households and private sector in conflict affected areas as it aims to engage with them to develop and implement adaptation solutions.

49. Malawi: *Malawi-Climate Resilient and Sustainable Capture Fisheries, Aquaculture Development and Watershed Management* (GEF ID 10411); Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$4,416,210; Co-financing: \$14,396,553. This project aims to strengthen resilience of communities dependent on fisheries around key Malawi lakes by adopting an integrated lake basin planning and management approach. This integration is important because most existing threats to lake management and fisheries such as pollution, siltation/sedimentation, cultivation and grazing which are exacerbated by climate change, occur outside the immediate lake environment. The project is aligned with the LDCF objective of supporting technology transfer and climate resilience mainstreaming. The project is linked with the Malawi NAPA and will directly contribute to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III) which calls for a systemic and landscape-based approach for tackling climate change. Considering that fisheries is largely a community-driven sector, the proposed project seeks to promote locally-led adaptation by making community-based beach village committees (BVCs) the entry point for implementation. The project will strengthen capacity of the BVCs on climate resilient planning and lake basin management; support local and national government to mainstream climate change in policies related to fisheries and watershed management; and implement innovative community-based adaptation solutions for soil and water conservation and restoring fish breeding grounds impacted by climate change. The project will directly benefit nearly 5.7 million people in the region with nearly 50 percent of them being women. It will also bring nearly 8,000 hectares of land under climate resilient management.

50. Mali: *Resilient, Productive and Sustainable Landscapes in Mali's Kayes Region* (GEF ID

10362); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,271,406; Co-financing: \$9,370,000. This MTF supports climate change adaptation and land degradation goals in an integrated manner. It aims to promote innovations in governance, production and finance in order to reduce the vulnerability of the small-holder agro-sylvo-pastoral food systems and livelihoods, reversing land degradation and halting the loss of globally significant biodiversity in fragile landscapes of the Kayes region. With LDCF funding, the project seeks to support innovative measures in governance, production, and finance to reduce the vulnerability of small-holder agro-sylvo-pastoral food systems and livelihoods in the fragile landscapes of the Kayes region. The LDCF activities will directly benefit 13,000 people and place 10,000 hectares of land under more climate resilient management practices.

51. South Sudan: *Watershed Approaches for Climate Resilience in Agro-Pastoral Landscapes* (GEF ID 10178); Agencies: UNDP and UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,471,461; Co-financing: \$26,500,000. This MTF aims to build resilience to climate change risks among agricultural and pastoral communities of South Sudan in the western flood plain agro-ecological zone, which has particularly high levels of food insecurity. Over the past four decades, the rate of warming in South Sudan is estimated to be two and a half times greater than global averages. This warming trend is amplifying the impacts of prolonged and exacerbated drought, and further reducing crop harvests and pasture quality. Lack of food security is a contributing driver of resource-based conflict in the country. The project seeks to develop and train practitioners in implementing a set of strategies, policies and guidance materials to integrate climate resilience practices in agriculture and natural resource management practices. It will also implement a set of adaptation actions for climate resilient food production, processing and associated livelihoods in South Sudan's cross-border areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Moreover, it will support communities in micro-watersheds to reduce climate impacts through improved natural management and restoration practices. The project will also generate benefits for LDN, will contribute to coherence with LDN target setting. The project will directly benefit 75,000 people of which 40,000 are female; will bring 15,000 hectares of land under climate resilient management; and will produce 34 policies and plans to mainstream climate resilience.

52. Tanzania: *Building Resilience through Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Dodoma* (GEF ID 10418); Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$3,759,000; Co-financing: \$145,218,000. This MTF utilizes LDCF and LD Focal Area resources in a complementary manner to improve resilience and avoid land degradation in the Dodoma metropolitan area. The area is the new capital region of Tanzania and is rapidly expanding. The project will be unique to combine resilience and land degradation issues in an urban environment. It aims to target systemic drivers of land degradation and climate vulnerability such as urban sprawl, informal small-scale mining, deforestation and water contamination. It will facilitate integrated urban planning using geospatial mapping and will strengthen the

Dodoma Master Plan with integrated plans for land use, water and flood management by duly factoring in climate risks. It will restore degraded land in the surrounding rural and peri-urban areas using land management practices and will disincentivize informal small-scale mining by creating alternate livelihood opportunities for urban poor. The project will strengthen building design codes and standards to make them climate resilient and will also improve policies and regulations related to sustainable excavation of building materials and construction practices. The project will benefit 408,000 people, of which 50 percent are women, and bring 75,000 hectares of land under improved and climate resilient management. The project will be built on significant urban infrastructure investment by the AfDB for potential transformational impact.

