



COMPILATION OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED
BY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE
APRIL 2013 GEF INTERSESSIONAL
WORK PROGRAM

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the April 2013 GEF Intersessional Work Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----------|
| BIODIVERSITY | 1 |
| 1. Argentina - FAO: Governance Strengthening for the Management and Protection of Coastal- Marine Biodiversity in Key Ecological Areas and the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) - GEF ID = 5112 | 1 |
| 2. Brazil - UNDP: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into NTFP and AFS Production Practices in Multiple- Use Forest Landscapes of High Conservation Value - GEF ID = 5091 | 1 |
| 3. China - UNEP: Expansion and Improvement of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province - GEF ID = 4865..... | 1 |
| 4. Colombia - IADB: Sustainable Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Magdalena River basin - GEF ID = 4849..... | 2 |
| 5. Dominican Republic - UNDP: Conserving Biodiversity in Coastal Areas Threatened by Rapid Tourism and Physical Infrastructure Development - GEF ID = 5088..... | 2 |
| 6. Egypt - UNDP: Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity into Tourism Development and Operations in Threatened Ecosystems in Egypt - GEF ID = 5073 | 4 |
| 7. India - UNEP: Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization in Agricultural Sector to Ensure Ecosystem Services and Reduce Vulnerability - GEF ID = 5173 | 4 |
| 8. Mexico - UNDP: Strengthening Management of the PA System to Better Conserve Endangered Species and their Habitats - GEF ID = 5089..... | 5 |
| 9. Myanmar - UNDP: Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management - GEF ID = 5159..... | 5 |
| CLIMATE CHANGE | 7 |
| 10. Global - UNEP: Technology Needs Assessment - GEF ID = 4948..... | 7 |
| 11. Regional - EBRD: EBRD South Eastern Mediterranean EE/ ESCO Markets Platform (PROGRAM) - GEF ID = 5143 | 7 |
| 12. China - World Bank: Energy Conservation, Greenhouse Gas Mitigation and Soil Carbon Sequestration in Staple Crop Production - GEF ID = 5121 | 7 |
| 13. Colombia - IADB: Demonstration and Assessment of Battery-electric Vehicles for Mass Transit in Colombia - GEF ID = 5199 | 8 |
| 14. Cuba - UNDP: Clean Energy Technologies for the Rural Areas in Cuba (CleanEnerg-Cuba) - GEF ID = 5149 | 9 |
| 15. Egypt - UNDP: Grid-Connected Small-Scale Photovoltaic Systems – GEF ID = 5064..... | 9 |
| 16. Egypt - UNIDO: Promoting Low-carbon Technologies for Cooling and Heating in Industrial Applications in Egypt - GEF ID = 4790 | 10 |
| 17. India - UNIDO: Organic Waste Streams for Industrial Renewable Energy Applications in India - GEF ID = 5087 | 10 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 18. India - UNDP: Scale Up of Access to Clean Energy for Rural Productive and Domestic Uses - GEF ID = 4900..... | 11 |
| 19. Indonesia - UNDP: Promoting Energy Efficiency for Non-HCFC Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (PENHRA) - GEF ID = 4899 | 12 |
| 20. Montenegro - UNDP: Towards Carbon Neutral Tourism - GEF ID = 5098..... | 12 |
| 21. South Africa - UNEP: Enabling South Africa to Prepare Its Third National Communication (3NC) and Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC - GEF ID = 5237 | 12 |
| 22. Sudan - UNDP: Promoting Utility-Scale Power Generation from Wind Energy - GEF ID = 4745 | 12 |
| INTERNATIONAL WATERS | 13 |
| 23. Global - UNDP: Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their Coasts through Enhanced Sharing and Application of LME/ICM/MPA Knowledge and Information Tools - GEF ID = 5278..... | 13 |
| 24. Global - UNDP: Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities - GEF ID = 5271 | 13 |
| 25. Regional - UNDP: Integrated Water Resources Management in the Puyango-Tumbes, Catamayo-Chira and Zarumilla Transboundary Aquifers and River Basins - GEF ID = 5284 | 13 |
| 26. Regional - UNEP: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities - GEF ID = 4940 | 13 |
| LAND DEGRADATION | 14 |
| 27. Brazil - UNDP: Sustainable Land Use Management in the Semi-arid Region of North-east Brazil (Sergipe) - GEF ID = 5276 | 14 |
| 28. China - ADB: Sustainable and Climate Resilient Land Management in Western PRC - GEF ID = 5142..... | 14 |
| 29. Lebanon - UNDP: Sustainable Land Management in the Qaroun Watershed - GEF ID = 5229 | 14 |
| MULTI FOCAL AREA | 14 |
| 30. Global - UNDP: GEF SGP Fifth Operational Phase--Implementing the Program Using STAR Resources II - GEF ID = 4678..... | 14 |
| 31. Regional - UNEP: Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement MEAs by Strengthening Planning, and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific Islands - GEF ID = 5195 | 14 |
| 32. Regional - World Bank: Senegal River Basin Climate Change Resilience Development Project - GEF ID = 5133..... | 15 |
| 33. Bahamas - UNEP: Pine Islands - Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahamas, New Providence, Abaco and Andros) - GEF ID = 4847 | 15 |
| 34. Bolivia - UNEP: Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting – GEF ID = 5299..... | 15 |
| 35. Chile – UNEP: Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting - GEF ID = 5150..... | 15 |
| 36. Ecuador - FAO: Promotion of Climate-smart Livestock Management Integrating Reversion of Land Degradation and Reduction of Desertification Risks in Vulnerable Provinces - GEF ID = 4775 | 16 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 37. Gabon - World Bank: Sustainable Management of Critical Wetlands Ecosystems - GEF ID = 5264..... | 16 |
| 38. Kenya - FAO: Development of SFM and Support to REDD for Dryland Forests - GEF ID = 5083 | 16 |
| 39. Myanmar - FAO: Sustainable Cropland and Forest Management in Priority Agro-ecosystems of Myanmar - GEF ID = 5123..... | 17 |
| 40. Nicaragua - UNDP: Strengthening the Resilience of Multiple-use Protected Areas to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits - GEF ID = 5277 | 18 |
| 41. Russian Federation - UNIDO: Save the Source: Catalyzing Market Transformation of Breweries from a Major Natural Resource Consuming Industry to a Pro-active Steward for Resource Efficient Cleaner Production - GEF ID = 5293 | 18 |
| 42. Russian Federation - UNDP: Sustainable Land Management and Ecosystem-based Climate Change Mitigation in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion - GEF ID = 5104 | 19 |
| 43. Solomon Islands - FAO: Integrated Forest Management in the Solomon Islands - GEF ID = 5122 | 20 |
| 44. Tunisia - World Bank: Oases Ecosystems and Livelihoods Project - GEF ID = 5266 | 21 |
| 45. Yemen - UNEP: Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting - GEF ID = 5152..... | 21 |
| 46. Regional - FAO: Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian Countries and Turkey -GEF ID = 5000..... | 21 |
| 47. Regional - UNEP: Sub regional Action Plan (Asia) for PBDEs Management and Reduction - GEF ID = 5148 | 21 |
| 48. Regional - UNEP: Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asian Region - GEF ID = 4894..... | 22 |
| 49. Bangladesh - UNIDO: Environmentally-sound Management and Disposal of PCBs and Medical Wastes - GEF ID = 4858..... | 22 |
| 50. Egypt - UNDP: Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of POPs Originating from Incineration and Open Burning of Health Care- and Electronic-waste - GEF ID = 4392..... | 22 |
| 51. Indonesia - UNDP: Reducing Releases of PBDEs and UPOPs Originating from Unsound Waste Management and Recycling Practices and the Manufacturing of Plastics in Indonesia - GEF ID = 5052..... | 22 |
| 52. Senegal - UNIDO: Environmentally Sound Management of Municipal and Hazardous Solid Waste to Reduce Emission of Unintentional POPs GEF ID = 4888..... | 22 |
| 53. Serbia - UNIDO: Environmentally-Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs - GEF ID = 4877 | 22 |
| 54. Turkey - UNDP/UNIDO: POPs Legacy Elimination and POPs Release Reduction Project - GEF ID = 4601 | 22 |
| 55. Vietnam - UNDP: Vietnam POPS and Sound Harmful Chemicals Management Project - GEF ID = 5067 | 22 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PIF SUBMITTED UNDER THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH..... | 23 |
| Regional - UNDP: EAS Implementation of the Yellow Sea LME Strategic | |

