



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.63/Inf.13  
November 22, 2022

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63<sup>rd</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
November 28 – December 02, 2022  
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 62<sup>nd</sup> GEF Council meeting in June 2022. It is presented to Council outside the usual circulation deadlines to capture the most recent data in advance of the 63<sup>rd</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 of 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

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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.

document reported on information received through surveys of Agencies, consultations with countries and discussions at 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 211 requests for extension. Of those, 46 were reported during the 60<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.60/Inf.10](#)), 32 were reported during the 61<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.61/Inf.12](#)) and 115 were reported during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.62/Inf.10](#)).

10. During the period reported in this document (June 18, 2022 – November 21, 2022) 14 requests for extension invoking the force majeure provision of the Project Cancellation Policy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been approved 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. Out of the 14 requests for extension received, no projects have been endorsed or approved by the CEO yet. Table 1 below provides the list of the 14 projects for which such exceptions have been granted, while Table 2 provides information about one project cancellation. This table only shows projects cancelled through the Cancellation Policy and not those projects cancelled by Agencies.

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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
10586	Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)	Mauritania	UNEP	Biodiversity	FSP	18-December-2022	30-September-2023	-
10725	Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME	Regional	UNDP	International Waters	FSP	18-December-2022	18-December-2023	-
10769	Robust sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue supported by biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable land management	Niue	UNEP	Multi Focal Area	FSP	18-December-2022	15-June-2023	-
10771	Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities by up-scaling integrated landscape management and restoration in south-west region of Central African Republic	Central African Republic	FAO	Climate Change	FSP	18-December-2022	15-December-2023	-
10778	Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management	Regional	World Bank	International Waters	FSP	18-December-2022	18-December-2023	-
10779	Advancing Climate Resilience of Water Sector in Bhutan (ACREWAS)	Bhutan	UNDP	Climate Change	FSP	18-December-2022	28-April-2023	-
10783	Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent	Regional	UNEP,ADB	International Waters	FSP	18-December-2022	18-December-2023	-
10787	Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature Based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Vietnam	Viet Nam	UNDP	Biodiversity	FSP	18-December-2022	18-December-2023	-
10788	Increasing Access to Renewable Energy in Tuvalu	Tuvalu	ADB	Climate Change	FSP	18-December-2022	31-July-2023	-
10799	Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono)	Regional	IUCN	International Waters	FSP	18-December-2022	16-December-2023	-
10805	Advancing transboundary co-operation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin through implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)	Regional	UNDP	International Waters	FSP	18-December-2022	18-December-2023	-

10832	São Tomé and Príncipe national child project under the Africa Minigrids Program	Sao Tome and Principe	UNDP	Climate Change	MSP	18-December-2022	28-February-2023	10413
10842	Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation	Morocco	UNDP	Biodiversity	MSP	10-November-2022	1-February-2023	-
10855	Conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS), under an institutional framework and the development of rural community initiatives in Ecuador	Ecuador	FAO	Biodiversity	MSP	24-October-2022	27-January-2023	-

**Table 2 – Projects Cancelled**

ID	Title	Country	Agency	Focal Area	Type	Original Deadline	Cancellation Date	Parent ID
10896	Sustainable Energy Efficiency in Municipal Services (SEEMS)	Ukraine	World Bank	Climate Change	MSP	19-January-2023	26-September-2022	-