

Special Intersessional Work Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This work program consists of enabling activity proposals¹ from six countries that combine their respective national communications and biennial update reports in one enabling activity project for each country. National communications and biennial update reports are obligations of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The total GEF resources requested for approval under the GEF Trust Fund amounts to \$5.598 million, comprised of \$5.112 million in enabling activity project grants and \$0.486 million in Agency fees.

Current GEF-5 guidelines for financing national communications provide for countries to access up to \$500,000 from the climate change focal area set-aside for approval by the CEO under delegated authority; enabling activities requesting more than \$500,000 are required to be submitted for Council review and approval as part of a work program. With the new UNFCCC requirements for countries to provide biennial update report on top of their national communications reporting, countries are entitled for additional financing of up to \$352,000, thereby exceeding the CEO's approval authority.

To streamline the approval of enabling activities, the Secretariat is of the view that the current delegated authority of the CEO to approve GEF grants up to \$2 million should also include enabling activities. The Secretariat therefore intends to bring such a proposal for Council consideration at its November 2013 meeting.

However, since Non-Annex 1 Parties are required to submit their first biennial update report by December 2014 to UNFCCC, the Secretariat expects an increasing demand for grant funding towards the end of GEF-5 or mid -2014. Given the urgency of undertaking these enabling activities, the Secretariat is submitting this special intersessional work program for Council approval on a no objection basis.

¹ Enabling activities are not normally screened by STAP, hence, no advisories are expected in this work program.

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Table 1: GEF Resources Requested in the August 2013 Intersessional Work Program

Annex A: Non-Expedited Enabling Activities Submitted for Council Approval, August 2013

Where to send technical comments:

It is requested that Council Members send their technical comments electronically (in Word file) to the GEF Secretariat's program coordination registry at: gcoordination@TheGEF.org

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORTS

1. National communications are an obligation for all Parties under Articles 4.1 and 12 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Countries must report on the steps they are taking or envisage undertaking to implement the Convention (Articles 4.1 and 12).

2. In accordance with Article 12 of the Convention, each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties, through the UNFCCC Secretariat, the following elements of information: (a) A national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties; (b) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention; and (c) Any other information that the Party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculations of global emission trends of the UNFCCC. Decision 17.CP/8 provides the guidelines for Non-Annex 1 Parties for the preparation of national communications. In general national communications from Non-Annex 1 Parties are to be submitted every four years, while least developed countries may make their initial national communication submission at their discretion.

3. The UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), at its seventeenth session, decided that Non-Annex 1 Parties, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, should submit their first biennial update report by December 2014; the Least Developed Country (LDCs) Parties and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) may submit biennial update reports at their discretion. Biennial reports should be submitted every two years. The guidelines for biennial update reports for the Non-Annex 1 parties can be found in Annex III of Decision 2.CP/17. The scope of the Biennial Update Report (BUR) is similar to that of the National Communications, and countries have the option presenting project proposals for standalone BUR, or combining National Communications with the BUR.

4. The BURs are now a critical element of the UNFCCC infrastructure and will assist in providing the baseline data to inform the negotiations for the new climate change agreement under the UNFCCC which is currently scheduled for completion in 2015.

NON-EXPEDITED ENABLING ACTIVITIES

5. This work program consists of enabling activity proposals from six countries which combine their third National Communications and first BURs to UNFCCC. These proposals are presented in the GEF template for Climate Change Enabling Activity.

6. The Council is requested to review and approve these enabling activities including their associated Agency fees as presented in Annex A.

GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES AND THE WORK PROGRAM

7. The Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session (COP 16) decided that developing countries, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, should also submit BURs containing updates of national greenhouse gas inventories, including a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received. Accordingly, the GEF was requested to make available resources to support the Non-Annex 1 Parties in the preparation of their first BUR as early as possible in 2012 and on the basis of agreed full cost funding.

8. This work program addresses the climate change focal area objective 6 (CCM-6) set forth under the GEF-5 Programming Document supporting enabling activities and capacity building under the UNFCCC.

RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE AUGUST 2013 INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAM

9. This work program presented for approval by the GEF Council contains six enabling activity projects implemented through UNDP amounting to \$5.598 million in GEF resources, comprised of \$5.112 million in GEF project grants and \$0.486 million in Agency fees.

10. Current GEF-5 guidelines for financing national communications provide for countries to access up to \$500,000 from the climate change focal area set-aside for approval by the CEO under delegated authority; enabling activities requesting more than \$500,000 are required to be submitted for Council review and approval as part of a work program. With the new UNFCCC requirements for countries to provide biennial update report on top of their national communications reporting, countries are entitled for additional financing of up to \$352,000, thereby exceeding the CEO's approval authority. Therefore, this work program is submitted as a special intersessional for Council approval given the urgency of undertaking these enabling activities.

Table 1 GEF Resources Requested in the August 2013 Work Program
(\$ million)

Focal Area	Number of Enabling Activities	GEF Enabling activity Grant (\$million)	Agency Fees (\$million)	Total GEF Resources Requested in this WP (\$million)
Climate Change	6	5.112	0.486	5.598

** Agency fees are calculated as 9.5% of the GEF Enabling Activity Project Grant*

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED COUNTRY ENABLING ACTIVITIES

Ecuador

11. The enabling activity for Ecuador will review and update information on the geographical and sociocultural conditions through the collection and analysis of updated data. There will be a descriptive analysis of socio-economic disaggregated data linked to "risk groups" (gender, indigenous people, etc.). The greenhouse gas inventory will be completed for the years 2010 and 2012, with updates for the years 1990, 1994, 2000 and 2006.

12. Through the enabling activity, there will be an update on climate monitoring, climate studies and vulnerability analysis which were previously carried out in the country. There will be the development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The enabling activity will provide updated information on activities, programs and/or projects for climate change mitigation (which are developed or in process of execution) and summarize the National Mitigation Plan (NMP).

13. Ecuador will submit its first BUR in December 2014 while its Third National Communications (TNC) is to be submitted in March 2016.

Jamaica

14. Through the enabling activity project, Jamaica will undertake the national greenhouse gas emission inventory for the years 2006-2012, and improve its capability and capacity to collect data to be enhanced through the installation of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data inventory archiving system. The enabling activity project will enhance awareness on methods of inventory preparation for selected national institutions.

15. In terms of vulnerability and adaptation, the enabling activity project will allow for the development of improved climate scenarios, the review and update of information on sectors vulnerable to the impact of climate change, improved spatial planning of urban and coastal areas that includes consideration of the effects of climate change such as rise in sea level, powerful storm surges, more floods and more intense storms and hurricanes. There will also be the analysis of the effect of climate change on the long term provision of water supply for the domestic and agricultural sector. Through the enabling activity a national adaptation plan will also be developed.

16. In terms of mitigation actions, the enabling activity project will identify mitigation measures for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector along with developing mitigation measures for the energy sector. Overall, a draft national mitigation strategy will be developed. The enabling activity project will implement training and awareness-raising activities on National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) in various sectors.

17. Jamaica will submit its BUR in 2014 while its TNC will be submitted to the UNFCCC at COP 22 in 2016.

Malaysia

18. This enabling activity project for Malaysia will strengthen the institutional framework for the collection and processing of information for national communications. The enabling activity project will also strengthen the capacity of public institutions to address climate change.

19. Through the enabling activity, the country will develop tools to manage the development of a GHG emissions database. This enabling activity project will allow for the improved capability for modeling, analyzing and enabling projections for GHG emissions. This improved capability will allow for the incorporation of GHG data and information into the 11th Malaysia Plan.

20. In terms of adaptation, the enabling activity project will assemble and downscale climate models for various economic sectors; and complete specific studies on climate change vulnerability and impact scenarios for key critical sectors. There will be the identification of possible adaptation policy options including possible regulatory measures, along with the identification of the necessary adaptation technologies to be adopted.

