

FRENCH COMMENTS on November 2009 Work Program Submitted for GEF Council Approval

All the PIF analysed can go on the following step of project cycle; we suggest to provide answers or address issues raised in these comments.

1. Global

UNEP

BS: UNEP-GEF Project for Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH

(GEF Project Grant: \$2,500,000)

The justification for extension of the project activities is based only on a recommendation from the last COP/MOP-4 (May 2008, in Bonn).

This new GEF contribution seems to be requested without any assessment of the previous financing of the UNEP-GEF BCH project.

In particular the PIF is not addressing the following worrying statement "The fact that three years after the entry into force of the CPB only little information is available on the BCH with records remaining incomplete, due to lack of funds, stakeholder involvement and weak institutional arrangements..." Instead of questioning the PIF rationale, this statement is on the contrary used to justify the continuation of GEF support which is not totally convincing.

Although the PIF provide "that impact indicators emerging from the terminal evaluation of global BCH project will be included in the full project document for CEO endorsement", it would be better that this terminal evaluation be available for council and STAP review.

Moreover, the sustainability of the overall capacity building effort is not clearly addressed. It is not clear if this program will contribute to the establishment of any kind sustainable local training centres or capacities which could take over the training activities on GEF funding project.

Opinion: favourable, with the following suggestion to take into account during project preparation:

an external evaluation of the previous UNEP-GEF BCH project should be available, addressing the sustainability issues before engagement of this new 5 M USD program.

2. Benin

World Bank

SPWA-BD Support to Protected Areas Management (GEF Project Grant: \$1,900,500)

The project is relevant and result from sound and strong investments in the conservation of the WAP complex, which is one of the few remaining large viable natural refuge available in the whole West African Savannah range.

The proposed Trust funds "*Fondation des savanes ouest africaines*" take into account the long term goal of contributing to the conservation of the WAP complex starting as a first stage to the conservation of the northern savannah of Benin.

Available information from the soon to be released "Conservation Trust Funds Investment performance Survey" by the Conservation Finance Alliance show that Trust funds remain a viable conservation finance tool although the recent crisis on the world stock market.

Most of the trust funds have limited their loss on the stock markets to -5 % in 2008 and are most of them about to recover the full amount of their endowment and capacity to finance on the long term the conservation of biodiversity.

For these reason this project is critical and necessary for the long term protection of biodiversity in West Africa.

Opinion: favourable

3. Cameroon

World Bank

C BSP Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ngoyla Mintom Forest
(GEF Project Grant: \$3,500,000)

The project is innovative as it tries to articulate the development of a protected area complex with engagement of the private sector involved in economic activities to contribute to the sustainable financing of the biodiversity conservation.

The project tries to experiment some kind of biodiversity offset and payment for ecosystem services concepts.

The involvement of the WWF and World Bank is a guarantee of success, but the cost/effectiveness of the overall project will need to be strongly improved.

Indeed, it's not clear as for now that the private sector investments in the region could sufficiently contribute to the sustainable financing of all the conservation activities required conserving the Ngoyla Mintom Forest complex.

**Opinion: favourable, with the following remark to take into account during project preparation
Assess the sustainable financing need to conserve the Ngoyla Mintom Forest complex and the capacity of the private sector to effectively contribute to the amount needed.**

5. Costa Rica

IADB

Integrated Management of Marine and Coastal Resources in Puntarenas
(GEF Project Grant: \$3,000,000)

The project provides an integrated approach for the management of Marine and coastal resources in the east coast of Costa Rica.

The project is very relevant as the fisheries of this coast are under high pressure, but reading the document PIF, the current activities proposed seem more of some "wishful thinking" than resulting from a detail field assessment.

