Excerpts from the Joint Summary of the Chairs & Highlights of the Council’s Decisions, 55th GEF Council Meeting, December 2018

Joint Summary of the Chairs

Decision on Agenda Item 12  Work Program

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/10, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 18 projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 7, 2018.

2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to $157.8 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

**Biodiversity**

1. **China**: Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $8,932,420) (GEF ID 10073)\(^1\)

2. **Chile**: Strengthening management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in coastal marine ecosystems in Chile (FAO) (GEF Project Financing: $3,502,968) (GEF ID 10075)

3. **Argentina**: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation criteria in sectoral and intersectoral public policies and programs to safeguard threatened wildlife in Argentina (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $2,703,196) (GEF ID 10085)

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\(^1\) The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, opposes the following project(s) and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: (1) “Strengthening the Protected Area Network for Migratory Bird Conservation Along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF)” in **China**.
Climate Change Mitigation

4. **Algeria:** AIM-WELL: Algeria Integrated Management of Waste Energy at the Local Level (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $4,416,210) (GEF ID 10080)

5. **Chile:** Accelerating investment in efficient and renewable district energy systems in Chile (UNEP) (GEF Project Financing: $2,141,781) (GEF ID 10087)

6. **Turkey:** Promoting Low Cost Energy Efficient Wooden Buildings in Turkey (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $3,800,000) (GEF ID 10090)

7. **Ukraine:** Sustainable Bioenergy Value Chain Innovations (EBRD) (GEF Project Financing: $4,800,000) (GEF ID 10110)

8. **Colombia:** Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $3,791,550) (GEF ID 10121)

Chemicals and Waste

9. **Turkey:** Enhancing environmental performance in the expanded and extruded polystyrene foam industries in Turkey (UNIDO) (GEF Project Financing: $3,195,000) (GEF ID 10082)

10. **Mexico:** Reducing global environmental risks through the monitoring and development of alternative livelihood for the primary mercury mining sector in Mexico (UNEP) (GEF Project Financing: $7,035,000) (GEF ID 10086)

11. **Argentina:** Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $8,930,250) (GEF ID 10094)

International Waters

12. **Regional (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama):** Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $6,877,626) (GEF ID 10076)

13. **Regional (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan):** Strengthening the Resilience of Central Asian Countries by Enabling Regional Cooperation to Assess High Altitude Glacio-nival Systems to Develop Integrated Methods for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $6,192,694) (GEF ID 10077)

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2 The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects involving countries whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit, abstains from participating in a Council decision that would support the “Strengthening the Resilience of Central Asian Countries by Enabling Regional Cooperation to Assess High Altitude Glacio-nival Systems to Develop Integrated Methods for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change” (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $6,192,694) (GEF ID 10077).

**Multi-focal Area**

15. **Uruguay:** Consolidating biodiversity and land conservation policies and actions as pillars of sustainable development (UNDP)(GEF Project Financing: $2,639,269) (GEF ID 10081)

16. **Sudan:** Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project -AF⁴ (World Bank) (GEF Project Financing: $1,369,863) (GEF ID 10083)⁵

17. **Global:** GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase – Core (Part 1) (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $61,538,462) (GEF ID 10084)⁶

18. **Egypt:** Green Sharm El Sheikh (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: $6,212,694) (GEF ID 10117)

3. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the 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.

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 there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.

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³ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, opposes the following project(s) and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: the (2) “Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme Phase 3” regional project that includes Burundi.

⁴ This is a multi-trust fund project consisting of GEFFT and LDCF. The financing here is the GEFTF component only. The LDCF component is included in the LDCF/SCCF work program.

⁵ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries which are state sponsors of terrorism, opposes the following project and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: “Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project”, which takes place in Sudan.

⁶ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, opposes the following project and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support the global program: “GEF Small Grants Programme – 7th Operational Phase – Core”, that includes China, Comoros, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Laos, Mauritania, and Venezuela.
5. The Detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 55th session of the work program is part of the associated Annex 1 appended to this Joint Summary of the Chairs.

**Highlights of the Council Decisions**

*Agenda Item 12  Work Program*

1. The Council welcomed the Work Program and acknowledged that the composition of any first Work Program in a new GEF cycle cannot be interpreted as representing a trend across future Work Programs.

2. Several Council members requested increased share of funding support for SIDS and LDCs going forward.