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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

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Excerpts from the Joint Summary of the Chairs & Highlights of the Council's Decisions, 34th GEF Council Meeting, November 11–13, 2008

Decisions of the Council

Decision on Agenda Item 11 Work Program

19. The Council reviewed the proposed work program submitted to Council in document GEF/C.34/6 and approved the work program¹ comprised of 37 project concepts and endorsed the concepts and objectives of the 5 new programmatic approaches, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by November 28, 2008.
20. Total resources requested in this work program amounted to \$201.17 million which included GEF project grant and agency fees (please see attached Annex for more details). The approved work program is comprised of the following 37 Project Identification Forms (PIFs), 16 of which are submitted under ten programmatic approaches (5 PAs have been previously endorsed by Council and 5 are new ones seeking Council endorsement):

Biodiversity

- **Regional (Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname)** : BS Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Caribbean Sub Region Countries of Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname in the Context of a Regional Project (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.63 m)
- **Regional (Congo DR, Congo)** : CBSP Catalyzing Sustainable Forest Management in the Lake Tele-Lake Tumba (LTLT) Transboundary Wetland Landscape (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.17 m)
- **Brazil** : Improving Brazilian Capacity to Conserve and Use Biodiversity through Information Management and Use (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$8.17 m)

¹ The Council Member representing the United States of America, in light of its national legislation regarding its country's voting position for certain development projects in certain countries, opposed the following project: **Regional (Afghanistan, Iran)** : Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin (UNDP)

- **Cape Verde** : SPWA-BD Consolidation of Cape Verde's Protected Areas System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.29 m)
- **Congo DR** : CBSP Enforcement of Protected Areas Network (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$6.00 m)
- **Equatorial Guinea** : CBSP Sustainable Forest Management in Equatorial Guinea for the Conservation of Representative Ecosystems and Globally Significant Biodiversity (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.77 m)
- **Ethiopia** : Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation in the Farming Systems of Ethiopia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.86 m)
- **Jamaica** : Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.77 m)
- **Mali** : SPWA-BD Expansion and Strengthening of Mali's PA System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.77 m)
- **Mozambique** : Sustainable Financing of the Protected Area System in Mozambique (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.90 m)
- **Namibia** : Protected Landscape Conservation Areas Initiative (NAM PLACE) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.50 m)
- **Niger** : SPWA-BD Integrating the Sustainable Management of Faunal Corridors into Niger's Protected Area System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.77 m)
- **Russian Federation** : Improving the Coverage and Management Efficiency of Protected Areas in the Steppe Biome of Russia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5.30 m)
- **Sri Lanka** : Strengthening Capacity to Control the Introduction and Spread of Alien Invasive Species (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.83 m)
- **Sudan** : Launching Protected Area Network Management and Building Capacity in Post-conflict Southern Sudan (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.82 m)

Climate Change

- **China** : Promoting Energy Efficient Room Air Conditioners (PEERAC) Project (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6.26 m)
- **India** : IND Financing Energy Efficiency at Small and Medium Enterprises - under the Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$11.30 m)
- **Indonesia** : CF: Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Industries through System Optimization and Energy Management Standards (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.18 m)
- **Philippines** : CF: Industrial Energy Efficiency (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.17 m)
- **Philippines** : Chiller Energy Efficiency Project (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.60 m)
- **Thailand** : Industrial Energy Efficiency (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.62 m)

- **Venezuela : IMPROVE:** Increase Product Efficiency in Venezuela (RESUBMISSION) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.09 m)
- **Vietnam :** Phasing out Incandescent Lamps through Lighting Market Transformation in Vietnam (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.03 m)

International Waters

- **Regional (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Cape Verde) :** Implementing Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (UNEP/UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$9.65 m)
- **Regional (Jordan, Palestinian Authority) :** Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.50 m)
- **Regional (Afghanistan, Iran) :** Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.00 m)
- **Regional (Antigua And Barbuda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, St. Lucia, Suriname) :** Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) (IADB/UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$20.00 m)
- **Mexico :** Regional Framework for Sustainable Use of the Rio Bravo (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.00 m)