| | |
|--|----|
| Action Programme for Adaptive Ecosystem-Based Management - GEF | |
| ID = 4343 | 23 |

BIODIVERSITY

1. Argentina - FAO: Governance Strengthening for the Management and Protection of Coastal- Marine Biodiversity in Key Ecological Areas and the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) - GEF ID = 5112

✓ Germany's Comments

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- We suggest creating a clearer link between components 1 and 2 by focusing the EAF mainstreaming into fishery management plans of those seascapes that are adjacent to and/or surrounding the newly created MPAs. This may contribute to improving the project scope to focus resources in order to leverage additional synergies between the two components, and to clearly demonstrating the benefits of MPAs to the fisheries sector.

2. Brazil - UNDP: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into NTFF and AFS Production Practices in Multiple-Use Forest Landscapes of High Conservation Value - GEF ID = 5091

✓ Germany's Comments

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The approach and the strategy of the proposal are relevant and adequate concerning Brazilian sector policies and priorities (e.g. National Plan for Promotion of Chains of Socio-Biodiversity Products; Food Acquisition Programme etc.). However, we would like to add the following considerations to STAP Advisory Response and Guidance:
 - There is a large untapped synergy and cooperation potential with German-Brazilian technical cooperation projects (especially tropical forest conservation and sustainable use of natural resources) that shall be explored;
 - Following our experiences with biodiversity conservation and promotion of chains of socio-biodiversity products, both in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest regions, the inclusion of the latter biome into the project's scope should be considered.

3. China - UNEP: Expansion and Improvement of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province - GEF ID = 4865

✓ Germany's Comments

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- We recommend the following improvements:

- Include an analysis of the institutional set-up underlying biodiversity conservation and protected area management in order to identify and address possible barriers;
- Seek partnerships for governmental and non-governmental organizations in making use of the proposed environmental education facilities;
- Take into account experiences of and synergies with the ongoing GIZ project “Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in China”.

✓ **USA’s Comments**

- While we commend the objectives of this project, we agree with the STAP recommendations to provide more detail and the need for more focused programming to improve management effectiveness in protected areas. We would also like to see additional information regarding the commitments of the regional government and Wuhan/Central China Normal Universities and their support of this project, as well as additional details regarding the provincial State Forestry Administration’s support for conservation efforts. We also note that the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development also has a role in protected area management that goes unmentioned in the proposal.

4. Colombia - IADB: Sustainable Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Magdalena River basin - GEF ID = 4849

✓ **Germany’s Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The German Government (BMZ) through the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) provides support to Colombia through the implementation of the bilateral project PROMAC (Environmental Policy and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources). Within the efforts of donor coordination it is requested that the final project document specifies ways of collaboration/ coordination.

✓ **USA’s Comments**

- The United States applauds the introduction of this PIF and believes that it closely complements work by USAID/Colombia in the region.

5. Dominican Republic - UNDP: Conserving Biodiversity in Coastal Areas Threatened by Rapid Tourism and Physical Infrastructure Development - GEF ID = 5088

✓ **Germany’s Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal; in addition, Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

- The project proposal focusses on some of the core environmental and development challenges of the Dominican Republic. During the project formulation, the following aspects should be taken into account:
 - The role of the local population in the design and development of alternative management models (land use, ecotourism, etc.), and in the establishment and

management of protected areas should be reflected in the project design. We consider it necessary to precisely define the extent to which the local population can participate in decision-making processes to design and to implement the project. We also highly recommend establishing a multi-stakeholder platform to ensure overall support of the project;