The project should be improved on the following point:

- There is already some management agreement with fishermen on this coast and some regulations which are not correctly respected by fishermen and poorly enforced by local authorities : the project is not addressing how this new project will be able to get better result than what is already in place : additional training and sensitization seem not convincing to get better results.
- The project is not addressing the shark finning activities and traffic with neighbouring countries which are still very important in these area;
- We share the STAP concern concerning the feasibility of 2 PES (payment for ecosystem services) schemes. We add that these 2 PES scheme are supposed to provide sustainable funding for the activities, but the overall financial and technical feasibility of such schemes remain totally unclear. The project need to clarify what are these PES schemes, what is the level of ownership from stakeholders, and if the financial streams expected from these PES scheme will be sufficient to cover the costs of the integrated management of the coastal and marine resources.
- The project intend to develop alternative livelihoods for the fishermen families, but it remains unclear how much fishermen will benefit from these alternative compared to the number of fishermen implementing unsustainable fishing activities in the area (it is said that there is more than 11.000 fishermen in Costa Rica, and that a majority of them are in the project area, while it seem little convincing that the project could involve a massive shifting of activities of this population in only 4 years of project duration)

Opinion: taking into account these aspects, favourable subject to a strong integration of STAP recommendations

8. Nigeria

UNDP

SPWA-BD Niger Delta Conservation Project

(GEF Project Grant : \$3, 610,000)

The project provides a sound and coherent framework for biodiversity mainstreaming into the Niger Delta oil and gas sector. It will involve public and private stakeholders (Shell, Total and other Oil and Gas companies).

The project is relevant to focus on the Niger Delta which is under tremendous anthropic pressures and demographic growth pressure.

The project will improve biodiversity threats assessment by using the integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) which seems efficient and well accepted by major industrial companies.

The project will develop a conservation trust fund to provide long term funding for the protection of the Niger Delta and to secure the sustainability of the projects achievements.

Opinion: favourable.

10. Togo

UNDP

SPWA-BD: Strengthening the Conservation Role of Togo's National System of Protected Areas (PA)

(GEF Project Grant: \$1,222,200)

The project is relevant and provides an interesting initiative of redesigning the Togolese PA system.

The project seems to take into account the most recent assessment and initiatives in Togo, but it remains unclear if the project will collaborate with the West African Bureau of IUCN which is implementing a project fostering the efficient management of PA system in West Africa (*Programme Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest – PAPACO*).

This program has already implemented an African peer review of the Togolese PA system which was pointing some of the project challenges in the Oti Keran Mandouri Complex.

It would be good also that the project goes beyond the technical issues and also provides a sustainable funding strategy for the Togolese PA system.

Opinion: taking into account these aspects, favourable

11. Global

UNDP/UNEP

National Communications to the UNFCCC

(GEF Project Grant: \$25,000,000)

The project is focused on providing support to 50 non –Annex I Parties countries to prepare their National communication to UNFCCC.

It falls under a continuing enabling activities effort provided by the GEF, as financial mechanism of UNFCCC. The proposal is in line with this existing process. Its implementation rises nevertheless two points:

- The principle of “first-come, first served” is proposed to choose the 50 countries to be supported; how can we ensure that this principle doesn't leave in the long term countries without the relevant timely support to elaborate their National Communication?
- It seems as a sound principle to check that the countries applying for this project support have made good progress on the implementation on their current National Communication implementation before they are granted support to elaborate a new one.

Opinion: favourable

12. Global (Colombia, Kenya)

World Bank

TT-Pilot (GEF-4): Solar Chill: Commercialization and Transfer

(GEF Project Grant: \$2,583,000)

The project wants to promote the use of the “solarchill” technology for refrigerator in the health sector (vaccine) and then household and light commercial refrigerator.

The technology is meant to be environment friendly for the following reasons:

- “Solarchill” refrigerators do not rely on hydrocarbon fuel;
- “Solarchill” refrigerators are HFCs and HCFCs free;
- “Solarchill” refrigerators do not use lead-acid batteries.

It relies on the production of direct current from which ice is generated and uses to cool the fridge rather than storing power in a battery.

This initiative, which mixed climate and ozone benefits must clearly be supported and develop.

