



# Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.15/Inf. 8  
April 7, 2000

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GEF Council  
May 9-11, 2000

## PROGRESS REPORT ON ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES' FIELD OFFICES

1. At its meeting in May 1999, the Council reviewed document GEF/C.13/13, *Constituencies and Assistance for Country Level Coordination*, and approved activities and associated financial resources to strengthen country level coordination for a three-year period.
2. The Council requested the GEF Secretariat to reach agreement with the Implementing Agencies on the modalities for providing support to strengthen the national coordination role of national focal points and to improve the coordination and consultation role of the Council Members representing recipient country constituencies. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies were also requested to report annually to the Council on the use of the resources provided for this purpose.
3. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies agreed on guidelines for the provision of support to strengthen the national coordination activities of the GEF national focal points. These guidelines are consistent with the original proposal approved by the Council and make it clear that support is to be provided through one of the Implementing Agencies. The GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies also agreed on guidelines for the provision of support to eligible Council Members.
4. Each Implementing Agency prepared the administrative arrangements necessary to facilitate the transfer of resources to its field offices in accordance with its internal rules and procedures.
5. As a first step towards operationalizing this support, national focal points were requested to identify the Implementing Agency field office with which they wished to work. At the same time, eligible Council Members were also requested to indicate the field office with which they preferred to work.
6. Eighty-two replies have been received in response to the letter to the national focal points. Seventy-seven countries have chosen to work with the UNDP field office while five countries have chosen to work with the World Bank. A list of countries with an indication of which agency they are working with is included in the annex. Two replies were received from Council Members.
7. According to the proposals received from the countries, the activities and associated budget will provide assistance for the organization of meetings with stakeholders; information access, including the purchase of a modem for internet access; and information dissemination, communication and consultation with stakeholders concerning GEF project activities.

#### *Next Steps*

8. Both UNDP and World Bank continue to review other requests they have received and to approve the budget to enable more requesting countries to start their activities. For the countries which have not yet responded to the GEF letter, UNDP and the World Bank distributed their internal administrative procedures to their field offices and requested them to continue to follow-

up with national focal points. UNDP also sent a reminder to these countries, and they are expecting another ten to fifteen country replies to come soon. World Bank staff are mainly using their field trips to remind national focal points of the available GEF support.

9. The Secretariat, together with the Implementing Agencies, will prepare a midpoint report for Council to review at its meeting in May 2001 the services that have been provided and their impact in strengthening country level coordination.

ANNEX

LIST OF COUNTRIES REQUESTING SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGH  
THE UNDP AND WORLD BANK FIELD OFFICES

UNDP:

Algeria	Lithuania
Antigua & Barbuda	Madagascar
<u>Argentina</u>	<u>Malaysia</u>
Azerbaijan	Malawi
<u>Bangladesh</u>	Maldives
<u>Belarus</u>	Mali
Benin	Marshall Islands
<u>Bulgaria</u>	Mauritius
Burkina Faso	<u>Moldova</u>
Burundi	Mozambique
Cameroon	Nauru
Central African Republic	<u>Nepal</u>
<u>Chad</u>	Nicaragua
Colombia	Niger
<u>Congo, Democratic Republic of</u>	Niue
Cook Islands	Pakistan
<u>Costa Rica</u>	Palau
Cote d'Ivoire	<u>Panama</u>
Dominican Republic	Peru
Egypt	<u>Philippines</u>
El Salvador	<u>Poland</u>
<u>Estonia</u>	Romania
Ethiopia	Russian Federation
Fiji	Samoa
Gabon	<u>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</u>
<u>Gambia</u>	<u>Senegal</u>
Ghana	Solomon Islands
Guyana	<u>Sri Lanka</u>
<u>Haiti</u>	Syria
<u>India</u>	<u>Tajikistan</u>
Iran	Tanzania
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	Togo
<u>Kenya</u>	Turkmenistan
Kiribati	Uganda
Korea, Republic of	Uruguay
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	Venezuela
<u>Latvia</u>	<u>Vietnam</u>
<u>Lebanon</u>	<u>Zambia</u>
Lesotho	

**World Bank:**

China, Georgia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nigeria

\* Countries underlined have already received the confirmation of approval of their requested funds.