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To: Dr. Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility
Email: gcoordination@TheGef.org

Subject: Comments by Germany on LDCF/SCCF Work Programme November 2012

Dear Ms. Ishii,

Please find attached Germany's comments on the Work Program November 2012.

Germany approves the Work Program. We request the implementing agencies to take our comments into account during the drafting of final project documents.

For the following project we ask the Secretariat to send the final project document for Council review prior to CEO endorsement: "Lebanon: Sustainable Agricultural Livelihoods in Marginal Areas (SALMA)", GEF ID 5125.

Best regards,

Maria Buß
on behalf of
Frank Fass-Metz

I. Germany requests for the following project that the Secretariat sends the draft final project document for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

Lebanon: Sustainable Agricultural Livelihoods in Marginal Areas (SALMA), GEF Project ID 5125

Germany requests that the following points will be taken into account during the drafting of the final project document:

Germany appreciates that the proposal targets the vulnerability of small farmers and ecologically sensitive areas. However, Germany underpins the comments provided by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) which show that due to the lack of details, it is difficult to assess the PIF. Germany requests to further describe the intended interventions and to provide more details to the project components and respective expected outcomes.

In addition to the comments from the STAP, Germany asks for further explanations on how the sites for the hill lakes are chosen and how this will be done in a socially acceptable way (expected output i of component 1), to illustrate how beneficiaries will be trained in the modern irrigation networks and whether locally accepted and known technology is taken into account (expected output ii of component 1), to better describe the agroforestry systems considered for application in and elaborate on the benefits that these agroforestry systems will bring for the adaptation process (component 2).

III. Germany approves the following PIFs in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Georgia: Enhancing Resilience of Agricultural Sector in Georgia (ERASIG), GEF Project ID 5174

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

Germany appreciates how the PIF builds on national policies as well as recommendations from relevant reports on climate change in the region. However, Germany has some recommendations to the proposal. Concerning component 1 of the project (water availability and agricultural infrastructure) that refers to the rehabilitation of irrigation systems Germany want to point out that, in fact, the irrigation systems in place during the Soviet period have contributed to a large extent to salination of agricultural land. Some areas are currently lost for agricultural production due to salination. Experiences from the implementation of a German Technical Cooperation project (Climate tolerant rehabilitation of degraded landscapes in Georgia) show an interest of local Government and population in restoration of irrigation systems even in those areas and for those production systems irrigation is not necessary. A change in soil cultivation (no tillage – low tillage) often allows a significant increase of the harvest without irrigation. The above mentioned project could show that an improvement of the wheat production system resulted into an average harvest of 60 dt/ha in 2012 on 1200 ha test fields. The average in the country in the same year was only 25 dt/ha. It is therefore recommended to identify in detail for which regions and which production systems irrigation should be promoted.

Component 2 (landscape restoration) is designed to stop and/or reverse soil erosion and soil fertility loss as well as rehabilitation of eroded and degraded land. The related outputs are vague and only referring to flooding. Flooding is definitely an important risk (as known recently from catastrophe of July 19th 2012) but not the most important threat to erosion and soil fertility losses, at least in East Georgia. Overgrazing and land fires as well as a lack of fire wood, which is a main source of energy especially in the rural areas, are causes of land degradation which should be addressed. The rehabilitation of wind breaks (about 1000 km of windbreaks have been destroyed in the early 90s due to lack of fire wood) as well as the

establishment of sustainable pasture management are main problems. Germany recommends including those aspects into the project concept as well.

Tunisia: Addressing climate change vulnerabilities and risks in vulnerable coastal areas of Tunisia, GEF Project ID 5105

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

Germany appreciates how the PIF builds on findings and key recommendations from the National Communications of Tunisia as well as already undertaken vulnerability assessments of coastal areas. Also the choice of Djerba Island, among other sites, is very interesting because there is a conscience of local authorities and civil society to start action immediately in order to preserve the island particularly vulnerable. However, concerning expected outcome 1, Germany recommends considering and supporting databases that already exist in APAL, particularly those that will be able to deliver climate services and facilitate access to these data by other institutions to support adaptation decision-making.

The PIF makes a reference to the Early Warning System (EWS) being implemented with the support of GIZ in collaboration with KfW. There are two other important undertakings supported by GIZ in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism that are directly linked to the project and that shall be taken into account when addressing the vulnerability of coastal areas: The national climate change adaptation strategy of the tourism sector that addresses issues related to sea level rise; and the national climate change strategy (NCCS) which compiles and harmonizes all efforts that have been undertaken in Tunisia related to climate change adaptation as well as climate change mitigation.

Germany appreciates the planned coordination of the project with the German development cooperation (CCC/GIZ Project: Supporting implementation of UNFCCC in Tunisia). GIZ is supporting a process on vulnerability assessment of Djerba Island. Thus a close cooperation between the two projects is crucial to optimize resources.

The APAL is well structured with a good technical staff level and has a good experience with cooperation projects. However, APAL is not the only actor in the coastal management field. Germany therefore recommends coordinating with all other institutions involved in the coastal management areas to ensure ownership.

Angola, Namibia and South Africa: Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries Systems, GEF Project ID 5113

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

Germany welcomes the FAO's proposal on the Benguela Current Fisheries System that addresses the vulnerability of people depended on fisheries in the three countries. Yet, Germany recommends that the programmatic approach of funding by LDCF and SCCF and the contribution to the three countries are described in more detail.

In addition, the proposed project could benefit from the GIZ project "Transboundary Water Management in SADC" where important lessons on consultation with stakeholders in different countries have been made. Experiences gained within this project should be taken into account.

With regard to output 3.2.1 Germany suggests to increase the number of stakeholders trained in understanding climate change risks and adaptation practices, e.g. through a mediator or training of trainers approach.

Kyrgyz Republic: Promoting Climate Resiliency of Water Supplies in Kyrgyzstan, GEF Project ID 5115

Germany requests that the following points be taken into account during the drafting of the final project document:

Germany welcomes EBRD's proposal on promoting urban water supplies in Kyrgystan. However, it shall be considered that around 70% of Kyrgyzstan's water resources go into agriculture, the rest being private and industrial water consumption. Although wasting water resources is enormous in urban areas, the biggest problem resides outside urban areas. This should be reflected in the project design.

In addition, the PIF says "A decrease in the water level of Issyk-kul, the largest lake in Kyrgyzstan, which is important to the country's economy and ecosystems, is already being observed". There are other studies that observe a rising water level of Issyk-kul lake at present, because of of an increased glacier melting. A closer look into the change of water levels or level pattern over the year seems to be necessary as well as considerations regarding appropriate adaptation measures that can handle increasing and decreasing water levels.

Finally, community involvement in water management in urban areas is challenging if there are no precedents in this area in Kyrgystan. Therefore, Germany recommends consulting community water management projects in other countries and considering community management experiences from other sectors in Kyrgystan.