



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.61/Inf.12  
December 3, 2021

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61<sup>st</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
December 06 – 09, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**SUMMARY OF THE EXTENSIONS GRANTED  
UNDER THE CANCELLATION POLICY**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the most up to date summary of projects for which exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy<sup>1</sup> have been requested and granted by the CEO since the previous report was presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting in June 2021. It is presented to Council outside the usual circulation deadlines to capture the most recent data in advance of the 61<sup>st</sup> GEF Council meeting.
2. The [Project Cancellation Policy](#) was approved by Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting in December 2018. The Policy includes provisions under which countries may formally request that the GEF CEO grant an exception to cancellation deadlines. These exceptions may only be granted in cases of extraordinary events or circumstances beyond the control of the parties (Agency, country), such as war, flood, earthquake or epidemic, or similar circumstances which prevent them from adhering to the business standards established in the Policy.
3. The Policy stipulates that the CEO communicate any exception decision to the Council for information and post the information on the GEF website.

## BACKGROUND

4. The Project Cancellation Policy was formulated to align incentives for timely project preparation and more specifically to dis-incentivize excessive delays between PIF approval and CEO-endorsement/approval of projects.
5. The COVID-19 crisis, however, impacted preparation of some projects from early 2020 to date, in some cases causing delays in project preparation. As a result, in active consultation within the Partnership, the GEF Secretariat introduced a series of measures to increase flexibility and avoid the risk of cancellation. These actions have been developed to mitigate the impact and risks linked to COVID-19 and ensure efficient and effective design and implementation of GEF resources.
6. The first action was a blanket extension of six months to two important deadlines specified in the Cancellation Policy: (i) the 8 and 12 month deadline<sup>2</sup> for submission of CEO Approval/Endorsement requests; and (ii) the 12 and 18 month deadline<sup>3</sup> for final CEO Approval/Endorsement. This extension was provided for all stand-alone projects and child projects under Programs for which PIFs/PFDs were approved from the beginning of GEF-7 to June 3, 2020.
7. The second action was described in the Council document '[The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership](#)' (GEF/C.59.11) for Council consideration at its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2020. That document reported on information received through surveys of Agencies, consultations with countries and discussions at

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<sup>1</sup> OP/PL/02

<sup>2</sup> Depending on project type. 8 month deadline applicable to Medium-Sized Projects. 12 month deadline applicable to Full-Sized Projects.

<sup>3</sup> 12 month deadline applicable to Medium-Sized Projects. 18 month deadline applicable to Full-Sized Projects.

the Fall 2020 Agency retreat. The document also summarized the measures Agencies and Countries had introduced to address the challenges encountered during the pandemic.

8. In this context, the Council approved an exceptional and time-bound authority for the GEF CEO to grant longer extensions to the Project Cancellation Policy, for a total of up to 24 months and for all projects types, effective from December 11, 2020 (approval date of the Summary of the Chair - [GEF/C.59/Summary](#)) through the final day of the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting (June 18, 2021)<sup>4</sup>

9. As of today, the Secretariat received a total of 78 requests for extension. Forty-six of those were reported during the 60<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.60/Inf.10](#)).

10. During the period reported in this document (June 12 – December 3, 2021) 32 requests for extension invoking the force majeure provision of the Project Cancellation Policy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been received by the Secretariat. All such requests have been granted by the GEF CEO under the provisions of the Policy and Council decisions referenced herein; as a result, no projects that requested extension have been automatically cancelled under the terms of the Policy. However, one project that did not submit the request for extension was cancelled. Out of those 32 requests for extension, 18 requests have been endorsed or approved by the CEO. Table 1 below provides the list of the 14 projects for which such exceptions have been granted, while Table 2 provides information about the single project cancellation.

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<sup>4</sup> GEF/C.59/Summary, para 86

**Table 1 - Projects that have requested extension**

ID	Title	Country	Agency	Focal Area	Type	Original Deadline	New Deadline	Parent ID
10336	Agtech for inclusion and sustainability: SP Ventures'Regional Fund (Agventures II)	Regional	IADB	Multi Focal Area	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	31-Jan-22	-
10351	Biodiversity protection through the Effective Management of the National Network of Protected Areas	Comoros	UNDP	Biodiversity	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	19-Mar-22	-
10362	Resilient, productive and sustainable landscapes in Mali's Kayes Region	Mali	FAO	Multi Focal Area	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	3-Dec-22	-
10372	Promoting Low-carbon Electric Public Bus Transport in Mauritius	Mauritius	UNDP	Climate Change	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	19-Feb-22	-
10392	Promoting Carbon Reduction Through Energy Efficiency (EE) Techniques in Baghdad City	Iraq	UNDP	Climate Change	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	19-Feb-22	-
10404	Inclusive Conservation Initiative	Global	CI	Biodiversity	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	30-Jun-22	-
10415	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu – Phase II (VCAP II)	Vanuatu	UNDP	Multi Focal Area	Full-sized Project	19-Dec-21	31-Mar-22	-
10421	Reducing barriers to promote electric mobility in the Republic of Belarus through the introduction of ultra-fast charging stations	Belarus	UNDP	Climate Change	Medium-sized Project	16-Oct-21	17-Dec-21	-
10433	Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities	Global	UNIDO	Climate Change	Medium-sized Project	22-Jul-21	21-Apr-22	-
10446	Capacity-building for transparency in NDC implementation in Cameroon	Cameroon	UNEP	Climate Change	Medium-sized Project	21-Oct-21	20-Apr-22	-
10468	Sustainable Multiple Use Landscape Consortia - Vertentes Project	Brazil	World Bank	Multi Focal Area	Full-sized Child Project	19-Dec-21	19-Mar-22	10201
10480	Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems in India through Transforming Rice-Wheat Systems in Punjab, Haryana, Odisha and Chhattisgarh	India	FAO	Multi Focal Area	Full-sized Child Project	19-Dec-21	18-Dec-22	10201
10484	Livable Cities in India: Demonstrating Sustainable Urban Planning and Development through Integrated Approaches	India	UNEP	Multi Focal Area	Full-sized Child Project	19-Dec-21	18-Jun-22	10391

10700	Implementation of the Strategic Action Programmes and the National Strategic Action Plans for the Integrated Water Resources Management in the Puyango-Tumbes, Catamayo-Chira and Zarumilla Transboundary Aquifers and River Basins	Regional	UNDP	International Waters	Full-sized Project	11-Dec-21	11-Dec-22	-
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**Table 2 – Projects Cancelled**

ID	Title	Country	Agency	Focal Area	Type	Original Deadline	Cancellation Date	Parent ID
10380	Strengthening Myanmar's institutional and technical capacities to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement	Myanmar	UNEP	Climate Change	Medium-sized Project	2-July-21	6-July-2021	-