

Message from GEF CEO and Chairperson Naoko Ishii on further extension of project cycle deadlines

June 2, 2020

Dear GEF Council Members, Operational Focal Points and GEF Agencies,

On March 21, 2020, I informed you of my decision to extend by three months the deadlines for CEO Endorsements and Approvals for projects approved after the effectiveness date (March 1, 2019) of the updated GEF Policy on Cancellation. I subsequently communicated my decision on April 23 to apply this same three-month extension of deadlines to all projects approved to date. I took these actions under policy provisions authorizing the CEO to grant extensions due to extraordinary events or circumstances beyond the control of the parties. The COVID-19 pandemic fits within this definition.

In these earlier messages, I also indicated that we would continue to monitor the situation and come back to you in due course in the event that the same conditions that triggered the original extension persisted and warranted additional extensions.

I am writing now to inform you that we have been monitoring the situation closely, and decided to extend the deadline by an additional three months. I have made this decision due to the extraordinary circumstances still posed by the pandemic and its impact on the required work. The total extension is now six months, as illustrated in the following examples:

Type of Project (Examples)	Date of Approval	Extended deadline for submission of endorsement/approval package	Extended deadline to obtain CEO endorsement/approval
Example 1: Full Size Project	June 2019	December 2020 for CEO Endorsement submission (12+6 months)	June 2021 for actual CEO Endorsement (18+6 months)
Example 2: Medium Size Project	June 2019	August 2020 for CEO Approval submission (8+6 months)	December 2020 for actual CEO Approval (12+6 months)

As before, we will continue to monitor the situation and will come back to you in due course if additional measures are needed, in the event that the extraordinary conditions of the pandemic affecting the work continue to prevail. As noted also in my earlier communication, there is no need to submit any notification signed by either the GEF OFP or the Agency for these extensions to apply.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO and Chairperson