- The valuation of the ecosystem services should include all service areas of biodiversity (ecological, economic, social, traditional, educational, etc.), analyze conditions and trends, describe dependencies, describe who impacts on them, and who are winners and losers when it comes to their utilization and management;
- Page 5, Para 6 refers to the creation of local work commissions to combat desertification in arid areas. In this context, the Dominican Inter-Institutional Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the UNCCD, the GTI (*Grupo Tecnico Inter-Institucional*) should be involved closely to provide lessons learned from similar experiences in the border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti;
- When it comes to developing adaptation measures, ecosystem-based approaches or “natural solutions” should always be considered systematically in wider adaptation efforts both on the community and national level;
- With regard to improving governance both in the environmental and tourism sector, the entire range of available policy instruments should be considered (e.g. not only command and control instruments, but also information instruments, codes of conduct, voluntary industry agreements & standards, certifications, fiscal incentives, etc.);
- With regard to tourism development, the project proposal does not yet include any information on the sustainable tourism services which shall be offered in the two targeted regions. Therefore, we request a more detailed description of the proposed sustainable tourism services in the final project document to evaluate the feasibility of the project and the extent to which conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas and local community development can be integrated into the project;
- From our experiences, we do not recommend developing a nationally approved certification system for the hotel industry, which is focusing only biodiversity issues. We would like to emphasize the importance of certification systems that holistically integrate all sustainability dimensions;
- Regarding the training of stakeholders in conservation of biodiversity and sustainable tourism, we would like to underline that training measures have to be ensured not only in the beginning but throughout the entire project phase and they should be sustained after completing the project;
- Since the activities between the MA (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) and its ecotourism department, the MITUR (Ministry of Tourism) and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development do not seem to be coordinated yet, we would like to point out the importance of the coordination of their activities to facilitate a coherent framework for sustainable initiatives. For this, existing coordination measures and initiatives within the Dominican Republic should be considered.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- We believe that this project is very relevant and timely in light of the attention responsible tourism development in protected areas has recently received in local media. The project appears to have included all of the necessary stakeholders, and its impacts will likely be appreciated by the surrounding communities in the Samana and Monte Christi areas.

6. Egypt - UNDP: Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity into Tourism Development and Operations in Threatened Ecosystems in Egypt - GEF ID = 5073

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The project proposal at this stage does not include any information on the tourism services to be offered in the three target regions. We request a more detailed description of the proposed tourism services in the final project document to evaluate the feasibility of the project and the extent to which conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and local community development can be integrated into the project;
- The proposed project aims at establishing a multi-stakeholder platform. Regarding the project's component 2 ("stakeholder engagement"), we would like to request more information on the engagement approach of local communities in the final project document. Additionally, we consider it necessary to precisely define the structure, inclusiveness, and engagement approach of local stakeholders at the level of each region.
- Besides determining sustainability advocates in the three targeted regions and protected areas, we highly recommend to engage the latter to share their know-how and experience in embedding sustainability into their businesses;
- Re. Pt. B2a): No new certification systems should be planned, while the National Tourism Ministry is considering using the Green Star Hotel Standard as a national benchmark. If this is not possible, any new system should be oriented towards it or be aligned with it.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- This appears to be a worthwhile project, and we particularly commend the laudable objectives under Component 2. We would like to know, however, if the "rollout of economic/fiscal and other suitable incentives (subsidies, tax deductions, promotion through national or regional government tourism materials/websites) and penalties (e.g. special taxes) to advance the adherence of private sector and local community businesses to the certification systems" (page 13) will require new legislation or can be implemented through some other means.

7. India - UNEP: Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization in Agricultural Sector to Ensure Ecosystem Services and Reduce Vulnerability - GEF ID = 5173

✓ **Japan's Comments**

- Following the GEF project will be implemented in the same countries and scopes of activities of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). In order to avoid duplication

of assistance then create synergy between projects, close coordination with JICA is highly recommended.

JICAs Projects:

West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project
http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2011/120329_01.html

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase 2)
<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2011/110616.html#a06>

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project
<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2010/110217.html#a02>

Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Project
http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2009/100331_01_06.html

8. Mexico - UNDP: Strengthening Management of the PA System to Better Conserve Endangered Species and their Habitats - GEF ID = 5089

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- Although the PPG envisages a vast financial sustainability review regarding the new fund for endangered species (FONCER), also economic programs and subsidies in other sectors (most of all the productive sector like fishery, forestry, livestock farming and agriculture, but also the infrastructure sector – including touristic infrastructure) need to be analysed regarding their (negative) impact on the named endangered species.
Looking at the complex structure of the underlying causes for the vanishing of the 14 species cited in the PIF, it seems advisable to mobilise further funds on the municipality and federal state level for species conservation -also outside of PAs- and to restructure and reduce perverse subsidies that are threatening their survival.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- This project appears to be comprehensive and methodical. We are particularly pleased to see an ecotourism component, as well as an emphasis on Mexico's most critically endangered species, included the vaquita. We would like to know, however, what data will be assessed, in addition to the presence or absence of endangered species in the PA system.

9. Myanmar - UNDP: Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management - GEF ID = 5159

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The project proposal is well written and aims to strengthen the national protected area system of Myanmar with a view to both conserve biodiversity and also to enable sustainable use of biological resources. We request the following aspects be taken into account:

- The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is a recently established institution to improve the conservation of Myanmar's natural heritage and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The project should also provide capacity building, in particular institutional and organizational capacity building, to facilitate the further development and consolidation of the institution;
- The proposal focusses particularly on (species) conservation. Given the current and future development pressures and potential effects of climate change, the project should balance this with focusing more on conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services, buffer management and connectivity as well as analyzing climate vulnerabilities both of ecosystems and communities;
- In this context, other types of protected areas such as indigenous and community-conserved areas (ICCAs) as well as instruments like Bio-Cultural Community Protocols (BCPs) should be considered when it comes to governance. Hereby, the project should consider more explicitly the third objective of the CBD, and in this sense explore possibilities to include *Access and Benefit Sharing* approaches in the project formulation;
- With regard to governance, we would like to highlight the particular situation with regard to previous (failed) resettlement attempts of indigenous and local communities (ILCs) from remote areas and ongoing political tensions and conflicts over land rights and governance issues. These are highly sensitive issues that need to be taken into account in an inter-institutional government context which aims at strengthening the commitment to civil society participation in decision-making processes;
- The project should take into consideration potential links with the work of the *Asian Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)* of the ASEAN regional organization, and consider lessons learned from other member states. In neighboring Thailand, for instance, the Eco-Best Project (<http://www.teeb-sea.info/>) financed by the EU and Germany might be able to provide valuable experiences with regard to sustainable financing of protected areas.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- We are pleased to see in this project a system-wide, national approach to PA capacity building and development. We are particularly pleased to see that the project aims for GOM full participation in ASEAN-WEN as well as plans to coordinate with the Global Tiger Initiative.
- We would, however, like to request more information regarding what incentives will be in place to encourage official adoption of suggestions for support for "Myanmar's policy framework for PA management and biodiversity conservation, the strengthening of relevant policies relating to PA management and biodiversity conservation." We would also appreciate additional information regarding how the location of the new PAs will be determined.

