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**SUPPORT FOR ELEMENTS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
WORK PROGRAMME OTHER THAN NATIONAL ADAPTATION
PROGRAMMES OF ACTION**

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its seventh session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), to be operated by the GEF under guidance by the COP, to support the special needs of LDCs, as defined in Article 4 of the UNFCCC and the least developed countries (LDC) work programme. (decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 12¹).
2. The LDC work programme contains the following elements: (i) strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing, national climate change secretariats and/or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol; (ii) providing training, on an ongoing basis, in negotiating skills and language, where needed, to develop the capacity of negotiators from the least developed countries to participate effectively in the climate change process; (iii) supporting the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPA); (iv) promoting public awareness programmes to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues; (v) development and transfer of technology, particularly adaptation technology (in accordance with decision 4/CP.7); (vi) strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of NAPAs. (decision 5/CP.7, paragraphs 11; 14).
3. The preparation and implementation of NAPAs was identified as the top priority for financing under the LDCF (decisions 27/CP.7; 8/CP.8²; and 6/CP.9³). However, subsequent guidance has requested the GEF, through the LDCF, to support also the remaining elements of the LDC work programme (decisions 5/CP.14⁴ and 5/CP.16⁵).
4. This document reports on the progress made by the GEF to implement the LDC work programme through projects and programs financed under the LDCF. With respect to the elements of the work programme not addressed through NAPA implementation, the document outlines the initial elements of a Global Support Program (GSP), drawing on the work carried out by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) as well as recent conclusions by SBI 36.

GUIDANCE ADOPTED BY THE UNFCCC COP AND SBI, AND GEF'S RESPONSE

5. The UNFCCC COP requested the GEF to facilitate the implementation of the LDC work programme (decision 5/CP.14; reiterated in 5/CP.16). In its reports to the COP, the GEF has provided further information regarding the extent to which projects and programs financed in support of NAPA implementation also contribute towards other elements of the LDC work programme, notably in the areas of public awareness, technology transfer, and hydro-meteorological observation systems (*Report of the Global Environment Facility to the*

¹ COP 7 decisions are available on http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/ldc/application/pdf/13a01p32.pdf.

² COP 8 decisions are available on <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop8/07a01.pdf#page=19>.

³ COP 9 decisions are available on <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop9/06a01.pdf#page=13>.

⁴ COP 14 decisions are available on <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/cop14/eng/07a01.pdf#page=8>.

⁵ COP 16 decisions are available on <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a02.pdf#page=9>.

Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, FCCC/CP/2012/6, September 2012⁶).

6. In decision 9/CP.17, the COP requested “the [Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)] to provide further specification for each of the elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs, in consultation with the GEF and report to [the thirty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)], with a view to informing the COP on guidance to be provided to the GEF on support for the implementation of the elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs”.

7. In response to decision 9/CP.17, LEG, at its 21st meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan, discussed the implementation of the LDC work programme and further specified the needs of LDCs in this regard (*Report on the twenty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, FCCC/SBI/2012/7, May 2012⁷*). SBI 36, in its conclusions:

- “1. [...] welcomed the report of the twenty-first meeting of the LEG;
2. [...] in particular, noted that the further specification of the elements of the LDC work programme other than [NAPAs] provided in the report could be useful to the implementation of the [LDC] work programme;
3. [...] noted with appreciation the efforts of the [GEF], in parallel to supporting the ongoing implementation of the [NAPAs], to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the [LDC] work programme as mandated by decision 5/CP.14;
4. [...] recognized that the [LDCF] was established to support the [LDC] work programme, in accordance with decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 12, and that implementation of the remaining elements of the [LDC] work programme are to be supported, in parallel to the ongoing implementation of the [NAPAs] in accordance with decision 5/CP.14;
7. [...] invited the [GEF] to continue raising awareness on the need for adequate and predictable resources under the [LDCF] to allow the full implementation of the [LDC] work programme, in particular [NAPAs], as mandated by decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 8;
8. [...] noted that existing modalities for implementing [NAPA] priorities are partially addressing the other elements of the [LDC] work programme, including through, inter alia, capacity-building and coordination at different levels of government and across sectors, as well as communication and outreach programmes, the development and introduction of adaptation technologies and the improved provision of hydro-meteorological services;
9. [...] encouraged the [LDCF] to support technology elements of the [LDC] work programme, as appropriate to the priorities of the [LDC] Parties, including through the support of [NAPAs]. The [SBI] further encouraged the [LEG] to identify synergies with the future work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
10. [...] encouraged [LDC] Parties to consider the options highlighted in the report of [LEG], which identify various ways to further address the other elements of the [LDC]

⁶ Available on <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/07.pdf>.

⁷ Available on <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/07.pdf>.

work programme, according to their specific needs and circumstances. The [SBI] further encouraged [LDC] Parties to submit proposals, including from elements of [NAPAs], to the [LDCF] and to relevant bilateral, multilateral and international organizations that address the elements of the [LDC] work programme that are of highest priority to the [LDC] Parties;

11. [...] looked forward to the remaining work of the [LEG] in its 2012–2013 work programme to support the remaining elements of the [LDC] work programme, and invited the [GEF], UN agencies and other international organizations to make submissions on how they can further support the implementation of the remaining elements of the [LDC] work programme other than [NAPAs], for consideration by SBI 37 with a view to making a recommendation to COP 18⁸. (Other matters relating to finance: Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair, FCCC/SBI/2012/L.14, paragraphs 1–11⁸).

