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35th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting – February 2024

Decision LDCF.SCCF 1/2024 **Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.35/03, Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, approves the Work Program comprising of 21 projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by March 9, 2024[1].

2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to $180.40 million from the LDCF and $23.00 million from the SCCF, both inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

   LDCF project descriptions

   i. Benin: Promoting Social and Ecological Resilience in Land-Water-Food systems in Blue Economy Sectors *(GEF ID: 11453, AfDB, GEF Project Financing: $9,781,000 (LDCF)*;

   ii. Burkina Faso: Program to Strengthen Smallholder Resilience to Climate Change (RESI-2P) *(GEF ID: 11365, IFAD, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

   iii. Burundi: Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience and Land Restoration across Burundi's Fragile Colline Landscapes (*GEF ID: 11397, World Bank, GEF Project Financing: $18,348,624 (LDCF);*

   iv. Cambodia: Building Climate Resilience of Communities in Cambodia's Protected Landscapes: Biodiversity-Friendly Crop-Livestock Systems for Adaptation *(GEF ID: 11400, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $6,237,138 (LDCF) and $1,782,040 (GEF Trust Fund - Land Degradation)*;

   v. Central African Republic: Livestock Support for Climate Change Adaptation and Enhanced Resilience Project (LISCADERP) *(GEF ID: 11423, IFAD, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

   vi. Ethiopia: Scaling up the Green Legacy Initiative Best Practices to Enhance the Climate Resilience of Smallholder Farmers and Disadvantaged Groups in Ethiopia *(GEF ID: 11416, UNEP, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

   vii. Lao PDR: Climate Change Adaptation in Lowlands of Lao PDR *(GEF ID: 11399, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $4,781,507 (LDCF)*;

[1] The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons and (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support LDCF projects 11322 and 11418 in South Sudan.

viii. Lesotho: Nature Based Solutions for Increased Climate Resilience in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Lesotho *(GEF ID: 11387, IUCN, GEF Project Financing: $8,974,312 (LDCF)*;

ix. Malawi: Championing Local Adaptation for Productive Ecosystems and Enhanced Resilience (CLAP for Resilience) *(GEF ID: 11436, UNDP, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

x. Mozambique: Artisanal Fisheries Resilient Development Project *(PROPEIXE) (GEF ID: 11419, IFAD, GEF Project Financing: $9,781,000 (LDCF)*;

xi. Nepal: Climate Resilient Transformation of Rice-Based Farming and Food Systems in Central Nepal (CRAFT Nepal) *(GEF ID: 11401, FAO GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

xii. Niger: Integrated Management of the Doumeraie of the Goulbi N'kaba Watershed and Adjacent Ecosystems (Maradi region) *(GEF ID: 11409, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

xiii. Rwanda: Building Community Resilience and Transforming Livelihoods through Systems-Based Adaptation and Integrated Resource Management in Rwanda's Southern Province *(GEF ID: 11446, UNDP, GEF Project Financing: $18,048,624 (LDCF)*;

xiv. South Sudan: Strengthening Adaptation through Institution Building and Resilient Livelihoods in South Sudanese Agro-pastoral Landscapes (SABRELA) *(GEF ID: 11418, IFAD, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

xv. South Sudan: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Enhancement for South Sudan (CARES) *(GEF ID: 11322, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF)*;

xvi. Zambia: Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia *(GEF ID: 11396, World Bank, GEF Project Financing: $7,235,114 (LDCF), $1,903,881 (GEF Trust Fund - Biological Diversity), $1,088,626 (GEF Trust Fund- Land Degradation)*;

SCCF project descriptions

xvii. Barbados: Accelerating Transition to Climate-resilient Agrifood Systems (BATCRAS) (GEF ID: 11270, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $2,627,226 (SCCF-A), $875,742 (GEF Trust Fund – Climate Change);

xviii. Dominican Republic: Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change (GEF ID: 11402, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $2,649,727 (SCCF-A); $1,766,485 (GEF Trust Fund – Multi Focal Area);

xix. Maldives: A Holistic Approach to Food Systems Resilience and Adaptation (GEF ID: 11411, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $2,639,726 (SCCF-A);

xx. Regional (Caribbean -Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago): Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH-II) (GEF ID: 11412, FAO, GEF Project Financing: $12,545,661 (SCCF-A).

3. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

4. With respect to the following projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:

xxi. Liberia: Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Transformational Livelihood Adaptation in Liberia (SARTLA) (GEF ID 11447).

Decision LDCF.SCCF 2/2024 **FY22 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund**

1. The LDCF/SCCF Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.35/04, FY22 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, welcomes the review and appreciates the progress made in reporting portfolio-level performance, results, and lessons learned under the LDCF and the SCCF.

2. The Council welcomes the overall finding that the LDCF and SCCF portfolio under implementation in FY22 performed satisfactorily.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 3/2024 **Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund**

1. The LDCF/SCCF Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.35/05, Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund,

welcomes the report and takes note with appreciation the progress made under the LDCF and the SCCF.

36th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting – June 2024

Decision LDCF.SCCF 4/2024 **Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/03/Rev.01, Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, approved the Work Program comprising of 14 program and projects concepts, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 20, 2024. Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to $203.02 million from the LDCF, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFD):

    i. Angola: Strengthening climate resilience of communities in Angola through community-based adaptation action (GEF ID 11545); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420 (LDCF);

    ii. Cambodia: Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape (GEF ID 11332); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: $6,684,703 (LDCF);

    iii. Chad: Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers and ecosystems to the effects of climate change" (STRADAP) Project (GEF ID 11550); GEF Agency: IFAD; GEF Project financing; $7,105,936 (LDCF);

    iv. Comoros: Increased access to water supply for resilience in Comoros (IAWASuR) (GEF ID 11522); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: $8,019,178 (LDCF);

    v. Gambia: Climate-resilient Banjul: Enhancing urban resilience in the Greater Banjul Area (CLIMB)" Project (GEF ID 11532); GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF Project financing: $12,544,037 (LDCF);

    vi. Guinea: Guinea water and sanitation project (GEF ID 11575); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: $10,092,000 (LDCF);

    vii. Lao PDR: Enhancing integrated watershed management and climate resilience for vulnerable communities in the Nam-Poui, Nam-Poun, Nam-Lay and Nam-Houng basins in Lao PDR (GEF ID 11573); GEF Agency: WWF-US; GEF project financing: $6,772,477 (LDCF);

viii. Sao Tome and Principe: Enhance the adaptative capacity to floods and water security in Sao Tome and Principe (GEF ID 11544); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: $5,329,452 (LDCF);

ix. Sao Tome and Principe: Development of the transport and coastal protection sector (GEF ID 11552); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: $12,844,037 (LDCF);

x. Sierra Leone: Third additional financing to the food systems resilience program (FSRP) (GEF ID 11576); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Program Financing: $18,348,624 (LDCF);

xi. Somalia: Building urban resilience to climate change and transitioning to green economy in Somalia (GEF ID 11564); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: $11,606,626 (LDCF);

xii. Tanzania: Sustainable land management and improved community resilience in dryland areas and livestock migratory hotspots of Tanzania (GEF ID 11489); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF Project financing: $8,019,178 (LDCF);

xiii. Global: Lesotho, Malawi, Ethiopia, Somalia: Programme for innovation in climate adaptation and resilience building solutions (PARS) (GEF ID 11566); GEF Agency: UNIDO; GEF Program Financing: $30,107,798 (LDCF);

xiv. Regional: Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal: Transformation approach to large-scale investment in support of the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative (TALSISI-GGW) (GEF ID 11455); GEF Agency: UNEP, BOAD; GEF Program Financing: $77,888,167 (LDCF: $38,707,662; GEF TF: $39,180,505);

2. With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 5/2024 FY23 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund

1. The LDCF/SCCF Council, having considered document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/04, FY23 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, welcomes the review and appreciates the progress made in reporting portfolio-level performance, results, and lessons learned under the LDCF and the SCCF.

