

GEF Council Meeting  
May 25 – 27, 2014  
Cancun, Mexico

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PILOT ACCREDITATION OF  
GEF PROJECT AGENCIES**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Council agreed in May 2011 to launch a pilot program, in accordance with the GEF-5 policy recommendation to broaden the GEF Partnership under Paragraph 28 of the GEF Instrument, to accredit “up to ten” new agencies, called GEF Project Agencies, to assist countries in implementing GEF-financed projects.

2. The Accreditation Pilot began in January 2012 after 16 agencies submitted Stage I applications to the Secretariat by December 31, 2011, the deadline announced by the Council for the first round. Based on the outcome of the Stage I Value-added Review of these applicant agencies, the Council in June 2012 approved 11 applicants to progress to the Stage II of the accreditation process.

3. These 11 applicant agencies were: The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA); Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade – Brazil (FUNBIO); Foreign Economic Cooperation Office – China (FECO); National Environment Fund – Peru (FONAM); VTB Bank – Russian Federation (VTB); Banco de Desarrollo de America Latina (CAF); Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD); World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US); Conservation International (CI); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).

4. Since June 2012, the independent GEF Accreditation Panel (the Panel) has been conducting Stage II reviews of these applicants in order to assess whether they meet the GEF’s Fiduciary Standards as well as its Environmental and Social Safeguards including Gender Mainstreaming. To date, two applicants (WWF-US and CI) have completed their Stage II review process and received approval from the Panel to move from Stage II to Stage III of the accreditation process. Four agencies (DBSA, FECO, IUCN and CAF) have received conditional approval, while three agencies (FUNBIO, BOAD and VTB) were asked to undergo further review after they have undertaken compliance related institutional improvements as directed by the Panel. Two applicants (IFRC and FONAM) were rejected by the Panel after the initial desk reviews of their Stage II applications.

## **CURRENT STATUS OF APPLICANT AGENCIES**

5. WWF-US and CI, the two agencies that have received the Panel’s approval to move from Stage II to Stage III, have now completed the accreditation process by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Secretariat and Financial Procedures Agreements (FPAs) with the Trustee and they have now become fully functional GEF agencies.

6. The process of further reviews of the remaining applicants is continuing as agencies address the compliance issues identified by the Panel. According to the Council-approved process, applicants can be given a maximum of 18 months to address identified compliance issues (six months to address fiduciary issues and 12 months to address issues related to compliance with the GEF’s environmental, social safeguards and gender mainstreaming policies). It is also possible for the Panel to exercise a degree of flexibility, in line with the Council approved policy and procedures. Consequently, given that initial desk reviews for all agencies were completed in June 2013, it is expected that the last agency will conclude its Stage II review by December 2014.