- The PIF nevertheless should be clearer on the **rationale that led to chose Kenya and Colombia** as test countries for this third generation of “Solarchill”.

According to the PIF, the two countries were not involved in the testing the first two generations of “Solarchill” and do not have the benefit of this past experience.

- The PIF should also provide indication on the industrial “baseline” in the two countries: existing production of refrigerators, potential of the industry to address a regional demand.

- The third point is how to ensure that what is developing in Colombia and Kenya can later spill over in the neighbouring countries without giving Colombia and Kenya the monopoly of production of “Solarchill” refrigerators in their respective regions.

Opinion : favourable with a question on the choice of Colombia and Kenya and how to ensure that what is developed in the two countries can then be disseminated in the region.

13. Global (Cook Islands, Turkey)

UNIDO

TT-Pilot (GEF-4): Realizing Hydrogen Energy Installations on Small Islands through Technology Co-operation

(GEF Project Grant: \$2,677,273)

The project aims at increasing penetration of renewable energies on small islands through the transfer and use of hydrogen technologies.

We share the STAP recommendation about the maturity of the technology and its applicability in developing countries at this stage.

Opinion: taking into account this aspect, favourable subject to a strong integration of STAP recommendations.

14. Regional (Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa)

ADB

PAS: Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific

(GEF Project Grant: \$5,254,545)

The project aims at reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and improving Energy Security through Energy Efficiency and Conservation. The project has a standard but efficient approach.

Opinion: favourable

15. Regional (Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)

World Bank

PAS Energizing the Pacific Regional Project

(GEF Project Grant: \$3,600,000)

We welcome this proposed comprehensive and gradual approach to promoting development of EE and RE markets in selected Pacific Island countries.

This project has long term goals in addition to short and medium term plans. The project aims to develop least cost energy sector plans.

Opinion: favourable

17. Brazil

UNDP

Third National Communication to the UNFCCC
(GEF Project Grant: \$5,720,000)

The project plans to support Brazil in the elaboration of its Third National Communication to UNFCCC. While the first NC focused on GHG inventory and the Second NC focused on regional modelling of climate as well as vulnerability and adaptation research studies, this Third NC aims at taking the process one step further with the elaboration of adaptation strategies based on more focused vulnerability assessments in key sectors and better understanding of the drivers of deforestation (analysis of the current land use in deforested areas).

As indicated for project 11 "National Communications to the UNFCCC", the support to elaboration of National Communication falls under the obligation of the GEF as the financial mechanism of UNFCCC. Moreover, the focus of the Third NC on adaptation strategies and deforestation drivers appears relevant.

The PIF should explain nevertheless what is the rationale to provide specific countries a dedicated support through a dedicated project while other countries will be support to elaborate their NC through a global collective project.

Opinion: favourable

18. Cambodia

UNIDO

TT-Pilot (GEF-4): Climate Change Related Technology Transfer for Cambodia: Using Agricultural Residue Biomass for Sustainable Energy Solutions
(GEF Project Grant: \$1,690,000)

The project plans to support energy production from agricultural residue biomass: rice husk, rice straw, corn cobs, palm oil extraction waste, cashew nut shells... The development of this biomass energy scheme relies on transfer of technology in particular south to south transfers with neighbouring countries: India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Given the importance of the agriculture sector in Cambodia, the project idea seems relevant. Some point would deserve nevertheless specific focus.

- The project should look into the carbon cycle of the targeted agricultural production and the impact of the intake of some of the biomass, and hence of the carbon from this cycle.

- The project should make sure although that it targets in priority **"biodiversity friendly" production** rather than agriculture activities that are fuelling a growing deforestation process in Cambodia.

- The last remark is generic and relates to the quality process of elaboration of the PIF which should be improved to avoid "cut and paste" mistake like the one in the first page of the PIF with a "description" section which applies to another project in Vietnam.