2. The Council welcomes the overall finding that the LDCF and SCCF portfolio under implementation in FY23 performed satisfactorily.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 6/2024 Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund

1. The LDCF/SCCF Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/05, Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, welcomes the report and takes note with appreciation the progress made under the LDCF and the SCCF.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 7/2024 FY25 Administrative Budget and Business Plan for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund

1. The LDCF/SCCF Council, having considered document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/06, FY25 Administrative Budget and Business Plan for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, approves the proposed budget for the GEF Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), and the Trustee as follows:

    i. $4,247,305 (GEF Secretariat), $139,000 (STAP), and $590,000 (Trustee) from the Least Developed Countries Fund; and

    ii. $1,341,899 (GEF Secretariat), $139,000 (STAP), and $130,000 (Trustee) from the Special Climate Change Fund.

2. The Council decides that, in the context of the Secretariat's analysis, the level of 11% indirect charge as set out in this document is the upper limit for the GEF, provided sufficient justification is provided by the World Bank for this indirect charge. It is noted that the indirect charge for the GEF is expected to exclude the cost of certain administrative services to be provided directly by the GEF.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 8/2024 FY25 Work Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF under the LDCF and SCCF

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/E/01, FY25 Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF under LDCF and SCCF, approves the annual budget of $347,788 to carry out the work program for fiscal year 2025. The budget is in line with the term of the evaluation work, which spans multiple years. The approved budget is being distributed as follows:

   i. $203,073 from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and

   ii. $144,715 from the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

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Decision LDCF.SCCF 9/2024 Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.37/02, Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, approves the Work Program comprising of seven projects and two programs for the LDCF, and one project and one program for the SCCF, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 17, 2025.

2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to $92.05 million from the LDCF and $12.25 million from the SCCF, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFDs):

   i. Central African Republic (CAR): *CAR Inclusive and Resilient Cities Project* (GEF ID: 11676); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: $9,175,000 (LDCF);

   ii. Lao PDR: *Promoting climate resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions in the Northen Lao PDR* (GEF ID: 11695); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $6,192,694 (LDCF);

   iii. Samoa: *Strengthening Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, and Combating Land Degradation through Ecosystem-based Adaptation* (GEF ID: 11700); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,329,452 (SCCF: $2,689,726; GEF TF: $2,689,726);

iv. Tanzania: *Upscaling ecosystem-based adaptation to enhance ecosystem services and community adaptive capacity in Tanzania's Greater Serengeti Ecosystem* (GEF: ID 11531); GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: $9,767,264 (LDCF);

v. Togo: *Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo* (GEF ID: 11548); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $6,649,315 (LDCF: $3,989,589; GEF TF: $2,659,726);

vi. Uganda: *Fostering water security and catchment resilience in Uganda's Cattle Corridor* (GEF ID: 11696); GEF Agency CI; GEF Project Financing: $7,598,165 (LDCF);

vii. Global: *Accelerating Investment in nature-based solutions (NbS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (Phase 2: NbS Invest);* (GEF ID: 11677); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: $10,000,000 (LDCF);

viii. Global: Angola and Madagascar: *Programme for innovation in climate adaptation and resilience building solutions (PARS)* (GEF ID: 11708); GEF Agency: UNIDO; GEF Program Financing: $14,145,413 (LDCF);

ix. Global: Benin, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Mexico, Nepal and Nigeria: *Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus (FARM+)* (GEF ID: 11682); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $59,074,144 (LDCF: $5,390,302; GEF TF: $53,683,842);

x. Regional: Pacific– Fiji, Micronesia and Nauru: *Resilience Enhancement through Adaptation in the Pacific (REAP)* (GEF ID: 11702); GEF Agency: ADB; GEF Project Financing: $8,532,800 (SCCF-A: $7,981,800; SCCF-B: $551,000).

3. With respect to the following project, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:

xi. Yemen: *Building Climate Resilience for Vulnerable Groups in Rural and Urban Areas of Yemen* (GEF ID 11717). Agency: UNDP; Total Project Financing: $19,883,486 (LDCF: $18,098,624 and GEFTF: $1,784,862).

4. With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and

address the Council's and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

5. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 10/2024 **Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund**

1. The LDCF/SCCF Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.37/03/Rev.01, Progress Report on the LDCF and the SCCF, welcomes the report and takes note with appreciation the progress made under the LDCF and the SCCF.

Decision LDCF.SCCF 11/2024 **Planning Note for the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Counties Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.37/04, Planning Note for the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF and Operational Improvements: July 2026 to June 2030, requests the Secretariat to initiate the development process of the Programming Strategy.