



GEF NGO NETWORK COMMENTS

DRAFT GEF PROGRAMMING STRATEGY FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE UNDER THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND (LDCF) AND THE SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND (SCCF)

30 April 2013

The GEF NGO Network supports the work on Adaptation through the LDCF and SCCF urges that additional resources are urgently provided to enable scaling up of action

Some specific technical comments include the following:

- a) Fragile ecosystems including mountain ecosystems should be included as a priority for LDCF/SCCF in paragraph 31. Such ecosystems are already recognized as a priority under SCCF A – as stated in Para 83.
- b) Community based adaptation is an important element of projects supported by SCCF and LDCF – but it is hardly mentioned in the draft strategy document. This should be changes in the next version.

Mountains should be part of the GEF Strategy Draft GEF Programming Strategy for adaptation to climate change under the least developed countries fund (LDCF) and the special climate change fund (SCCF). We have drafted the following chapter on mountain management, which should go under “thematic programming priorities” – ideally after “water resource management”. It would also be helpful to back it up by having mountains or mountain ecosystems mentioned a few more times throughout the document, making cross-references to mountains as particular vulnerable areas, maybe in paras 31-33 on ecosystem based adaptation, in paras 51-53 on disaster risk management and in para 55 on natural resource management.

We have some facts and figures at hand to demonstrate a) previous investment into mountains under LDCF and SCCF and b) strong country demand for activities in mountains to actually implement the NAPAs prepared earlier with GEF-financing. This information could be included under para 4 to make it a bit more concrete.

Mountains management:

1. Mountains are among the most sensitive ecosystems to climate change and they have faced above-average warming in recent decades, and this trend is likely to continue.
2. Some of the highly visible indicators of climate change come from mountain areas, such as the widespread retreat of glaciers, the reduced duration of snow cover, the upward shift of the tree line. The susceptible position of mountain areas has been clearly highlighted by the IPCC in its latest report in 2007.

3. Mountains are home to about 10-12% of the world population and, according to a FAO study (Huddlestone 2003), the majority of mountain people are chronically undernourished, due partly to poverty and political marginalization. Climate change is posing additional threat to these already highly vulnerable population groups which are in most regions largely dependent on agricultural and forestry activities.
4. Mountains provide key goods and services to the entire humanity, such as freshwater, energy, wood, food and medicines. Environmental degradation linked to climate change will affect not only mountain people but also a great majority of people living in the lowland reducing for instance their water availability.
5. Recognizing the key global role played by mountain ecosystems and the challenges posed by Climate Change on these fragile environments, there is an urgent need to put in place innovative measures and policies to promote adaptation and increase the resilience to climate change threats.