Types of GEF Projects

There are four types of GEF projects:

- **Full-Sized Projects (FSPs):** GEF grant > $2 million
- **Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs):** GEF grant ≤ $2 million
- **Enabling Activities (EAs):** GEF grant is capped by respective focal area threshold:
  - Biodiversity and Climate Change = up to $500,000;
  - Land Degradation = up to $150,000
  - Chemical and Waste (MIA = $200,000; Persistent Organic Pollutants and ASGM NAP=$500,000)
- **Programmatic Approach (PA)**

MIA=Minamata Convention Initial Assessment
ASGM NAP = “Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining” National Action Plan
Project Cycle Steps

The GEF project cycle includes two major approval steps applicable for Full-Sized Projects:

**Council and the GEF Secretariat:**
1. Council approval of work program
   - work program consists of PIFs cleared by CEO
2. CEO endorsement of the project document
   - well-prepared projects document + CEO endorsement

**GEF Agency:**
1. Approval of the project by the GEF Agency and implementation start;
2. Completion of implementation, terminal evaluation and financial closure.
Full-Sized Project Cycle

Council approval of Work Program*

CEO endorsement of project

GEF Agency approval of project**

Project implementation and continues to completion***

* Work Program consists of PIFs cleared by the CEO
** GEF Agency approval of project signifies start of project implementation
*** Project completion follows terminal evaluation and financial closure
Medium-Sized Project Cycle

MSPs follow a simplified one-step approach as part of the project streamlining measures*:

• Agencies and countries prepare an MSP and submit it to the Secretariat for CEO approval once it is ready, on a rolling basis.
• Follow the same GEF Agency internal approval process before implementation start.
• MSP approval request template will build in a PPG request feature of up to $50,000 to help deflate the preparation expenses by the country on a reimbursement basis.*

There is also a two-step approach, if required:

• Submission of a PIF with PPG request, if needed
• Submission of a well-prepared final MSP document plus a MSP Approval Request for CEO approval

* The one-step feature and the reimbursement of up to $50,000 for project preparation expenses are new features proposed by an Inter-agency Project Cycle Working Group and included in a project cycle paper submitted to the October 2014 Council Meeting.
Enabling Activities follow two paths:

- Country submits EA proposal for CEO approval;
- CEO and country sign Grant Agreement and implementation starts.

**Regular procedures** of applying EA grant through Agencies:
- Agency submits EA proposal for CEO approval;
- Agency follows its own internal approval procedure and implementation starts; signs grant agreement with the country.
Programmatic Approach Cycle

A new programmatic approach processing modality was approved by Council approval in the October 2014 Council meeting.

Proposed steps include:

- Council approval of a Program Framework Document (PFD) included in a work program;
- CEO endorsement of fully prepared child projects under the program
Features of a Program

- The key document for a programmatic approach to be approved by Council is the submission of a Program Framework Document (PFD).

- All child projects under the Program have to be submitted for CEO endorsement by a deadline (or Program Commitment Deadline) agreed by relevant stakeholders during the preparation of the program concept or PFD.

- Child projects can apply for project preparation funding through submission of a PPG Request.
Project Review Criteria

- Country eligibility and ownership
- Global Environment Benefits
- GEF Focal area strategy
- Agency’s Comparative advantage
- Resource availability
- Project consistency
- Project design
- Project financing and co-financing
- Monitoring and evaluation; and
- Agency’s responses to comments and reviews.
Country Endorsement

Endorsement by a national Operational Focal Point (OFP) is a requirement for the following:

- all PIFs to enter the work program, and for application of Project Preparation Grants (PPGs);
- PFDs submitted for work program inclusion;
- Request for CEO approval of MSP final projects;
- All EAs requesting CEO approval.

Projects in biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation focal areas also follow STAR rules.
Streamlining Measures in the Project Cycle

Recent GEF project cycle streamlining measures (including some that were approved by the Council in June 2012):

1. Project Preparation Grant (PPG) is now approved together with PIF clearance in the same template;
2. MSP ceiling is increased up to $2 million;
3. All templates have been simplified;
4. Tranche payment of Agency fees: 40% are paid when Council approves the work program and 60% by CEO endorsement, applicable for FSPs only;
6. All projects/programs are subject to the new fee policy approved by Council in June 2012:
   - 9.5% for all project grants up to $10 million;
   - 9% for all project grants above $10 million.
Streamlining Measures in the Project Cycle...(2)

6. GEF Project Agency gets a 9% Agency fee for all projects and programs, regardless of the GEF financing amount;
7. Approval of Umbrella Projects comprising a group of Enabling Activities is expedited by automatic CEO endorsement two weeks after Council approval and Agencies no longer required to submit a CEO endorsement request;
8. An updated project cancellation policy has been submitted for Council consideration in this October 2014 meeting.
Acronyms Used in this Presentation

FSP = Full-Sized Project
MSP = Medium-Sized Project
EA = Enabling Activities
PA = Programmatic Approach
MIA = Minamata Convention Initial Assessment
ASGM NAP = “Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining” National Action Plan
PIFs = Project Identification Form/concept of a project
PFD = Program Framework Document
PPG = Project Preparation Grant
Recent Council Papers on Project Cycle

Please consult the GEF website: [www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org) for all relevant project cycle papers for more detailed policies and procedures. To name a few:

- GEF/C.31/7/Corr.1  [GEF Project Cycle (Corrigendum)](http://www.thegef.org)  [English]
- GEF/C.38/05/Rev.1  [Streamlining the Project Cycle and Refining the Programmatic Approach](http://www.thegef.org)  [English]
- GEF/C.39/Inf.03  [GEF Project and Programmatic Approach Cycles](http://www.thegef.org)  [English]
- GEF/C.43/06  [Streamlining of Project Cycle](http://www.thegef.org)  [English]
- GEF/C.47/07  [Improving the GEF Project Cycle](http://www.thegef.org)  [English]
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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