



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS LDCF/SCCF MEETING JUNE 24, 2009

1. The following is a record prepared by the GEF Secretariat of comments, understandings and clarifications of certain points made during discussions of the agenda items of the LDCF/ SCCF Council Meeting.
2. Four information documents were circulated to the LDCF/SCCF Council at this session, including:
 - (a) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.6/Inf.1 – Provisional List of Documents
 - (b) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.6/Inf.2 – Status Report of the Climate Change Funds (Prepared by the Trustee)
 - (c) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.6/Inf.3 – Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)
 - (d) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.4/Inf.4 – Draft Adaptation to Climate Change Programming Strategy

Agenda Item 4: Work Program

3. GEF Secretariat provided a brief summary of the information provided in the document, highlighting the first two health related SCCF projects proposed by UNDP/WHO on a global scale and UNDP in Ghana. The total SCCF resources requested through this work program are \$22.19 million, which will mobilize \$363.16 million of co-financing meaning \$16.30 for each SCCF grant dollar.
4. After a concern expressed by a Council Member, it was agreed that a new version of the PIF of the Ghana project, including more detailed information on the proposed adaptation measures to be taken by the project, as well as their concrete linkages with relevant other projects, will be re-circulated for a Council approval on a non-objection basis.
5. Another Council Member raised a question on future WPs in light of the proposed strong replenishment of the LDCF and SCCF during the GEF-5: how should remarkable increase in resources be taken into consideration in future programming, and would the current system be able to absorb the money? – GEF CEO responded the Secretariat to welcome Council guidance on more detailed programming strategy in case of a successful replenishment. By far the two

Funds and especially the SCCF have suffered from lack of predictability with funds available for programming.

Agenda Item 5: Results-Based Management Framework for the LDCF and SCCF

6. GEF Secretariat provided a brief summary of the information provided in the document, which builds upon earlier Council papers but is now tailored to support the LDCF and SCCF to measure progress towards impacts and targets reflecting the respective development sectors. Underlying principles of the document are enhancing accountability, effectiveness of management, monitoring, learning and evaluation. The framework tries to capture the additional adaptation components normally measurable on outcome and process levels. Expected impacts are presented, but they will be better reflected in evaluations. Indicators are still work in progress under broad cooperation, and the whole system will evolve with work on the field.

7. Council Members noted and welcomed the improvements in the results framework and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop and improve RBM and monitoring for both funds. A number of delegates provided specific comments. For example the result statements would be stronger if they included the targeted beneficiaries. The monitoring of on-going projects for more timely learning and flexible management and risk management are also important elements of an RBM framework.

8. A Council Member stressed that it would be important to make it easy for receiving countries to find out where resources are at each moment of the project cycle. The GEF CEO responded that the new database makes it possible to track funds and to monitor the 10 days service rule of the Secretariat.

9. The GEF Secretariat was encouraged to promote the sharing of lessons across relevant actors (ODA projects, Adaptation Fund and Pilot Project on Climate Resilience of the World Bank) and to develop a strategy to capture lessons learned. The issue of indicators was raised and the importance of indicators for results focusing on policy changes as well as intermediate phases noted. A Council Member asked for clarifications on the bottlenecks in the project cycle and which specific measures would be taken to assist countries with low capacity to submit project proposals and meet co-financing requirements. The NGO Network representative requested that 1) community-based empowerment be considered among the expected outcomes to secure stronger community engagement and 2) there should also be an indicator related to disbursements.

10. A Secretariat representative responded that efforts to enhance communication with LDCs and to streamline the project cycle for adaptation, especially in case of the LDCF are ongoing. It takes time to prepare the projects and A Step by Step Guide on Accessing LDCF Funding is being prepared to promote country ownership. As well, the Secretariat meets with the LDCs, and there is a task force particularly devoted to enhanced communication. There was further discussion on project cycle delays, and UNDP confirmed that special effort was being made to speed up project endorsements by COP 15. Other Agencies will be involved in similar efforts as the Funds evolve. It was noted that it was important to have sufficient documentation on project approvals and disbursements to present at the COP 15.

11. The Secretariat reiterated that the RBM framework is a work in progress and indicators still needed to be finalized and that both results and process indicators are part of the framework.

Decision on Agenda Item 6: Administrative Budget

12. GEF Secretariat provided a brief summary of the information provided in the document highlighting a full time professional position to be filled for the LDCF, and a program assistant for LDCF/SCCF to support the work of the current staff.

Agenda Item 7: Other business

13. Various Council Members raised the issue of the on-going joint evaluation on the LDCF by the DANIDA Evaluation Office and the GEF Office of Evaluation, which final report will come out at the end of August 2009. The results will be presented to the Council in its next November Meeting. The evaluation was not requested by the LDCF/SCCF Council, but relevant results and recommendations can be incorporated into the OPS4.

14. The meeting was closed on June 24, 2009.