



# Global Environment Facility

GEF/IS/21  
April 2009

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INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAM  
SUBMITTED FOR GEF COUNCIL APPROVAL

## Executive Summary

1. This is the tenth work program presented for GEF Council review and approval in GEF-4 and the eighth one to apply the new project cycle that was approved by Council in June 2007. Under that new project cycle, GEF Agencies may submit Project Identification Forms (PIF) to the GEF Secretariat for clearance on a rolling basis. When the number, or amount, of the cleared PIFs meets the Intersessional Work Program (IWP) criteria<sup>1</sup>, an IWP may be constituted. This April IWP is the second IWP in 2009. Subsequent IWPs may be constituted, as and when necessary, at the discretion of the CEO, and when funds are available.
2. In this work program cover note, descriptions on how the proposed concepts relate to the strategic objectives, programming coherence and collective contribution to the GEF approved strategies are presented. At the time when this April IWP was constituted, GEF Secretariat received and cleared many more PIFs than funds available. Hence, many cleared concepts have to be delayed for entry into the next work program in June. Total GEF resources requested in this work program amount to \$107.66 million.<sup>2</sup>
3. A new project proposal submitted under the Small Grants Program (SGP) in this work program is requesting additional funding of \$44.42 million. This will lead to a generation of \$43 million in co-financing. The SGP is a major program supporting civil society and community based organizations actions to protect environment in over 101 countries. The program with requested funding will support projects in 60 countries in focal areas of climate change and biodiversity. It is planned that the project will fund over 520 projects in area of community based biodiversity conservation and governance, and more than 250 projects for scaling up or mainstreaming of climate mitigation barrier removal models across the globe.
4. As in other intersessional work program cover notes, this IWP cover note presents a simplified version of the note focusing solely on the focal area project portfolio in the work program.

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<sup>1</sup> Criteria for IWP is when there are at least 10 cleared PIFs or all cleared PIFs amount to \$50 million or more, the CEO would have the discretion to constitute an intersessional work program.

<sup>2</sup> GEF resources requested in this work program of \$107.66 million includes GEF project grant of \$100.19 million and Agency fee of \$7.47 million.

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Annex A: Financial Details of the Project Identification Forms Submitted for Council Approval, April 2009 Intersessional Work Program

Annex A-1: PIFs Submitted Under Programmatic Approaches, April 2009 Intersessional Work Program

Table 1: GEF Resources Requested in the April 2009 Intersessional Work Program by Focal Area

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](mailto:gcoordination@TheGEF.org)*

## Main features of the proposed work program

1. The work program presented by the Secretariat for GEF Council review and approval is the tenth since the GEF-4 replenishment and since the GEF Resource Allocation Framework became applicable to the biodiversity and climate change focal areas. This is also the second intersessional work program (IWP) in 2009. Subsequent IWPs will be constituted, as and when necessary, at the discretion of the CEO, and given availability of funds.
2. There are 16 projects in this work program submitted in the biodiversity, climate change, international waters and multi-focal areas. Total GEF resources requested in this work program amount to \$107.66 million which included \$100.19 million for the project and \$7.47 million for the Agency fees. The distribution of these projects by focal area is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: GEF Resources Requested in the April 2009 Work Program by Focal Area (\$ million)**

Focal Area	Number of Projects	GEF Project Grant	Agency Fees*	Total GEF Resources Requested in this WP
Biodiversity	5	11.47	1.15	12.62
Climate Change	6	27.79	2.79	30.58
International Waters	1	3.00	0.30	3.30
Multi-focal area	4	57.94	3.23	61.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.19</b>	<b>7.47</b>	<b>107.66</b>

\* Agency fees are calculated as 10 percent of the GEF project grant amount being requested in this work program, plus 10% on the project preparation grants previously approved by the CEO but for which Agency fee has not been paid. The Small Grants Program under the MFA receives a reduced Agency fee.

## GEF Strategies and the Work Program

3. The PIF concepts included in the work program were reviewed and considered in conformity with the focal area strategies and strategic programming for GEF-4, and screened for their capacity to deliver the most impact from a portfolio perspective. The PIF concepts also benefited from STAP screening on the technical and scientific aspects, ensuring higher standards of project design. Below are highlights of the proposals which described how they relate to the overall programmatic coherence and collective contributions to the GEF strategic objectives and programs.

## Linkage with the GEF-4 Strategic Programs

4. The Small Grants Program (SGP): A new project proposal submitted under the SGP in this work program is requesting additional funding of \$44.42 million. This will lead to a generation of \$43 million in co-financing. The SGP is a major program supporting civil society and community based organizations actions to protect environment in over 101 countries. The program with requested funding will support projects in 60 countries in focal areas of climate change and biodiversity. It is planned that the project will fund over 520 projects in area of community based biodiversity conservation and governance, and more than 250 projects for scaling up or mainstreaming of climate mitigation barrier removal models across the globe. All countries funded under this project made resources available from their individual RAF

allocations. Among countries funded there are fifteen SID/LDC's and five of them are newly added to the program.