Land Degradation

- **Montenegro :** Montenegro Institutional Development and Agriculture Strengthening (MIDAS) (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.00 m)

Multi-focal Areas

- **Regional (Cameroon, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic) :** CBSP Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$13.00 m)
- **Regional (Chile, Peru) :** Towards Ecosystem Management of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6.93 m)
- **Argentina :** Establishment of Incentives for the Conservation of Ecosystem Services of Global Significance (UNDP/UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.91 m)
- **Brazil :** SFM Strengthening National Policy and Knowledge Frameworks in Support of Sustainable Management of Brazil's Forest Resources (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$8.85 m)
- **Cambodia :** SFM Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management and the Development of Bio-energy Markets to Promote Environmental Sustainability and to Reduce Green House Gas Emissions in Cambodia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.36 m)
- **China :** PRC-GEF Partnership: Silk Road Ecosystem Restoration Project (ADB) (GEF Project Grant : \$5.12 m)

- **Ecuador** : SFM Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Water Resources in the Ibarra-San Lorenzo Corridor (IFAD) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.70 m)
- **India** : SLEM - Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Conservation and Management for Improved Livelihoods in Uttarakhand Watershed Sector (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$7.00 m)

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES IN THE NOVEMBER WORK PROGRAM

Biodiversity

- Strategic Program for West Africa (Biodiversity) (SPWA-BD) (**NEW**)
- Biosafety Program (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

Climate Change

- Strategic Program for West Africa (Climate Change) (SPWA-CC) (**NEW**)
- Framework for Promoting Low Greenhouse Gas Emission in Buildings (**NEW**)
- Reducing Industry's Carbon Footprint in Southeast Asia through Compliance with a Management System for Energy (**NEW**)
- Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency in India (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

Multi-focal Areas

- Congo Basin Strategic Program (CBSP) (**NEW**)
- Sustainable Forest Management (endorsed by Council in November 2007)
- PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems Program (endorsed by Council in April 2008)
- Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Partnership Program (endorsed by Council in November 2007)

21. With respect to any PIF approved in this work program, either under one of the programmatic approaches or as a standalone PIF, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive a copy of the draft final project document that is submitted to the CEO for endorsement. Council Members may transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the GEF Agency.

Highlights of the Council Decisions

Agenda Item 11 Work Program

30. Council Members welcomed the increase in the number of programmatic approaches in the Work Program and the number of projects associated under them.

31. Council Members from the Africa region, in particular, welcomed the three programmatic approaches in the Congo Basin and West Africa in the climate change, biodiversity and multi-focal areas. They suggested that such an approach should be extended to other parts of Africa, such as East Africa, as well as to other focal areas. They noted that these programmatic approaches have enabled small group allocation countries under the RAF to participate in GEF-4 to an extent which would otherwise have been difficult. The Members also praised the highly participatory consultative processes, including ministerial level discussions, undertaken in the formulation of these programmatic approaches.

32. In response to concerns raised, a representative of UNDP, the GEF Agency responsible for the Venezuela project in the climate change focal area, explained that the revised proposal has fully recognized potentially counter-productive energy policies in Venezuela and their impact on the market. The UNDP representative reported that the government has launched several initiatives to address some of these concerns; he further noted that the project could serve as catalyst to improve energy policies in the country.

33. The GEF CEO responded to questions raised regarding coordinating and developing programmatic approaches. The GEF Secretariat and the Lead Agency have been providing coordination in the preparation process, and the Lead Agency has been helping countries prepare the framework documents for the submission of programmatic approaches to the GEF. To date, the CEO explained, much of the upfront coordination work has been financed out of the GEF Secretariat's administrative budget, and the Lead Agency has not been getting any extra remuneration for its coordinating function. The GEF CEO noted further that this issue will be discussed in a paper to be presented to Council after this meeting.

34. Other issues raised included concerns about the duplication of coordinating bodies of the two West Africa programmatic approaches, the lack of large ground water projects, as well as the absence of programmatic approaches in the international waters focal area in the current work program. Council Members will submit their technical comments by November 28, 2008 or two weeks after the Council meeting.