CLIMATE CHANGE

10. Global - UNEP: Technology Needs Assessment - GEF ID = 4948

- *No comments received for this project.*

11. Regional - EBRD: EBRD South Eastern Mediterranean EE/ ESCO Markets Platform (PROGRAM) - GEF ID = 5143

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- We consider Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia as an appropriate country choice. Egypt seems less attractive for energy efficiency investments and ESCOs as energy prices are rather low. We recommend the following improvements:
 - Any competition to existing funds should be avoided and the proposal should point out how complementarity to existing structures or programs will be ensured. There are currently opened funds, e.g in Tunisia there is the “Fonds National de Maîtrise de l'Energie (FNME)” (Agence Française de Développement) and the programme “Appui à la Ligne de Maîtrise de l'Energie (ALME)” also supporting energy efficiency investments. The German KfW had environmental funds operating in Morocco and Tunisia (FODEP).
 - There have already been several basically unsuccessful attempts of supporting the creation of an ESCO market in the region. Lessons learnt from these experiences shall be considered when further developing the project.
 - We are doubtful if the suggested financial instruments (hard loans) will significantly increase attractiveness of ESCO and energy efficiency investment in the region. Although the non-availability of long-term financing is indeed an important barrier for investments in this sector, the financial instruments need to be flexible enough in order to be able to integrate (temporarily) subsidy elements that may counter-balance high transaction costs and market failures for certain technologies.

✓ USA's Comments

- We laud the objectives of this platform under the GEF's public-private partnership program and look forward to more details on implementation through a progress update in the future.

12. China - World Bank: Energy Conservation, Greenhouse Gas Mitigation and Soil Carbon Sequestration in Staple Crop Production - GEF ID = 5121

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- We strongly emphasize the concerns expressed in comment 1 of STAP and ask to consider them in the further development of the project. Concerning the demonstration

of conservation tillage practices, we agree that 48 months project lifetime is rather short, and that knowledge diffusion should be ensured beyond the project lifetime.

- Further, Germany is of the opinion that conservational tillage is linked with high investments and the feasibility of the technology should be evaluated first (valuating co-benefits), before promoting the demonstration of technical applications.
- As farming activities depend widely on natural conditions and farmers' experiences it is crucial that farmers' knowledge is involved in the planning. This could mean that centers of demonstration applications should include a larger group of farms/ farmers in order to promote knowledge diffusion among these stakeholders.
- Further, knowledge from other activities around the globe concerning conservation tillage should be taken into account. Maize, due to its large amount of straw, is a critical crop in respect of conservation tillage. Germany requests an explanation of the decision process to demonstrate conservation tillage on maize and wheat.
- Germany strongly recommends reassessing the feasibility to achieve the set goals (area to be converted to sustainable land management, etc.).
- Germany strongly recommends an assessment of a technology sharing system as a way to reduce investment costs for single farmers.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- We believe this to be a worthwhile project from a technical perspective. However, we would appreciate additional information about the level of support that has been enlisted from the lengthy list of government stakeholders, as we found this to be unclear in the PIF. It seems that full commitment from the Ministry of Agriculture and local governments will be essential to the success of this project.

13. Colombia - IADB: Demonstration and Assessment of Battery-electric Vehicles for Mass Transit in Colombia - GEF ID = 5199

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The proposal suggests both the development and assessment of battery-electric busses in Colombia. This might contribute to the ambitions of Colombia to develop a NAMA in the transport sector. We would like to give the following comments:
 - Germany would like to reiterate the critical comment (2) raised by STAP that claims a range limitation not smaller than 300 km per charge.
 - The development of the battery will be done by one private company (BYD). The development cost of one prototype bus is indicated at 20 million USD. This seems very high taken into account that the PIF states that battery solutions are already available in Colombia and in BYD. Further, Germany would like to know in how far knowledge generated under this project will be accessible to the public.

- Germany requests to further specify the recycling or disposal of the batteries, the lifetime of the batteries (will there be a warranty for the indicated 12 years of life expectancy), and an independent testing/ certification.

14. Cuba - UNDP: Clean Energy Technologies for the Rural Areas in Cuba (CleanEnergy-Cuba) - GEF ID = 5149

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- We reiterate the comment made by the STAP that yields of yatropha vary widely across the globe. Simple literature default values should not be relied on as overall feasibility depends significantly on yield.
 - In Component 1, para 5, it is stated that “concepts for a national, small-scale bioenergy strategy” have been developed. Please elaborate on the use and scope of the concepts. Shall the concepts be developed, published and implemented under component 1?
 - We are of the opinion that the investment in local manufacturing capacities should be conditional on the feasibility of the biogas systems planned and the biodiesel systems planned (component 2, para 3). In this context, the mentioned cooperations, including the South-South cooperation with e.g. Mexico and Brazil are seen very positively.
 - We seek clarification in the final project document on whether it is necessary to invest in modified or special engines in order to use yatropha biodiesel and in that case, if this has been taken into account in the market analysis.
 - In terms of market diffusion, we underline the potential for providing market incentive through providing a good maintenance network (biogas has high maintenance requirements, especially when applying CHP-units) and planning capacities (agronomic and engineering). In terms of market potential of CHP-based biogas plants, applications where both heat and electricity can be gainfully used should be concentrated on.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- The U.S., in light of national legislation regarding our country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, opposes this project.

15. Egypt - UNDP: Grid-Connected Small-Scale Photovoltaic Systems – GEF ID = 5064

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal; in addition, Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

- We support the STAP comment that experience regarding feed-in tariff regulation from Europe and elsewhere should be taken into account.

