



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Naoko Ishii PhD
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA
Tel: 202.473.3202
Fax: 202.522.3240/3245
E-mail: gefceo@thegef.org
www.thegef.org

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Dear Council Member:

I am writing with reference to my letter of February 24, 2014, under cover of which we circulated for GEF Council review and approval of the March 2014 Intersessional Work Program.

I am pleased to inform you that the Council has approved by mail the proposed work program.

The approved decision, taking into account Council Members' comments, reads as follows:

The GEF Council reviewed the proposed work program¹ posted on February 24, 2014, and approves the work program comprising of the following 32 out of 34 stand-alone Project Identification Forms² (PIFs) and three PIFs associated with a previously approved programmatic approach, subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat by March 17, 2014:

Biodiversity

- 1. Cameroon: Participative Integrated Ecosystem Services Management Plans for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystems PINESMAP BPCE (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,652,968)***
- 2. Chile: Mainstreaming the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Valuation of Critically Threatened Species and Endangered Ecosystems into Development-frontier Production Landscapes of the Arica y Parinacota, and Biobio Regions (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,411,416)***

¹ The Council Member representing the United States of America, in light of its policies for certain development projects, opposed the following project: 1) Sudan: Promoting the Use of Electric Water Pumps for Irrigation, and abstained from the decision on the following projects: 1) China: Greening the Logistics Industry in Zhejiang Province, 2) China: A New Green Line: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Objectives and Practices into China's Water Resources Management Policy and Planning Practice, 3) China: Enabling Solid State Lighting Market Transformation Promotion of Light Emitting Diode Lighting, 4) China: Developing and Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, and 5) Regional (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia): Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal.

² Council requested 2 PIFs to be deferred to the May 2014 Council meeting.

3. **China:** *A New Green Line: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Objectives and Practices into China's Water Resources Management Policy and Planning Practice.* (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,639,726)
4. **China:** *Developing and Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,436,210)
5. **Congo:** *Creation of Conkouati Dimonika PA Complex and Development of Community Private Sector Participation Model to Enhance PA Management Effectiveness CDC&CPSPM* (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,889,434)
6. **Macedonia:** *Achieving Biodiversity Conservation through Creation and Effective Management of Protected Areas and Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Planning* (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,360,731)
7. **Madagascar:** *A Landscape Approach to Conserving and Managing Threatened Biodiversity in Madagascar with a Focus on the Atsimo-Andrefana Spiny and Dry Forest Landscape* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5,329,452)
8. **Madagascar:** *Conservation of Key Threatened Endemic and Economically Valuable Species in Madagascar* (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5,650,000)

Climate Change Mitigation

9. **Algeria:** *Integrated Municipal Management Model of Household and Similar Waste with Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,187,671)
10. **Botswana:** *Promoting Production and Utilization of Biomethane from Agro-Waste in South-Eastern Botswana* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,632,300)
11. **China:** *Enabling Solid State Lighting Market Transformation Promotion of Light Emitting Diode Lighting* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6,242,694)
12. **China:** *Greening the Logistics Industry in Zhejiang Province* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,913,700)
13. **Congo DR:** *Promotion of Mini and Micro-hydro Power Plants in Congo DR* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,187,669)
14. **India:** *Market Transformation and Removal of Barriers for Effective Implementation of the State Level Climate Change Action Plans* (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,744,438)

15. **Morocco: Promoting the Development of Photovoltaic Pumping Systems for Irrigation (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,639,726)**
16. **Paraguay: Innovative Use of a Voluntary Payment for Environmental Services Scheme to Avoid and Reduce GHG Emissions and Enhance Carbon Stocks in the Highly Threatened Dry Chaco Forest Complex in Western Paraguay (CI) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,201,614)**
17. **Serbia: Removing Barriers to Promote and Support Energy Management Systems in Municipalities (EMIS) throughout Serbia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,300,000)**
18. **Sudan: Promoting the Use of Electric Water Pumps for Irrigation (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,365,753)**
19. **Venezuela: Promotion and Development of Renewable Energies through the Set-up of Mini-hydro Plants in Rural Communities Located in the Region of The Andes and the Southern Area of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (IADB) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,657,534)**