Opinion: favourable

20. China

World Bank

Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City Project (SSTCEP)

(GEF Project Grant: \$6,163,636)

The project plans to support the development of an Eco-city in Tianjin. The operation considered would concern an area of 30 km² and 350 000 people. An investment plan of 5, 8 billions USD by 2020 is being discussed. The scheme is based on a partnership with Singapore.

The project is to support a shift from conventional sector specific approach to an integrated city-based approach. This integration process is the planning phase of urban development is key to a major limitation later of GHG emissions in every “compartment” of an urban area: transport, housing, waste...

That's why the first component of the project “Implementation framework” should be considered as the core of the project.

The project then chooses 2 sectors to be supported in the implementation of the eco-city development: transport with a view to ensure a comprehensive integration of land use and transport planning in particular and housing.

While the activities considered on the housing sector appear to be “classical”, the transport part is clearly innovative and should receive the major part of the GEF support funds for the investment phase.

This transport – land use approach should address a central point of urban development and its carbon “cost” which is the density of the urban area. Chinese cities are currently relying on “not so dense” urban forms which are implying important transport distance for example. The model which is going to be use in this eco-city should be clear. The same remark applies to housing and criteria like the average size of flats per household, etc.

Opinion: favourable

22. Cote d'Ivoire

AfDB

TT-Pilot (GEF-4): Construction of 1000 Ton per day Municipal Solid Wastes Composting Unit in

AKOUEDO Abidjan

(GEF Project Grant: \$2,625,000)

The project aims at supporting technology transfer for a sustainable integrated management of the municipal solid wastes in the agglomeration of Abidjan. The observations made in the GEF note on the conditions of the Akouedo site (unsanitary, disease risk, women and children sort the garbage unprotected landfill near homes and water points ...) is very relevant. There is a real need to find a sustainable solution to the collection and processing of solid waste. The idea of a recovery unit on site is well regarded (the unit could possibly hire the trash pickers on the site). Knowing the situation of Abidjan, the project is particularly relevant. However, it would be necessary:

- to check the links between this project and new landfill projects, developed by private developers ;
- to check the suitability of this program with the Emergency Program (PUR) World Bank. Is it in continuity, or is it a parallel action?
- to ensure the sustainable organization of the collection, and resolution of the conflict of jurisdiction between ministries and local authorities. This institutional uncertainty is the main cause of the current situation.

What is the support for the municipality of Abidjan in this project?

We focus also the attention to the public-private partnership agreement which is not detailed in the PIF. Is it a BOT?

The responsibilities of each stakeholder (ministries and local municipality...) should be clarified : this is a main issue for the sustainability of the project

Opinion: favourable

23. Mexico

IADB

TT-Pilot (GEF 4): Promotion and Development of Local Wind Technologies in Mexico
(GEF Project Grant: \$5,000,000)

This project aims at strengthening domestic wind energy markets in Mexico.

As well as STAP, we recommend conducting detailed barrier analysis that should **include market survey** (incl. supply/demand analysis for projected installed capacity), analysis of infrastructure barriers, and **competitiveness of domestic designs of wind turbines vs. technologies available in international markets**.

Opinion: favourable

24. Niger

UNDP

SPWA-CC: Integration of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions in Niger's Rural Energy Service Access Program

(GEF Project Grant: \$1,768,182)

The project aims at developing access to sustainable energy services through Energy Service Operators.

But no detail is given regarding the potential partners.

What are the institutional arrangements?

What are the local stakeholders and the energy services providers?

In addition, the project should explore the potential role of carbon finance for the development of energy services.

Opinion: favourable

28. Global

UNDP/UNEP

MENARID GEF IW: LEARN: Strengthening IW Portfolio Delivery and Impact
(GEF Project Grant: \$3,900,000)

IW: LEARN is a portfolio-wide knowledge management and capacity building initiative which encouraged IW partners networking.

This initiative could be consider as a Conference of the Parties that don't exist for IW focal area.

The outcomes of former IW: LEARN phases allowed to strongly support this new initiative.