- Component 1 of the activity is the “construction, installation and grid connection of PV systems. The cost of 4 MW_e of photovoltaic systems is indicated at a total of 22.9 million USD meaning nearly 6 USD/kW_e. This is far above the current market price of around 1 - 2 USD/kW_e and cannot be justified through other activity included under component 1 like development and dissemination of a design and implementation plan. Design should be very simple as it is mainly 0.5 – 2.0 kW_e PV systems. Clarification is sought about the services covered under this item and if provision of PV systems will be tendered internationally.
- Clarification is also sought on whether grid connection and power purchase agreement support are well aligned with the assumed average size of PV systems and whether own consumption by the households might not be appropriate, as well (please also include comment by STAP on “net metering”).
- Clarification is sought on whether component 3.1 requires development of new documents or if translation of existing documentation could be a solution.
- The most critical issue of the activity to achieve its goal, the promotion of small PV systems in Egypt, is the price paid by buyers of PV electricity. Please indicate in the final project document the assumed price level. Before spending the GEF grant in the establishment of 4 MW_e of PV systems, the training of staff (service, planning, design, etc.) and the installation of a revolving fund, the economic feasibility should be assessed in depth.
- Clarification is sought on whether the development of local manufacturing is intended and how this is intended as solar panel production requires high investments. In Germany, for example, years of very high subsidization of PV systems through the renewable energy act were necessary to bring down production costs. See also Table 2, page 11, Component 1, outputs 1.1 and 1.2: “will build local capacity to manufacture basic components”: What is meant by basic components and is there a cost reduction potential compared to imported components?
- Section B.3., para (7): It is not clear why maintenance should provide an opportunity for women seen as homemakers to generate income.

16. Egypt - UNIDO: Promoting Low-carbon Technologies for Cooling and Heating in Industrial Applications in Egypt - GEF ID = 4790

- *No comments received for this project.*

17. India - UNIDO: Organic Waste Streams for Industrial Renewable Energy Applications in India - GEF ID = 5087

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The project follows interesting approaches like the cluster approach for joining different sources of organic material. In the identification of potential sites, sites that consume the total biogas or service (e.g. thermal and electric energy) should be favoured:

- The project aims at installing seven to ten demonstration plants of up to 2 MW_{th} of waste-to-energy plants in SMEs mentioning that larger plants of mostly 6 – 8 MW_{th} have been incentivized in India through the CDM. In this context, we request the project to clarify the need for further demonstration plants, as differences in technology mainly manifest in plant sizes below 1 MW_{th}, but not among plants of 2 MW_{th} and 6 MW_{th}. In this context, we also seek clarifications if the smaller plants are not yet available in India.
- Component 2, para 3 talks about “anaerobic and aerobic digestion”. However, there are no energy services from aerobic plants. Aerobic plants are thus assumedly not in the focus of the project.
- In order to evaluate on the potential for scale-up an analysis of potential regarding the availability of biomass and its costs would be welcomed as well as a specification of the mentioned “smart subsidy system” to be designed in the project.
- The cluster approach joining several waste sources at one digestion plants seems promising. We suggest also considering measures that promote the establishment of companies or cooperatives of sufficient size to take over biogas digestion services. Single rural companies/ SMEs might not be willing to assume the risk of biogas production.
- Section B.2.: Please indicate whether services other than energy provision by SMEs are also covered, especially the generation of chemicals.
- As the quality of co-substrates may differ by region and thus different technology may be necessary, the knowledge of international (scientific) institutions as well as the experience of similar projects in the region shall be considered in the further project development.
- Regarding the emission reduction calculation, clarification is sought on whether it is considered that the project emissions (e.g. due to physical leakage of methane from digesters) might eventually exceed baseline emissions in biogas plants.

18. India - UNDP: Scale Up of Access to Clean Energy for Rural Productive and Domestic Uses - GEF ID = 4900

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The project objective seems very ambitious, e.g. the outputs 1.3.3. to 1.4.3. The planned clustering of dispersed markets as well as the focus on productive applications of energy is welcomed. However, the PIF completely lacks an assessment of the target group's ability to pay, although this stands at the core of the proposal. For this reason, we recommend:
 - An assessment of the ability to pay of the rural population. Depending on the result the priority areas may require modification, e.g. targeting first areas where local industries/ production are most likely to flourish with improved energy services. In

this context, we ask for a definition of “productive applications”, too (e.g. does it include cook stoves);

- Regarding cooking stoves, collaboration with current and previous programs (e.g. also by the German cooperation, GIZ) beyond the mentioned DFID-TERI program is recommended as well as collaboration with local manufacturers.
- In the final document, a clearer definition of the indicators and the size of the (direct) target group shall be provided.
- Please clarify in the final document on the feasibility of the expected scale-up potential in view of diversity of villages and surrounding conditions.
- Please indicate the number of systems applied and the related emission reductions. In case of cook stoves, it is unclear whether the emission reduction potential per unit accounts for renewable biomass use in the baseline.

19. Indonesia - UNDP: Promoting Energy Efficiency for Non-HCFC Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (PENHRA) - GEF ID = 4899

✓ *Germany's Comments*

- Germany is not yet ready to approve the PIF. We have serious concerns regarding the chosen technology (R32). We would like to consult with other GEF Council Members on the project and therefore kindly ask for more time for commenting.
- We have still some concerns that we would like to address before approval of the PIF and agree that it will be good for the coordination among the Council members and for the Agency to reconsider the project for the June Work Program.

✓ *USA's Comments*

- We applaud the efforts outlined in the PIF for addressing the critical needs facing Indonesia's cold chain infrastructure. We are hopeful that notable success stories of profitable adoption of energy efficient upgrades will emerge as a result of this project

20. Montenegro - UNDP: Towards Carbon Neutral Tourism - GEF ID = 5098

- *No comments received for this project.*

21. South Africa - UNEP: Enabling South Africa to Prepare Its Third National Communication (3NC) and Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC - GEF ID = 5237

- *No comments received for this project.*

22. Sudan - UNDP: Promoting Utility-Scale Power Generation from Wind Energy - GEF ID = 4745

✓ *USA's Comments*

- The U.S., in light of national legislation regarding our country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, opposes this project.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

23. Global - UNDP: Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their Coasts through Enhanced Sharing and Application of LME/ICM/MPA Knowledge and Information Tools - GEF ID = 5278

✓ Germany's Comments

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- Project component 4.2 (the dissemination of lessons learned) and 4.3 (the publication of findings) should focus more on an easier accessibility for specialists in the working field as well as for the wider public. It should be questioned as to how far the design of a new webpage (IW:LEARN) is providing a higher outreach than using existing internet-sites and platform providers. We encourage a more proactive outreach to be taken in the dissemination of lessons learned, for example by making use of existing networks of practitioners (e.g. European Network of Implementing Development Agencies, www.eunida.org).