International Waters

20. **Global: Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System INMS (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6,000,000)**
21. **Regional (Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Algeria, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Chad): Improving IWRM Knowledge based Management and Governance of the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden Taoudeni Tanezrouft Aquifer System (ITTAS) (UNDP/UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$13,425,000)**
22. **Regional (Uganda, Congo DR): Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management Project (AfDB) (GEF Project Grant : \$8,100,000)**

Multi Focal Area

23. **Regional (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine): Initial Technical Assistance for the Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$18,000,000)**

24. **Haiti: Ecosystem Approach to Haiti's Cote Sud³ (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,097,500)**
25. **Mauritius: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Mauritius (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,664,521)**
26. **Pakistan: Sustainable Forest Management to Secure Multiple Benefits in High Conservation Value Forests (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$8,338,000)**

Persistent Organic Pollutants

27. **Regional (Antigua And Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts And Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and Grenadines): Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs, Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,357,500)**
28. **Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela): Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) in Latin-American Countries (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$9,500,000)**
29. **Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe): Disposal of PCB Oils Contained in Transformers and Disposal of Capacitors Containing PCB in Southern Africa (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$7,710,000)**
30. **Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia): Promotion of BAT and BEP to Reduce uPOPs Releases from Waste Open Burning in the Participating African Countries of COMESA-SADC Subregions (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$6,615,000)**
31. **China: POPs and Chemical Pollution Solutions through Area-based-Ecoeffective-Management (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$6,000,000)**
32. **Kenya : Sound Chemicals Management Mainstreaming and uPOPs Reduction in Kenya (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,515,000)**

³ This is a multi-trust fund project drawing funds from two sources – the GEF Trust Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. Only the GEFTF component is presented here. For the entire project, refer to Annex A-2 in the work program cover note.

PIFs⁴ under a Previously Approved Programmatic Approach**Multifocal Area**

33. **Nieu:** *R2R Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for Biodiversity Conservation, and for the Enhancement of Ecosystem Services and Cultural Heritage (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$4,194,862) under the R2R Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods Program*
34. **Palau:** *R2R Advancing Sustainable Resources Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity in Palau (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant: \$3,747,706) under the R2R Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods Program*
35. **Tonga:** *R2R Integrated Land and Agro-Ecosystem Management Systems (FAO) (GEF Project Grant: \$2,344,954) under the R2R Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods Program*

With respect to the following six PIFs approved as part of the work program, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive draft final project documents at least four weeks prior to the CEO endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency to provide Council Members the opportunity to transmit to the CEO any concerns they may have:

- a) **Cameroon:** *Participative Integrated Ecosystem Services Management Plans for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystems (UNEP);*
- b) **China:** *Developing and Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (UNDP);*
- c) **China:** *Enabling Solid State Lighting Market Transformation Promotion of Light Emitting Diode Lighting(UNDP);*
- d) **China:** *Greening the Logistics Industry in Zhejiang Province (UNDP);*
- e) **Regional (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine):** *Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazaksthan and Armenia (UNIDO);*

⁴ Grants for these projects are charged against the programmatic framework allocation as referred to in Annex-1 in the work program. Following the procedures established for programmatic approaches applicable to all GEF Agencies, the final project document of these sub-projects will be circulated to Council for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

f) **China: POPs and Chemical Pollution Solutions through Area-based Eco-effective Management (UNIDO)**

With respect to the following two PIFs, the Council requests that the project proposals be deferred for consideration at the May 2014 Council meeting.

- a) **Russian Federation: Low Carbon Technology Transfer in the Russian Federation (UNIDO)**
- b) **Turkey: Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Steppe Ecosystems (FAO)**

With respect to all PIFs approved in this work program, the Council finds 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.

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.

The detailed funding decisions taken by the Council is appended as Annex 1.

Sincerely,



Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer
And Chairperson

cc: Alternates, all those invited to Council meetings