21. In terms of possible mitigation actions, the TNC for Malaysia, will develop a NAMA registry, identify policy options for improved mitigation action and prepare technical reports and proposals on potential mitigation actions and NAMA in key sectors.

22. Malaysia will submit its first BUR to UNFCCC in 2014 while its TNC will be submitted in 2016.

Paraguay

23. Through the enabling activity project, vulnerability assessments for Paraguay will be prepared for water sector agriculture (from the point of view of food sovereignty) and public health (eco-epidemiology). A report will be prepared on the existing relationship between climate and the socio-economic baseline in the most vulnerable sectors along with an update on the progress of the implementation of adaptation actions which were proposed in the first and second national communications. A National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will also be prepared.

24. An inventory of greenhouse gases will be prepared for the time series 2005-2012. A national structure for the update of GHG emissions will be established. In terms of public awareness, the web site of the Secretariat of Environment in Paraguay will be updated with information concerning climate change issues. Workshops and seminars will be organized and there will be participation in public events in order to disseminate information on climate change issues.

25. Paraguay will submit its first BUR to the UNFCCC at COP20 in 2014 while the TNC is to be submitted in the year 2016.

Thailand

26. The enabling activity project will enhance the capacity of the Thai inventory taskforce to continue to archive activity data and emission factors and update the GHG inventories of Thailand for 2010, and 2012 for the BUR and TNC, respectively.

27. The enabling activity project will allow for a review of mitigation actions and their effects as well as identifying mitigation options for the future. Information on development of NAMAs, domestic monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) and national registry systems will be provided through this enabling activity project.

28. Additional regional climate scenarios will be developed for Thailand along with improved climate vulnerability assessment in agriculture, water resources and the health sectors. Pilot studies on agricultural risks to climate variability and extreme events will be conducted in the North and Northeast of Thailand.

29. Thailand will submit its first BUR to the UNFCCC in 2014, while its TNC will be submitted in 2016.

Yemen

30. Through the enabling activity project, Yemen's GHG inventories for the BUR, and TNC for all sectors will be completed for the years 2010 and 2012, respectively.

31. Climate change scenarios will be revised using appropriate models. There will be vulnerability assessments of new pilot areas for water, agriculture, and coastal zones including national shoreline topography mapping. Vulnerability assessments will also be conducted in new thematic areas such as health and eco-tourism.

32. Baseline and mitigation scenarios until 2040 for abatement of GHG emissions considering socio-economic trends will be developed along with a GHG emission abatement action plan. Potential long-term mitigation possibilities will be analyzed with potential greenhouse gas emission reduction paths updated and with recommendations for forward looking policy frameworks.

33. Technology, financial and capacity needs for mitigation and adaptation will also be assessed through this enabling activity.

34. Yemen will submit its first BUR to the UNFCCC at COP20 in 2014 while the TNC is to be submitted in the year 2016.

Non-Expedited Enabling Activities Submitted for Council Approval
Under the GEF Trust Fund
August 2013

All amounts shown in US\$.

#	GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	GEF Project Grant	Project Agency Fees	Cofinance	Total Project Cost
<u>Climate Change</u>								
1	5478	Ecuador	UNDP	Third National Communication (TNC) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR)	852,000	80,940		852,000
2	5476	Jamaica	UNDP	Third National Communication (TNC) and Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC	852,000	80,940	200,000	1,052,000
3	5296	Malaysia	UNDP	Third National Communications (TNC) to the UNFCCC and Biennial Update Reporting (BUR)	852,000	80,940	804,000	1,656,000
4	5475	Paraguay	UNDP	Third National Communication on Climate Change and First Biennial Update Report	852,000	80,940	320,000	1,172,000
5	5370	Thailand	UNDP	Third National Communication (TNC) and Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC	852,000	80,940	700,000	1,552,000
6	5474	Yemen	UNDP	Third National Communication and First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC	852,000	80,940	40,000	892,000
Sub total for Climate Change					5,112,000	485,640	2,064,000	7,176,000
<u>Grand Total</u>					5,112,000	485,640	2,064,000	7,176,000