✓ USA's Comments

- The United States strongly commends this worthwhile project. We support the establishment of a framework to enable sharing of lessons learned and best practices in the development and implementation of transboundary, ecosystem-based approaches to resource management, and to enhance the collaboration and cooperation across projects and partners (e.g. LME, ICM, MPA) within LME boundaries. Importantly this includes the establishment of a coordination unit as part of this framework to actively facilitate a network of partners and enable communication and collaboration between existing as well as new projects. Such a knowledge framework though established for LMEs and their coasts can serve as a valuable resource for other GEF Focal Area projects, not conventionally regionally oriented, in best practices for regional collaboration and development of multi-state, sector, and focal area initiatives which is a strength of the LME approach.

24. Global - UNDP: Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities - GEF ID = 5271

- *No comments received for this project.*

25. Regional - UNDP: Integrated Water Resources Management in the Puyango-Tumbes, Catamayo-Chira and Zarumilla Transboundary Aquifers and River Basins - GEF ID = 5284

- *No comments received for this project.*

26. Regional - UNEP: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities - GEF ID = 4940

✓ USA's Comments

- The United States does not object to this PIF. This position, however, does not indicate recognition of or any change in U.S. policy with respect to the de facto regime in Madagascar

LAND DEGRADATION

27. Brazil - UNDP: Sustainable Land Use Management in the Semi-arid Region of North-east Brazil (Sergipe) - GEF ID = 5276

- *No comments received for this project.*

28. China - ADB: Sustainable and Climate Resilient Land Management in Western PRC - GEF ID = 5142

- *No comments received for this project.*

29. Lebanon - UNDP: Sustainable Land Management in the Qaroun Watershed - GEF ID = 5229

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The rationale and approach is thorough and addresses key issues. We suggest the following improvements:
 - Referring to PPG, activity 3, reduction of pesticides and fertilizer pollution: Aspects related to the protection of water resources should be addressed and considered in the approach and in the section of target areas;
 - Coordination is recommended with USAID funded "Litani River Basin Management Support (LRBMS) Program", which is implemented jointly with the Litani River Authority.
 - Coordination is recommended with the Germany funded programme "Environmental Fund for Lebanon", which is implemented through GIZ, the Lebanese Ministry of Environment, and the Council for Development and Reconstruction. Although this programme will come to an end in 12/2013, experience of related project activities should be considered.

MULTI FOCAL AREA

30. Global - UNDP: GEF SGP Fifth Operational Phase--Implementing the Program Using STAR Resources II - GEF ID = 4678

- *No comments received for this project.*

31. Regional - UNEP: Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement MEAs by Strengthening Planning, and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific Islands - GEF ID = 5195

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The project idea to strengthen environment reporting and assessment capacities is very relevant. For sustainable development a solid decision-basis is indispensable. The discussion on measures beyond GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the course of the Rio+20 conferences showed this very impressively.

- We recommend clarifying how the project might contribute to this discussion and especially, if it is planned to implement or contribute to the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA). The Aichi Strategic Plan underlines the importance of integrating the value of biodiversity into national accounts. Therefore the project might reflect on how to link with SEEA and the World Bank lead WAVES-partnership (<http://www.wavespartnership.org/waves/>).

32. Regional - World Bank: Senegal River Basin Climate Change Resilience Development Project - GEF ID = 5133

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The full proposal should cover specific points on pollution prevention, wastewater management and a strategy on how the "polluter pays"-policy can be implemented in national laws as stated in Part 4 of the 2002 Water Charter.

33. Bahamas - UNEP: Pine Islands - Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahamas, New Providence, Abaco and Andros) - GEF ID = 4847

- *No comments received for this project.*

34. Bolivia - UNEP: Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting – GEF ID = 5299

- *No comments received for this project.*

35. Chile – UNEP: Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting - GEF ID = 5150

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- We would like to underline that the costs for the implementation of waste management systems in the different countries of action of the en.lighten initiative should consider local conditions. For Chile the additional contribution to the national programs should be pointed out clearly in the final project document.
In how far is it the intention of the project to develop new technology and in how far will this knowledge be shared with other countries of the enlighten initiative?

✓ **USA's Comments**

- We believe this project is very worthwhile and timely for several reasons. First, President Piñera has designated energy efficiency as a pillar of his national energy strategy and has called for a 12% reduction in demand through energy efficiency initiatives. Second, the private sector model in Chile generally does not allow for government incentives like rebates or subsidies, so this project could provide essential support for jump-starting energy efficient lighting in Chile.
- We encourage the project implementers to seek synergies with current and proposed regulations aiming to reduce light pollution (particularly in areas surrounding where the nation's important astronomical observatories are located).

36. Ecuador - FAO: Promotion of Climate-smart Livestock Management Integrating Reversion of Land Degradation and Reduction of Desertification Risks in Vulnerable Provinces - GEF ID = 4775

- *No comments received for this project.*

37. Gabon - World Bank: Sustainable Management of Critical Wetlands Ecosystems - GEF ID = 5264

- *No comments received for this project.*

38. Kenya - FAO: Development of SFM and Support to REDD for Dryland Forests - GEF ID = 5083

✓ **Japan's Comments**

- Following the GEF project will be implemented in the same countries and scopes of activities of JICA. In order to avoid duplication of assistance then create synergy between projects, close coordination with JICA is highly recommended.

JICAs Projects:

Kenya Forest Preservation Programme

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad4/report09digest08.pdf>

Forest Preservation: Programme Grant Aid amounting to 3.0 billion yen (equiv.US\$ 29.2 million) in total was provided to 5 African countries in Mar.2010, in order to promote sustainable forest use and conservation through implementation of assessment of forest resources and suitable forest management plan.