5. All countries participating in SGP have prepared an individual Country Program Strategy (CPS), as well as a specific GEF-4 country program RAF strategy to ensure maximum coherence and complementarity with the country's RAF-related policies and priorities. Individual country RAF strategies have been developed by the multi-stakeholders at the National Stakeholders Consultations (NSC) and approved by the GEF Operational Focal Point for the duration of GEF-4. Each of the country RAF strategies has addressed the critical national concerns identified in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Communications for Climate Change.

6. Biodiversity: The five biodiversity project proposals presented in this work program cover two of the four strategic objectives and four of the eight strategic programs of the biodiversity focal area. Within this work program, two projects focus on enhancing the financial sustainability of protected area systems and the other three projects seek to mainstream biodiversity into two key productive sectors that impact biodiversity: agriculture and fisheries.

7. The project, "*Strengthening of the Protected Area Networking system in Mongolia*" submitted in this work program is particularly noteworthy. Mongolia has a long tradition of environmental protection and was one of the first countries to officially establish protected areas with management administrations for conservation, dating back to 1778. Its national protected area system encompasses 12 Strictly Protected Areas, 21 National Parks, 19 Nature Reserves and 8 National Monuments (60 in total) – more than half of which have been established since 1993. This project will improve the management of more than 21 million hectares of the national system through strengthening the policy, legal and institutional arrangements for sustainable protected area financing and through the demonstration of new financing mechanisms in Mongolia for protected areas such as biodiversity offsets, payments for environmental services, and business investment partnerships, such as with the tourism and mining industries.

8. The project, "*Strengthening fisheries governance to protect freshwater and wetland biodiversity in Argentina*", focuses on increasing the effectiveness of governance structures for the management and conservation of wetlands and their biodiversity. The project will develop a coordinated framework of fisheries and wetlands policies across the States of the Paraná basin and integrate these into broader development policies. The most important of Argentina's freshwater biodiversity is found along the basin of the Paraná River which covers 3.2 million km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the largest and most diverse in the world and the second in size South America after the Amazon. Thus, this mainstreaming project will make important contributions to the conservation of freshwater biodiversity, an under-represented ecosystem in global conservation and sustainable use efforts.

9. Climate Change: The April Intersessional Work Program includes six projects from the climate change focal area, including four energy efficiency (three lighting and one industry) projects, one renewable energy project, and one sustainable urban transport project. All six projects are closely aligned with the GEF-4 strategic programs in the climate change focal area.

10. Among these six projects, three have been submitted under the West Africa Program (Energy/Climate Change Component): *Benin Energy Efficiency*, *Togo Efficient Lighting*, and *Nigeria Urban Transport*. All three projects will be implemented by the World Bank. These are the first batch of project concepts that have developed and submitted under the West Africa

Program which was endorsed by Council in November 2008. Other projects in this work program include UNIDO's *Industrial Energy Efficiency in Egypt*, UNDP's *Energy Efficient Lighting in Residential and Public Buildings in Ukraine*, and Asian Development Bank's *Integrated Renewable Biomass Energy Development in China*. All in all, the six projects in this work program have come from four different GEF agencies: the World Bank, ADB, UNIDO, and UNDP.

11. International Waters: This April Intersessional Work Program includes one project under the International Waters focal area: *Strategies for Fisheries Bycatch Management in the Coral Triangle*. The proposed project is aligned with the two strategic objectives of the GEF International Waters Program, and with Strategic Program 1: Restoring and Sustaining Coastal and Marine Fish Stocks and Associated Biological Diversity. It also links with GEF Biodiversity Strategic Objective 2: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/ Seascapes and Sectors.

12. Multi-focal Areas (MFAs): There are four MFAs submitted in this work program, utilizing resources from across different focal areas. For example, two projects tap into the resources of biodiversity and climate change focal areas. One brings together resources from biodiversity and land degradation focal areas, and another utilizes the biodiversity and international waters focal area resources.

13. Of particular interest is the project in Bolivia. The country is recognized as a mega-biodiverse country due to large differences in altitude (150 - 6,000 m.a.s.l.) and climate allowing for a high diversity of ecosystems, flora and fauna. This is particularly true in the Andean highlands where the wide range of vertical elevation has allowed for the development of a wide diversity of habitats, species, and agrobiodiversity. In the northern part of the department of Potosi and the southeast part of the department of Oruro the physiography forms vertical ecosystems distributed in three ecological zones: *Puna* (high mountains and plateaus), *Chawpirana* (mountains and upper valleys), and *Likina* (mesothermic valleys of high, medium and low altitudes). These three ecological zones are populated by indigenous communities organized in Ayllus<sup>3</sup> (indigenous Andean territorial organizations) which have common ownership of their land and a livelihood that is based on the use of the biodiversity and the natural resources of the vertical ecosystems. The project, "*Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Land in Andean Vertical Ecosystems*," which brings together resources from the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas, seeks to maintain and restore the productive capacity and sustainability of Andean vertical ecosystems thus sustaining habitats of native plants and endangered species and agrobiodiversity while contributing to the food security of the Ayllus population.