7. The status of the Stage II reviews of all 11 applicants is provided in Annex 1.

# ANNEX 1. PROGRESS TO DATE ON ACCREDITATION PANEL'S STAGE II REVIEWS (AS OF APRIL 24, 2014)

Agency	Stage I Application submission	Stage II application submission and fee payment	Request for missing documents/ translations	Completed Stage II application submission	Stage II Initial Desk Review - Panel Report Date	Resubmission After Initial Review and Additional Fee Payment	Further Review - Panel Report Date	Resubmission After Further Review	Safeguards Review after Grace Period - Panel Report	Resubmission After Safeguards Review	Interview – Panel Report	Resubmission After Interview	Final Panel Decision
WWF-US	December 31, 2011	May 16, 2012  Fee payment: June 18, 2012	N/A	N/A	July 16, 2012  Did not pass Fiduciary fully  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>3 months</u> to fix compliance and resubmit for “further review”  Due date: October 16, 2012	September 18, 2012  Additional Fee Payment: 10/8/ 2012	October 8, 2012  Passed Fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received “Conditional Approval” with <u>6 months</u> grace period to fix compliance with standards  Due Date: April 8, 2013  Signed Interim MoU with GEFSEC on January 10, 2013	February 7, 2013	March 20, 2013  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>3 months</u> to fix remaining items and complete interview with Panel  Due date: June 20, 2013	April 9, 2013  Interview Date: April 23, 2013	April 24, 2013  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>1 month</u> to fix remaining issues  Due date: June 1, 2013	May 13, 2013  Additional Fee Payment: 5/29/ 2013	<b>June 14 2013</b>  <b>Approved</b>  Received Approval to move to Stage III and sign MoU with GEFSEC and FPA with the Trustee.  <b>MoU signed on October 2, 2013</b>  <b>FPA signed on December 11, 2013</b>
CI	December 31, 2011	May 16, 2012  Fee payment: June 27, 2012	N/A	N/A	September 5, 2012  Panel could not conduct full review – submission was incomplete.  Received <u>3 months</u> to complete and resubmit for further review  Due date: December 5, 2012  Panel did not request additional fee for further review.	December 21, 2012	April 30, 2013  Passed Fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received “conditional approval” with <u>3 months</u> grace period to fix compliance with safeguards  Due date: July 30, 2013	May 24, 2013	N/A  Interview date: May 30, 2013	N/A	May 31, 2013  Additional Fee Payment: June 13, 2013	June 17, 2013	<b>June 17 2013</b>  <b>Approved</b>  Received approval to move to Stage III and sign MoU with GEFSEC and FPA with the Trustee.  <b>MoU signed on October 22, 2014</b>  <b>FPA signed on January 28, 2014</b>

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DBSA	December 31, 2011	May 16, 2012  Fee payment: October 30, 2012	N/A	N/A	July 3, 2012  Passed Fiduciary  Did not pass fully Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received “Conditional Approval” to with <u>12 months</u> grace period to fix compliance with environmental and social standards  Due Date: July 3, 2013	Partial Submission on 6/28/2013.  Partial submission on 10/3/ 2013.  Additional Fee Payment: 10/09/2013.	October 17, 2013  Received <u>1 additional month</u> to address remaining issues  Dues date: November 17, 2013	November 15, 2013  And December 09, 2013  And January 22, 2014	January 31, 2104  Panel requested clarifications on institutional changes due to internal reorganization.	February 12, 2014  Interview Date: February 24-26, 2014  Additional Fee Payment: 2/24/2014	March 3, 2014  Did not pass all safeguards and M&E issues  Received <u>6 weeks</u> to fix remaining issues.  Due date: April 14, 2014	April 14, 2014	Expected in May 2014
FUNBIO	December 31, 2011	May 16, 2012  Fee payment: July 17, 2013	August 30, 2012	September 20, 2012	October 25, 2012  Did not pass Fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>6 months</u> to fix compliance and resubmit for further review  Due Date: April 25, 2013	April 24, 2013  Missing info. Provided on 7/22/2013, 7/ 25/2013, 8/7/2013  Additional Review Fee Payment: May 20, 2013	October 16, 2013  Did not pass fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>2 additional months</u> to fix fiduciary issues  Due Date: December 16, 2013	Partial submission on 11/ 22/ 2013  Missing info. Provided on 12/10/2013, 12/12/2013, 12/16/2013  Revised submission on December 16, 2013  Missing info. Provided on 12/17/2013, 12/19/2013	January 28, 2014  Received <u>3 months</u> to address remaining issues  Due Date: April 28, 2014  Missing info. Provided on 03/20/2014, 03/28/2014	Expected on April 28, 2014			