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal; in addition, Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

- We generally support the formulated objectives, but would like to request additional information in the final project document about the current natural resource and biodiversity governance situation in the project area:
 - In this context, as applicable, traditional and customary use and laws as well as conflicts between herders and farmers, and the potential development of instruments such as Bio-Cultural Community Protocols (BCPs) should be analysed and be taken into account when designing measures and policies in order to improve local governance.
 - There seems to be an inconsistency regarding Component 2 (Expected Outcomes 2.1b), which states that 80% of managed forest lands will be covered by community-controlled self-financing mechanisms while on Para 19 says that “the project will take a step in that direction through assisting communities to set up mechanisms that generate and manage income and might eventually lead to self-financing in the future”. We seek clarification on whether this is not contradicting to the expected outcome.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- The United States applauds this worthwhile project, particularly assistance provided to Kenya's Forest Service for enhancing the management of dry land forests, which have previously received less attention. We are also pleased to note that the Government of Kenya will receive support in preparing a National REDD+ Strategy as a result of this project. This project will also serve to enhance the country's capacities in sustainable silvicultural and forest management practices, which are key to effective implementation of REDD+ activities.

39. Myanmar - FAO: Sustainable Cropland and Forest Management in Priority Agro-ecosystems of Myanmar - GEF ID = 5123

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The proposal is well written. However, additional information that would allow an assessment of whether the planned components can pay out is needed. Please consider the following comments:
 - In accordance with comment 5) raised by the STAP we doubt that the carbon values are overestimated. It might be appropriate to check the values by an independent expert.
 - The suggested agronomic measures (cover crops, incorporation of crop residues, intercropping, etc.) are usually appropriate to achieve the mentioned goals including increased nutrient and carbon level, and improved drought resistance etc. However, the required agricultural knowledge is very different from that required in conventional cropping systems. Therefore, we ask the project to pay special attention to the following three issues: a) ensure long-term engagement of advisors and other supportive structures (the project's length of five years in this sense is adequate, if training of farmers begins early); b) ensure that lands converted to the sustainable cropping systems are in the proximity to each other, in order to allow exchange among farmers. "Seed areas" of SLM fields are preferable to disperse regional distribution; and c) ensure availability of appropriate advisory services all cultivation season round.
 - Incorporation of crop residues is represented by an indicator that measures the share of crop residues incorporated into the soil. This might not be adequate and depend widely on type of crop. Crop residues are generally a source of pests and diseases and increased need for pesticides might install. This should be considered.
 - Incorporation of crop residues, especially in combination with zero or conservation tillage is technically difficult to be managed. Further, as conservation tillage might not be adequate to all crops planted, the plough still might be necessary. This has huge impacts on required technology investment. Innovative solutions like technology sharing are recommended.

- Paragraph 51 talks about “incentive and finance mechanisms”. However, there is no indication of how these mechanisms are planned to be designed and especially where money will come from. The mentioned benefits of SLM (improved water storage capacity, less erosion, higher carbon level) are altogether benefits that do not monetarise for the farmer, especially not on the short-term. This represents a bottleneck for further adoption of the SLM and Germany thus requests clarification.
- Conservation tillage requires technology that is very different, e.g. from standard one-blade ploughs, not only in application but also in tractor requirements. Germany recommends paying special attention to the technology choice and considering those technologies which are applicable to the typical field sizes found in Myanmar.

✓ **USA’s Comments**

- The project appears to be of high merit from an environmental perspective. However, we question whether the project might be better directed at the Ministry of Forestry rather than the Ministry of Agriculture. In particular, the project does not appear to directly address the key targets that the GOM has identified in the Agriculture Ministry involving improved yields and livelihoods.

40. Nicaragua - UNDP: Strengthening the Resilience of Multiple-use Protected Areas to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits - GEF ID = 5277

✓ **Germany’s Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The expected outcomes seem to be ambitious due to the broad geographic and thematic scope of the proposed project and due to the limited capacities of the executing agency MARENA in some areas. We recommend strengthening management effectiveness of the protected areas by involvement of local and especially indigenous stakeholders and institutions.

✓ **USA’s Comments**

- This appears to be an excellent project and is greatly needed given the environmental pressures on the forests of the Atlantic Coast and North of Nicaragua, which are primarily caused by ever expanding cattle farming and the illegal timber trade.
- We would recommend that this project place a particular emphasis on Bosawas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve given its ecological importance to the region.

41. Russian Federation - UNIDO: Save the Source: Catalyzing Market Transformation of Breweries from a Major Natural Resource Consuming Industry to a Pro-active Steward for Resource Efficient Cleaner Production - GEF ID = 5293

✓ **Germany’s Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- We strongly encourage that the project explores linkages with the Water Futures Partnership <http://www.water-futures.org/>, which is providing a global Exchange Platform on Water Stewardship issues on the local level in order to avoid duplication of efforts at the global level.

- Being a multi-focal area project, the proposal shall better outline the interlinkages between the different targeted policy areas, i.e. water management, climate change mitigation and reduction of land degradation as well as energy security and reflects goals through clear indicators.
- The proposal is well developed from a technical perspective; however it is not clear how and how much budget will be allocated to the work packages on economic incentives, international policy dialogue and interaction with communities. We encourage that the final project document develops a more detailed breakdown of budget allocation to these activities; also on what is included in the baseline and what is specifically financed through GEF funds.
- Further details should be given in the final project document on the specific needs of institutions and specifically CSOs and community representatives in terms of capacity development and TA.

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- We request that the proposal better outlines the linkages between the different targeted policy areas, i.e. water management, climate change mitigation and reduction of land degradation as well as energy security and defines clear indicators for the targeted goals.
- The proposal is well developed from a technical perspective; however it is not clear how and how much budget will be allocated to the work packages on economic incentives, international policy dialogue, and interaction with communities. We encourage that the final project document indicates a more detailed breakdown of budget allocation to these activities showing clearly what is available in the baseline and what is to be financed through GEF.
- Specific needs of institutions and specifically CSOs and community representatives in terms of capacity development and technical assistance shall be assessed and integrated in the final project concept.

✓ **Japan's Comments**

- We cannot determine whether we can approve implementation of this project because of the lack of information about the area of the project. We sincerely request you to provide us more information about the project area. We would expect that the project will be deferred and resubmitted for consideration to the next approval.