53. Vanuatu: *Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu – Phase II (VCAP II)* (GEF ID: 10415); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,720,020; Co-financing: \$29,070,000. This MTF seeks to deliver integrated approaches to community adaptation and the management of landscapes and protected and marine areas. Building on the lessons learned from the first phase of the project, it will target all six provinces of this highly vulnerable LDC SIDS, focusing on the Area Council and local levels to support biodiversity surveys and management plans, measures to mitigate illegal and unsustainable species use, sustainable land management measures in priority locations, and climate-smart model farms. It will mainstream climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and LDN within national and local policies and decision-making processes. In addition, it will climate-proof selected water provision and public conveyance infrastructure, and evacuation facilities, in priority areas of the coastal zone. It will also support automated systems for real time monitoring of climate-related hazards and timely release of early warnings. Finally, it will build capacity of relevant stakeholders and ensure best practices are captured and shared. This project will bring 36,620 hectares of terrestrial protected area and 2,672 hectares of marine protected area under improved management for conservation, will restore 6,000 hectares of degraded land, bring 15,000 hectares of land under climate-resilient management, and directly benefit 272,459 people. This MTF project requests resources from the LDCF and biodiversity and land degradation focal areas.

**ANNEX A: PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL APPROVAL**

**PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR SCCF/LDCF COUNCIL APPROVAL**

**Under the Least Develop Countries Fund (LDCF)**

**December 19, 2019**

No.	GEFID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	Project Type	Trust Fund	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
1	10377	Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change through promoting innovation, transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies in priority agriculture value-chains and creating jobs	Climate Change Adaptation	Congo DR	UNIDO	FSP	LDCF	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	40,730,000	50,730,000
2	10160	Increased resilience and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities to climate change in Forested Guinea	Climate Change Adaptation	Guinea	UNDP	FSP	LDCF	200,000	19,000	8,850,000	840,750	26,600,000	36,509,750
3	10411	Malawi-climate resilient and sustainable capture fisheries, aquaculture development and watershed management project	Climate Change Adaptation	Malawi	AfDB	FSP	LDCF	150,000	14,250	4,416,210	419,540	14,396,553	19,396,553
4	10362	Resilient, productive and sustainable landscape in Mali's Kayes Region*	Climate Change Adaptation	Mali	FAO	FSP	LDCF/GEFTF	66,494	6,317	2,271,406	215,784	9,370,000	11,930,001
5	10395	RICE-Adapt: Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Rice-Farming Communities in the lower Ayeyarwady and Sittaung River Basins	Climate Change Adaptation	Myanmar	FAO	FSP	LDCF	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	40,000,000	50,000,000

6	10178	Water shed approaches for climate resilience in agro-pastoral landscapes*	Climate Change Adaptation	South Sudan	UNDP/ UNIDO	FSP	LDCF/ GEFTF	200,000	19,000	8,471,461	804,789	26,500,000	35,995,250
7	10418	Building resilience through sustainable land management and climate change adaptation in Dodoma*	Climate Change Adaptation	Tanzania	AfDB	FSP	LDCF/ GEFTF	100,000	9,500	3,759,000	357,104	145,218,000	149,443,604
8	10415	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu - Phase II (VCAP II)*	Climate Change Adaptation	Vanuatu	UNDP	FSP	LDCF/ GEFTF	160,714	14,464	6,720,020	604,802	29,070,000	36,570,000
9	10159	Resilience of Pastoral and Farming Communities to Climate Change in North Darfur	Climate Change Adaptation	Sudan	FAO	FSP	LDCF	100,000	9,500	2,429,680	230,820	10,000,000	12,770,000
<b>Grand Total</b>								<b>1,377,208</b>	<b>130,031</b>	<b>54,782,617</b>	<b>5,170,749</b>	<b>341,884,553</b>	<b>403,345,158</b>
*These are multi-trust fund projects. Only the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) component is presented in this Work Program. The GEF Trust Fund components are presented separately in the GEF Trust Fund Work Program													