8. As recognized by SBI 36, the GEF, through projects and programs financed under the LDCF, has supported the implementation of the LDC work programme, including elements other than NAPAs.

9. With respect to “strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of NAPAs”, as provided in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 14 (c), and specified in the LEG report, the GEF, through the LDCF, has made considerable progress in meeting LDC needs. In June 2012, the GEF approved nine full-sized projects in nine LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa, amounting to \$41 million under the LDCF, aiming to support climate-resilient development and adaptation by strengthening weather and climate monitoring, data collection and early-warning systems. The projects address the countries’ urgent needs pertaining to hydro-meteorological services and early-warning systems, as identified in their NAPAs, while providing essential information and decision-support services to enable sustainable and resilient planning and investment in key sectors of their economies. The nine projects build on and complement previous initiatives financed under the LDCF, as well as those supported by other multilateral and bilateral agencies, and national institutions. In addition, projects financed under the LDCF continue to include components that contribute towards strengthening the capacity of hydro-meteorological services.

10. The GEF, through the LDCF, continues to support technology transfer through projects and programs for the implementation of NAPAs. The Secretariat estimates that most projects financed under the LDCF contribute towards the transfer of technologies, including the technologies prioritized in the LEG report. With regard to the assessment of technology needs, the GEF, through the LDCF, has supported the preparation of NAPAs in 49 LDCs, thus allowing countries to identify their urgent and immediate adaptation needs, including their needs for the transfer of adaptation technologies. Moreover, during its first two phases, the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Project, financed under the SCCF Program for Technology Transfer (SCCF-B), supports the development of TNAs in 10 LDCs in Africa and Asia. The GEF looks forward to LEG’s assessment of potential synergies between projects and programs financed under the LDCF and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

⁸ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/114.pdf>

11. On public awareness, capacity building for negotiators, and strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points, the GEF welcomes the ideas put forward by LEG. Projects and programs financed under the LDCF systematically contribute towards public awareness and communication on matters pertaining to climate change, in accordance with country priorities. Similarly, LDCF projects have supported the establishment and development of mechanisms to oversee and to promote regulatory support for climate change adaptation.

12. Given the focus and scope of the NAPA implementation projects financed under the LDCF, however, there may be strategic gaps in awareness and capacities that prohibit LDCs for assuming greater ownership of their national adaptation and mitigation efforts, and from engaging in medium and long-term planning and action.

ADDRESSING THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE LDC WORK PROGRAMME

13. In order to address the remaining elements of the LDC work programme, the Secretariat, in collaboration with LDC Parties and its Agencies, and in close coordination with LEG, has considered options for a global support program (GSP) that would seek to address the shortfalls in awareness, as well as in institutional and technical capacity that prevent LDCs from assuming greater ownership of the implementation of the UNFCCC, and from establishing sustainable institutional arrangements for coordinating their adaptation and mitigation efforts.

14. LEG, with respect to strengthening the capacities of national climate change secretariats and/or focal points, suggested that the GEF “contribute to such efforts by developing, in collaboration with its agencies, a global programme with a strong component on training aimed at strengthening the capacity of existing climate change secretariats with regard to the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. While developing such a global programme, the GEF should seek good practices that could be replicated by looking at models of support of secretariats from other multilateral environmental agreements and conventions including the Montreal Protocol.” (*Report on the twenty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group*, FCCC/SBI/2012/7, April 2012).

15. With respect to capacity building for negotiators, LEG noted that “there are past and ongoing initiatives that provide training sessions and capacity-building for developing countries including LDCs. It was also noted that there are LDCs whose needs have not been met, and which would like to receive further training in negotiation skills and language. It was further noted that the specifications on issues to be addressed under this element could include the following: (a) Means to equip climate change negotiators with up-to-date information on major issues under discussion in the intergovernmental process; (b) Support to initiatives that aim to improve the language skills of climate change negotiators including fellowship programmes and online language courses. It was then concluded that those countries that have remaining needs with respect to negotiating skills and language could, with the assistance of the GEF and its agencies, prioritize and communicate such needs for expedited support including through a dedicated support programme.” (*Report on the twenty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group*, FCCC/SBI/2012/7, April 2012).

16. Given the number of ongoing initiatives that provide capacity building for institutions and individuals in LDCs on various aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation, additional support provided through the LDCF would have to be carefully tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each country. Support could be provided based on a flexible menu of technical assistance services, drawing on the expertise of the GEF Agencies, as well as other relevant global, regional and national organizations, centers and networks. In line with the conclusions of SBI 36, countries should be encouraged to identify, prioritize and convey their support needs, based on an inclusive, country-driven process. Importantly, any global support program should, first and foremost, seek to facilitate access to existing resources and initiatives.

17. A GSP in support of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme should be closely tied to the ongoing efforts of LDCs in NAPA implementation. Countries should be encouraged to integrate their additional support needs into proposals for projects and programs submitted for financing under the LDCF, to the extent that these contribute towards addressing the priorities identified in NAPAs, and that these are consistent with the eligibility criteria of the LDCF. Moreover, additional efforts could be made to disseminate lessons and best practices of how different elements of the LDC work programme have been addressed in the context of NAPA implementation, e.g. those associated with hydro-meteorological services, technology transfer, and the establishment and strengthening of national coordination mechanisms for climate change adaptation.

NEXT STEPS

18. The GEF, in collaboration LDC Parties and its Agencies and in close coordination with LEG, stands ready to facilitate the development of further, targeted measures to implement the remaining elements of the LDC work programme, including through a GSP, as mandated by decision 5/CP.14 and in accordance with further guidance by the COP.