

Excerpts from the Joint Summary of the Chairs, GEF Council Meeting, November 16-18, 2010

Decisions of the Council

Decision on Agenda Item 12

Work Program

15. The Council reviewed the proposed work program presented in document GEF/C.39/5 and approved the work program comprising 5 project concepts, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted, in writing to the Secretariat by December 2, 2010.

16. Total resources requested in this work program amounted to \$157.68 million which included GEF project grants and Agency fees. The approved work program is comprised of the following 5 Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

Biodiversity

1. **Chile** : Strengthening National Frameworks for IAS Governance - Piloting in the Juan Fernandez Archipelago (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,000,000)
2. **Yemen** : Leopards and Landscapes: Using a Flagship Species to Strengthen Conservation in the Republic of Yemen (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,430,000)

Climate Change

3. **Kazakhstan** : Reducing GHG Emissions through a Resource Efficiency Transformation Programme (ResET) for Industries in Kazakhstan (EBRD) (GEF Project Grant : \$7,090,000)

Multi Focal Area

4. **Global** : 5th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$134,615,385)

Ozone Depleting Substances

5. **Russian Federation** : Phase-out of CFC Consumption in the Manufacture of Aerosol Metered-dose Inhalers (MDIs) in the Russian Federation (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,550,000)

17. 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 the GEF CEO determines that there have been major changes to the project scope and approach since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

18. With respect to the following two 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 a project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:

- a) Yemen: Leopards and Landscapes: Using a Flagship Species to Strengthen Conservation in the Republic of Yemen.
- b) Global: 5th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme.

19. The associated Table 1 annexed to this Joint Summary of the Chairs details the funding decisions taken by the Council during this 39th session on the work program.

Highlights of Council's Decision

Agenda Item 12 Work Program

29. Council Members approved the work program and supported the rigorous review undertaken by the GEF Secretariat in preparing the first work program in GEF-5. Given the long history of project preparation in the GEF, some Council Members were puzzled that the quality of projects dropped and queried about remedial steps.

30. The CEO provided detailed responses to the concerns and clarified that the composition of the November work program was also constrained by available resources. Of the 37 projects reviewed, most were returned to the Agencies for further substantial revisions. Only 7 projects were completely rejected.

31. The CEO elucidated the process for the next work program: the Secretariat will report on the total number of PIFs submitted to the Secretariat; the total number of PIFs rejected outright; and the total number of PIFs returned to the Agencies for revisions and resubmission in a future work program. The GEF Secretariat agreed to return to the spring Council Meeting with an explanation or comparison on how the quality-at-entry for project submissions has improved between the November 2010 and May 2011 work programs.

32. The CEO clarified that no new criteria were applied to the review of the projects for this work program. However, the GEF Secretariat took a more thorough review process to ensure that the PIFs recommended for the work program complied with the GEF policies and goals. This approach was in response to the recommendation of the recent replenishment meetings calling for emphasis on quality of projects.

33. A few Council Members requested greater clarity on the interpretation of comparative advantage of Agencies. Others requested clarity on the definition of baseline projects as related to the incremental cost principle and co-financing. A Council Member reminded participants of the previous Council paper on comparative advantage. The CEO also clarified that an Agency

has to demonstrate that the GEF work program/objectives are mainstreamed in the Agency's own internal programming objectives.

34. Following several concerns expressed by Council Members that they felt compelled to provide funding for the SGP program from their STAR allocations, the CEO indicated that she will write a letter to all Operational Focal Points informing them that countries have no obligation to allocate STAR resources to the SGP and that this is a voluntary decision of the countries. One Council Member asked that the final project document for the SGP program be circulated to Council prior to endorsement by the CEO. The CEO agreed to do so, in line with GEF project cycle policies.

35. Several countries commented that they are facing pressures to endorse Agency project proposals prior to completing an NPFE. The CEO responded that she will write to all GEF focal points on implementation of the NPFE program. She also emphasized that the NPFE is a voluntary exercise, the implementation timeframe is very short (around two months), and that doing an NPFE has no impact whatsoever on a country's ability to access GEF resources.

36. Many Council Members noted that the addition of new agencies to the GEF, through the initiative to broaden the partnership, would allow a sound competition and enable the leveraging of greater co-financing.