42. Russian Federation - UNDP: Sustainable Land Management and Ecosystem-based Climate Change Mitigation in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion - GEF ID = 5104

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal; in addition, Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

- We recommend the following improvements:

- Seek trans boundary cooperation and potential for synergies with similar projects and initiatives in the Kazakhstan part of the Alatau-Sayan Ecoregion (UNDP-GEF; WB) as well as with ongoing trans boundary projects (e.g. BMU ICI project on a trans boundary Altai biosphere reserve);
- While the ideas and mechanisms for improving forest management appear to be well elaborated and adapted to the current political framework conditions, institutional and legal issues in the pasture sector deserve more in-depth analysis in order to contribute to the envisaged GEF focal area objectives;
- To achieve the objective of sustainable integrated land and forest management, reference should be given also to wildlife management (e.g. Argali) and local income generation through value adding to non-timber forest products;
- Risks originating from the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site fall out should be taken into account.

✓ **Japan's Comments**

- We cannot determine whether we can approve implementation of this project because of the lack of information about the area of the project. We sincerely request you to provide us more information about the project area. We would expect that the project will be deferred and resubmitted for consideration to the next approval.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- The proposed project addresses important challenges in one of the most ecologically sensitive regions of Russia—the Altai-Sayan. As a major forest country whose extensive forests are a key carbon sink, the development of sustainable management in forests and adjacent or overlapping agricultural areas is critical in Russia. We are also pleased to see that the project seeks to involve all levels of the Russian government, promoting inter-agency collaboration.

43. Solomon Islands - FAO: Integrated Forest Management in the Solomon Islands - GEF ID = 5122

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal; in addition, Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

- We would like to reiterate the approach proposed by the STAP (para 5) that suggests addressing conservation (global environmental benefit) and development (local benefit) simultaneously, recognizing the permanent logging threats to existing PAs.
- We recommend that the project considers an updated and more detailed analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation with regard to the alliance of foreign loggers and customary resource owners, and the increase in uncontrolled logging and illegal activities due to lack of any operational allocations in the budget of the Ministry of Forestry and Research;
- The German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) through German International Cooperation (GIZ) provides support to the Solomon Islands by

supporting the implementation of a regional REDD-project. Within the efforts of donor coordination it is requested that in the final project design, the link to this activity is described and is established by then. National and local authorities should be consulted for improved coordination and cooperation.

44. Tunisia - World Bank: Oases Ecosystems and Livelihoods Project - GEF ID = 5266

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- We would like to emphasize that the distinction between traditional oasis and modern illegal oasis in the field is not always clear as there are some overlaps. The full proposal should clearly point out this fact;
- We recommend an approach of diversification of economic activities that takes ecotourism and other activities into account;
- We suggest to check the recognition of participatory development plans among involved institutions in order to assure that they are recognized as an appropriate and effective instrument;
- The Environmental Ministry (DGEQV) as executing agency has limited capacity on the ground in the target region. Strategic alliances should be established with locale stakeholders like the DGA, cooperatives of services for commercialization, as well as with existing projects and programmes (for example GIZ Project "Implementing UNFCCC in Tunisia");
- To assure sustainability, we strongly recommend including institutional strengthening in order to assure governance of the oasis ecosystems;
- Sustainability of oasis management is closely related to sustainable water resource management. Long term objectives and reliably agreements between all involved stakeholders/ users concerning sustainable water resource management are a prerequisite and shall be supported.

45. Yemen - UNEP: Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting - GEF ID = 5152

- *No comments received for this project.*

POPs

46. Regional - FAO: Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian Countries and Turkey -GEF ID = 5000

- *No comments received for this project.*

47. Regional - UNEP: Sub regional Action Plan (Asia) for PBDEs Management and Reduction - GEF ID = 5148

- *No comments received for this project.*

48. Regional - UNEP: Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asian Region - GEF ID = 4894

✓ **Japan's Comments**

- p. 4, Section C: Please change "Government of Japan (under Ministry of Health and Welfare)" to "Government of Japan (under Ministry of the Environment)". Also, please delete "cash" from the "type of co-financing" section.

49. Bangladesh - UNIDO: Environmentally-sound Management and Disposal of PCBs and Medical Wastes - GEF ID = 4858

- *No comments received for this project.*

50. Egypt - UNDP: Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of POPs Originating from Incineration and Open Burning of Health Care- and Electronic-waste - GEF ID = 4392

- *No comments received for this project.*

51. Indonesia - UNDP: Reducing Releases of PBDEs and UPOPs Originating from Unsound Waste Management and Recycling Practices and the Manufacturing of Plastics in Indonesia - GEF ID = 5052

✓ **USA's Comments**

- We believe that this is a worthwhile project, which may have overlap with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's work in Indonesia through the Global Methane Initiative. We recommend that the project implementers consult with local representatives of this initiative so that any redundancies can be avoided and synergies can be promoted.

52. Senegal - UNIDO: Environmentally Sound Management of Municipal and Hazardous Solid Waste to Reduce Emission of Unintentional POPs GEF ID = 4888

- *No comments received for this project.*

53. Serbia - UNIDO: Environmentally-Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs - GEF ID = 4877

- *No comments received for this project.*

54. Turkey - UNDP/UNIDO: POPs Legacy Elimination and POPs Release Reduction Project - GEF ID = 4601

- *No comments received for this project.*

55. Vietnam - UNDP: Vietnam POPS and Sound Harmful Chemicals Management Project - GEF ID = 5067

- *No comments received for this project.*

PIF SUBMITTED UNDER THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

Regional - UNDP: EAS Implementation of the Yellow Sea LME Strategic Action Programme for Adaptive Ecosystem-Based Management - GEF ID = 4343

✓ *Germany's Comments*

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal; in addition, Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

- The proposed project aims to achieve an adaptive ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem by rebuilding degraded marine resources and reducing pollution. We seek clarification on the reduction of nitrogen pollution by 10% and the reduction of fishing pressure through e.g. vessel payback schemes. The assumption seems unrealistic, unless based on Government communication. We ask for the provision of the sources of these assumptions in the final project document.

✓ *USA's Comments*

- We agree with the STAP evaluation that this appears to be a well thought-out project, with appropriate acknowledgement of relevant stakeholders, especially the State Oceanic Administration. We also concur with STAP that further acknowledgement and determination of mitigation actions would be an area for improvement.
- The YSLME has shown considerable success in the transboundary and multi-state implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to the management of the shared environment and associated resources in the region.