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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, 40<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting, May 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### Joint Summary of the Chairs

#### *Decision on Agenda Item 13                      Work Program*

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.40/07/Rev.1, *Work Program Submitted for GEF Council Approval*, approved the work program<sup>1</sup> comprising 14 project concepts and one programmatic approach, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by June 9, 2011.

2. Total resources requested in this work program amount to \$190.51 million which include GEF project grants and Agency fees. The approved work program is comprised of the following 14 Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and one Program Framework Document (PFD):

#### **Biodiversity**

1. **Iran:** Building a Multiple-Use Forest Management Framework to Conserve Biodiversity in the Caspian Forest Landscape (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$1,900,000)

2. **Nepal:** Integrating Traditional Crop Genetic Diversity into Technology Using a BD Portfolio Approach to Buffer Against Unpredictable Environmental Change in the Nepal Himalayas (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant: \$2,300,000)

3. **Sao Tome and Principe:** Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Conservation in the Buffer Zones of the Obo National Park (IFAD) (GEF Project Grant: \$2,418,182)

4. **Uganda:** Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Threatened Savanna Woodland in the Kidepo Critical Landscape in North Eastern Uganda (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$3,080,000)

#### **Climate Change**

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<sup>1</sup> The Council Member representing the United States of America, in light of its national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, opposed the project *Iran: Building a Multiple-Use Forest Management Framework to Conserve Biodiversity in the Caspian Forest Landscape*.

5. **Regional:** Pilot Asia-Pacific Climate Technology Network and Finance Center<sup>2</sup> (ADB/UNEP) (GEF Project Grant: \$9,090,909)
6. **China:** China Renewable Energy Scaling-Up Program (CRESP) Phase II (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$27,280,000)
7. **China:** GEF Large-City Congestion and Carbon Reduction Project (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$18,180,000)
8. **China:** Green Energy Schemes for Low-Carbon City in Shanghai, China (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$4,345,000)
9. **Nigeria:** Small-scale Associated Gas Utilization (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$2,727,236)

### **Multi-focal Area**

10. **Regional (Burkina Faso, Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Senegal, Chad, Togo):** Sahel and West Africa Program Supporting the Great Green Wall Initiative<sup>3</sup> (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$81,314,817)
11. **Belarus:** Landscape Approach to Management of Peatlands Aiming at Multiple Ecological Benefits (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$2,700,900)
12. **Bolivia:** Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Bolivia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$4,166,667)
13. **Jamaica:** Integrated Management of the Yallahs River and Hope River Watersheds (IADB) (GEF Project Grant: \$3,768,667)
14. **Mexico:** Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Mexico (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$4,444,953)
15. **Turkey:** Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$7,120,000)

3. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the work program, the Council found 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 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.

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<sup>2</sup> This is a multi-trust fund project drawing funds from two sources – the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Only the GEFTF component is presented here.

<sup>3</sup> This is a multi-trust fund programmatic framework drawing funds from three sources, namely, GEF Trust Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, and Least Developed Countries Fund. Only the GEFTF component is presented here.

4. 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's 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.

### **Highlights of the Council Decisions**

#### *Agenda Item 13 Work Program*

5. Council Members were happy, in particular, with the multi-focal area and multi-trust fund features of the projects/programs submitted in this work program. Many Council Members expressed strong support for the Program for Sahel and West Africa, recognizing the strong political support at the highest level for this initiative. The Program was praised for its innovativeness, particularly for its ability to draw resources from multiple trust funds. It was emphasized that the Program should build on the experience of TerrAfrica and that country ownership is of paramount importance when implementing the projects under the Program.

6. Due to the complexity of the Program, the Council requested the World Bank and the GEF Secretariat to provide, starting at the spring 2012 Council meeting, an annual information document on the status of the Program, including more detailed answers particularly on governance structure, institutional setup for regional cooperation, and knowledge management, as well as the issues identified by STAP.

7. Many Council Members, likewise, recognized the innovativeness of the pilot project on technology transfer and praised its ability to draw resources from multi-trust funds. However, other Council Members expressed concern over how the GEF is positioning itself on technology transfer, considering that UNFCCC Parties have not yet had sufficient opportunity to develop guidance on how the mechanism should work.

8. One Council Member suggested that the work program cover note refrain from mentioning Voluntary Carbon Standards in one project, so as not to preempt ongoing UNFCCC negotiations on the issue. Another Council Member was of the view, however, that the reference would actually be beneficial as a "road test" for the negotiations.

9. Some Council Members expressed concern regarding the absence of projects in the IW and Chemicals focal areas. The CEO explained that she chose to fund projects in BD, CC, and LD to give priority to the programming of STAR resources. The funding decision must take into consideration that GEF resources may be limited. The programming of projects has to consider the remaining years of GEF-5.

10. One Council Member commented on the absence of PIFs in the Great Green Wall Initiative Program. The CEO clarified that the PFD provides the framework for the program, which the Council is requested to approve. The PIFs will be developed based on this framework. Under the new project cycle rules, concept approval under Programs has been delegated to GEF Agencies with Boards that approve projects. In this respect, the World Bank clarified that the projects under the Program will be developed within the next 18 months through their internal approval processes, and that final project documents would be prepared for submission to the

GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement before implementation. All concept notes are publicly disclosed, and the World Bank will submit a report aggregating the status of all projects under the Program to the Council in one year.

11. One Council Member noted that the total amount of resources programmed so far is about 10%. He reminded the parties to work together to speed up the implementation process and urged those who have not done so to deposit their instruments of commitments/contributions.

12. One Council Member stressed the importance of the role of National Portfolio Formulation Exercises as an essential element to ensure the quality of projects. This reinforced other comments from Council Members on the paramount importance of country ownership, particularly by engaging local communities in the decision process.

13. In response to a question, the CEO emphasized that an initiative, like the Great Green Wall, can only materialize if supported by a political request from the highest levels. The Secretariat has not seen such interest from other regions, except for the Pacific Island States.

14. A number of Council Members indicated that they will provide additional written comments on the work program.