Opinion: favourable

29. Regional (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia)

UNEP

MED Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean

(GEF Project Grant: \$2,298,545)

The ICZM protocol in the Mediterranean has been recently approve by the riparian countries with a strong support of France.

It is the first regional legal instrument that deals with the issue of climate change at regional and local levels.

The project is closely related to Strategic Partnership of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem funded by **FFEM** under UNEP implementation.

Opinion: favourable

30. Global

UNEP

Enabling Paradigm Shift on Monitoring and Assessment within the UNCCD - Piloting the Reporting of the Performance Indicators 2010
(GEF Project Grant: \$2,545,454)

The UNCCD is the international device in charge of land degradation in particular in African dry lands countries. The present project will involve assessment of national and regional performance strategies. It will establish a knowledge management system based on former experiences.

France is strongly involved in building on performance indicators process through the French Scientific Committee Combating Desertification (CSFD) that will be mobilizing by the Project.

Opinion: Favourable

32. Senegal

UNDP

SPWA-BD Participatory Conservation of Biodiversity and Low Carbon Development of Pilot Ecovillages at the Vicinity of Protected Areas in Senegal
(GEF Project Grant: \$2,880,000)

This project tries to provide an integrated approach for the management of Biodiversity and Climate change but the current activities proposed do not result from a detail field assessment.

The project should be improved on the following point:

- The project intends to create 7 Community Natural Reserves (CNR) in the periphery of some protected area to decrease unsustainable use of natural resource in the park, but is not providing assistance to the cause of mismanagement of these parks.

This is particularly the case of the Niokolo Koba National Park, where a certain abandon from the Senegalese authorities is resulting in the collapse of this park, and this ecovillage initiative seems not at the size of the challenges faced by this National Park.

The outcomes of these CNR are not convincing at this stage.

- The project intends to provide a wide range of alternative sources of energy without relevant technical and economic assessment.

The project is covering an all direction strategy : briquetting and pelletizing of non-woody biomass, improved cooking hearths, development of local agro fuel from *Jatropha*, etc... the technical feasibility and economic sustainability of all these alternatives are not yet proven in Senegalese rural areas and might probably be not competitive with the current charcoal or wood source of energy.

The project should demonstrate the feasibility before to invest funds on those activities.

The project might have some social negative effects contributing to impoverishment of rural poor as it proposed to enforce a ban on kerosene lamp and system without providing economically sustainable alternatives.

- The project is also willing to develop some PES schemes in pilot ecovillages, but the PIF includes no details of the service to be paid for or the potential buyers; the full project should include a detailed plan for this PES pilot project.

Opinion: the above questions and remarks should be taken into account during project preparation.

33. Tunisia

World Bank

MENARID Ecotourism and Conservation of Desert Biodiversity

(GEF Project Grant: \$4,272,300)

The Project is supporting Integrated Natural Resources Management in Tunisian arid areas through promoting incentives for rural population and private sector based on developing of sustainable nature-based tourism. This approach is consistent with Tunisian sustainable development strategy in arid areas.

The Project should pay a special attention to water resources mobilize for ecotourism activities and promote sustainable use of it.

Opinion: favourable taking into account water resources

35. Regional (Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia)

UNEP/UNIDO

AFLDC: Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the SADC Sub region

(GEF Project Grant: \$3,000,000)

The project plans to support Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania to implement their Stockholm convention National Implementation Plan and strengthen their capacity to manage chemicals.

Several sources of POP: chemical have been identified: pesticides, electricity production and distribution (PCB), open air, uncontrolled burning of waste. The project will address these different sources through the development of adequate legislative and regulatory framework, strengthened administrative and enforcement capacities, good practice in terms of waste management.

Such steps are necessary, but it is clear that the efforts of the project will bear fruits only if “investment” money is identified after to ensure that the frameworks, good practices are implemented. And it is clear also that the private sector will be able to cover such needs on its own. So the project should explain how the link with this implementation phase will do to ensure the sustainability of the results.

Opinion: favourable