### **Geographic Balance of Projects in the Work Program**

14. Biodiversity: Three of the biodiversity projects are being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean and two Asia. In terms of GEF resources, of the \$11.47 million being invested in biodiversity projects in this work program, \$7.84 million or about 68% is being invested in Latin America with remaining \$3.6 million or about 32% is being invested in Asia.

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<sup>3</sup> The project covers in the northern Potosí the Ayllus Pukwata (Chayanta/Charcas province) and the Ayllus Jukumani, Layme/Puraka, Aymaya, Kharacha, Chayantaka, Panakachi, Chullpa, Sikuya (Bustillos province) and in the south eastern Oruro the Ayllus Qaqachaka, K'ulta, and north Kundu (Avaroa province).

15. Climate Change: The climate change projects included in this work program have a good geographic balance. Three of them come from Sub-Saharan Africa (Benin, Nigeria, and Togo), one from Asia (China), one from Eastern Europe (Ukraine), and one from North Africa and the Middle East (Egypt).

16. International Waters: The “*Strategies for Fisheries Bycatch Management*” project is part of the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI). The Coral Triangle region of Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific is one of the world's most biologically diverse, economically productive and potentially vulnerable marine zones, with increasing population and exploitation pressures, growing threats from pollution and major ecosystem change, and particular concern for key habitats and species assemblages. This project complements other activities under the Coral Triangle Initiative that was presented to Council in April 2008 in the list of envisaged projects to be added to the CTI Program.

### **Innovative Elements and Replication Potential**

17. Biodiversity: Particularly noteworthy within the Argentina project, “*Strengthening Fisheries Governance to Protect Freshwater and Wetland Biodiversity in Argentina*”, will be the piloting of market-based mechanisms in the Paraná Delta region in support of sound ecosystem and fisheries management as a complement to the strengthened enforcement capacities and participatory approaches to improved spatial and inter-sectoral planning across different jurisdictions to reduce threats and improve wetlands management.

18. International Waters: The “*Strategies for Fisheries Bycatch Management*” project will build on the experience from a previous GEF project (“REBYC”). The proposed project will translate initial demonstrations of bycatch reduction technologies into practical and workable strategies which can be adopted fishery wide, primarily through co-operation between public agencies and fishing communities, and develop and adopt best practice bycatch management and fishing operation guidelines.

### **Programmatic Approaches in this Work Program**

19. Five out of the 16 projects submitted in this work program are projects under Programmatic Approaches (PAs) previously approved by Council. The five PIFs are associated with the following two PAs that were approved by Council in the April and November 2008 Council meetings<sup>4</sup>:

- SPWA: Strategic Program for West Africa: Energy Component (November 2008)
- Coral Triangle Initiative (April 2008)

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<sup>4</sup> See Annex A-1 for the projects and their financial details.

## Summary of Free Standing PIFs and PIFs in the Programmatic Approaches in the April 2009 Intersessional Work Program<sup>5</sup>

### *Biodiversity*

1. **Argentina:** Strengthening Fisheries Governance to Protect Freshwater and Wetland (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$2.36 m)
2. **Colombia:** Colombian National Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund – Additional financing for the Sustainability of the Macizo Regional Protected Area System (SIRAPM) (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$4.00 m)
3. **Lao PDR:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity In Lao PDR's Agricultural and Land Management Policies, Plans and Programmes (UNDP/ FAO) (GEF Project Grant: \$2.27 m)
4. **Mexico:** Mainstreaming the Conservation of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity at the Micro-watershed Scale in Chiapas (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant: \$1.49 m)
5. **Mongolia:** Strengthening of the Protected Area Networking System in Mongolia (SPAN) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$1.36 m)

### *Climate Change*

6. **Benin:** Energy Efficiency Program (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$1.82 m)
7. **China:** Integrated Renewable Biomass Energy Development Project (ADB) (GEF Project Grant: \$9.20 m)
8. **Egypt:** SPWA-CC Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE)(UNIDO)(GEF Project Grant: \$3.95 m)
9. **Nigeria:** SPWA-CC Nigeria Urban Transport (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$4.50 m)
10. **Togo:** SPWA-CC Efficient Lighting Program (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$1.82 m)
11. **Ukraine:** Energy Efficient Lighting in Residential and Public Buildings (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$6.50 m)

### *International Waters*

12. **Regional (Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea):** CTI Strategies for Fisheries Bycatch Management (FAO) (GEF Project Grant: \$3.00 m)

### *Multi-focal Areas*

13. **Global:** 4th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme ( add-on) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$42.71 m)
14. **Argentina:** Rural Corridors and Biodiversity Conservation (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$6.29 m)
15. **Bolivia:** Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity and Land in Andean Vertical Ecosystems (IADB) (GEF Project Grant: \$6.00 m)
16. **Philippines:** CTI: Agusan River Basin Integrated Water Resources (ADB) (GEF Project Grant: \$2.93 m)

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<sup>5</sup> The GEF Project Grant is the funding request for the project and does not include project preparation grants nor Agency fees.