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FECO	December 31, 2011	May 17, 2012  Fee payment: July 11, 2012	August 30, 2012	September 27, 2012  October 19, 2012  November 1, 2012	January 10, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary fully  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>3 months</u> to fix fiduciary compliance and resubmit for further review  Due date: April 10, 2013	April 11, 2013	August 2, 2013  Passed Fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received “conditional approval” with <u>9 months</u> grace period to fix compliance with environmental and social safeguards  Due date: May 8, 2014	April 15, 2014	Expected in May 2014				
VTB	December 31, 2011	May 22, 2012 and  June 13, 2012  Fee Payment: June 30, 2012	October 04, 2012	February 27, 2013	May 16, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary fully  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>6 months</u> to fix fiduciary compliance and resubmit for further review  Due date: November 16, 2013	Requested and was granted 2 weeks extension on November 13, 2014  Provided partial submission on December 17, 2014 and requested extension until March 31, 2014  Provided update on 2/26/2014	March 3, 2014  Panel granted <u>2 additional months</u> to fix fiduciary issues  Due date: May 5, 2014  Provided update on 3/12/2014	Expected on May 5, 2014	Expected in June 2014				

Agency	Stage I Application submission	Stage II application submission and fee payment	Request for missing documents/ translations	Completed Stage II application submission	Stage II Initial Desk Review - Panel Report Date	Resubmission After Initial Review and Additional Fee Payment	Further Review - Panel Report Date	Resubmission After Further Review	Safeguards Review after Grace Period – Panel Report	Resubmission After Safeguards Review	Interview – Panel Report	Resubmission After Interview	Final Panel Decision
IUCN	December 31, 2011	May 16, 2012  Fee payment: July 25, 2012	November 29, 2012	December 7, 2012	February 18, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary fully  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>6 months</u> to complete compliance and resubmit for further review  Due Date: August 18, 2013	Partial submission on June 4, 2013  Partial submission on July 22, 2013  Additional Review Fee Payment: July 18, 2013	October 16, 2013  Did not Pass Fiduciary  Received <u>2 additional months</u> to fix fiduciary  Due Date: December 16, 2014  Partial submissions on 11/15/ 2013 and 11/21/2014  Updated Panel Report issued on November 26, 2013	December 16, 2013  Partial submission on January 31, 2014  Passed fiduciary but did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received “conditional approval” <u>with 3 months</u> grace period to fix safeguards issues  Due Date: February 26, 2014	February 19, 2014  Partial submission on April 17, 2014  Interview Date: April 28-29, 2014		Expected in May 2014		
BOAD	December 31, 2011	May 22, 2012  Fee payment: June 28, 2012	October 16, 2012	January 31, 2013	June 5, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>6 months</u> to fix compliance  Due Date: December 5, 2013	December 16, 2013  Additional Fee received: January 22, 2014	March 3, 2014  Received <u>2 months</u> to fix remaining issues  Due date: May 5, 2014	Expected on May 5, 2014	Expected in June 2014				

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CAF	December 31, 2011	May 17, 2012  Fee Payment: July 17, 2012	December 6, 2012	January 31, 2013	April 3, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary fully  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received <u>6 months</u> to complete compliance  Due Date: October 3, 2013	October 3, 2013  Additional Fee received: October 28, 2013  Partial submission on 11/12/2013	December 18, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary.  Received <u>2 additional months</u> to fix fiduciary issues.  Due Date: February 18, 2014	February 18, 2014  Additional Fee Received: March 18, 2014  Provided missing info on 03/19/2014	April 2, 2014  Passed Fiduciary  Did not pass all Environmental and Social Safeguards  Received “conditional approval” with 2 months grace period  Due Date: June 2, 2014	Expected on June 2, 2014			
IFRC	December 31, 2011	May 16, 2012  Fee payment: October 19, 2012	January 2, 2013	February 2, 2013	June 17, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary  Did not pass Environmental and Social Safeguards  Panel did not believe IFRC could fix fiduciary deficiencies within 6 months, the maximum amount of time an agency can receive to fix compliance with fiduciary standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Rejected June 2013</b>
FONAM	December 31, 2011	May 17, 2012  Fee Payment: August 23, 2012	September 14, 2012	October 30, 2012	January 10, 2013  Did not pass Fiduciary  Did not pass Environmental and Social Safeguards  Panel did not believe FONAM could fix	N/A	N/	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Rejected – January 2013</b>



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					fiduciary deficiencies within 6 months, the maximum amount of time an agency can receive to fix compliance with fiduciary standards.								