



**JOINT SUMMARY OF THE CHAIRS
GEF COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 11-13, 2008**

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was opened by Ms. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Facility.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

2. The Council elected Ms. Jan Henderson, the Council Member representing the constituency of Australia, New Zealand and Republic of Korea as its elected Co-Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Council approved the provisional agenda set forth in document GEF/C.34/1/Rev.1.

STATEMENTS BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF THE CONVENTIONS

4. The Council heard a statement from Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif. A printed version of the statement of Mr. Djoghlaif was made available at the Council meeting.

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

5. The Council heard a statement from Mr. Thomas Lovejoy, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

DECISIONS

6. The Council approved the following decisions with respect to the items on its agenda:

Decision on Agenda Item 5 Relations with Conventions

7. The Council considered document GEF/C.34/3, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, and welcomed the proposed activities to implement the guidance and decisions that have been approved by the Conferences of the Parties to the global environmental conventions. The Council requested the Secretariat and the GEF agencies to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision on Agenda Item 6 Organization of the Fourth GEF Assembly

8. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.34/4, *Note on the Organization of the Fourth GEF Assembly*, and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Uruguay for offering to host the Fourth Assembly meeting and accepted this kind offer. The Council approved a special initiative of \$653,730 for the planning of the Fourth GEF Assembly.

9. The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare for the next Council meeting a report on the progress that has been achieved in planning the Assembly and a more detailed proposal for the organization of the Assembly for the Council's review and approval.

Decision on Agenda Item 7 Progress Report of the Evaluation Director

10. The Council reviewed document GEF/ME/C.34/1, *GEF Evaluation Office: Progress Report from the Director*, and took note of the on-going work of the Office, especially the positive findings on impact of Protected Areas on local communities, and encouraged the Evaluation Office to ensure that all on-going work will be brought forward into the Fourth Overall Performance Study.

Decision on Agenda Item 8 Mid-Term Review of the RAF

11. The Council reviewed document GEF/ME/C.34/2 *Mid-Term Review of the Resource Allocation Framework* and took note of document GEF/ME/C.34/3, *Management Response to the Mid-Term Review of the Resource Allocation Framework*, and decided that:

- a. Reallocation of unused funds will be allowed in the last year of GEF-4.
- b. The last phase of GEF-4, including reallocation of funds, will be implemented with full public disclosure, transparency, participation and clear responsibilities.

12. The Council further decided that the Secretariat will present a proposal with objective rules and a transparent and equitable procedure for the reallocation of unused funds, taking into account the comments of Council Members expressed during the meeting, for a decision by mail by March 2009.

13. The Council also requested the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF agencies and STAP and other stakeholders, to present steps to improve RAF design and indices for the climate change and biodiversity focal areas for GEF-5, and furthermore to present scenarios for possible expansion of the RAF, if feasible, to all focal areas for GEF-5 for consideration by the Council at the June 2009 GEF Council meeting.

14. The Council requested the GEF Evaluation Office to report through the Management Action Record on the follow-up to the decisions.

Decision on Agenda Item 10 Strategic Program to Scale up Investment in Technology Transfer

15. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.34/5, *Elaboration of a Strategic Program to Scale up the Level of Investment in the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies*, and noted with appreciation that the GEF Secretariat prepared a progress report on the Elaboration of a Strategic Program to Scale up the Level of Investment in the Transfer of Environmentally

Sound Technologies, and, upon Council approval, forwarded it to the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its 28th session in Bonn, Germany, in June 2008.

16. The Council also requested the Secretariat to forward the revised version of document GEF/C.34/5 to the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its 29th session in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008.

17. The Council further agreed to a target funding level of \$35 million pending resource availability for the proposed technology transfer program in the following manner:

- (i) \$5 million from the climate change global and regional exclusion window of the GEF Trust Fund; and
- (ii) \$30 million to be realized from:
 - a. National individual allocations and the group allocation;
 - b. Resources that might be made available from the planned RAF reallocation, subsequent to a Council decision on this in June 2009.

18. The Council noted a pending decision to set aside \$15 million from *SCCF Program B on technology transfer* for the proposed technology transfer program.

Decision on Agenda Item 11 Work Program

19. The Council reviewed the proposed work program submitted to Council in document GEF/C.34/6 and approved the work program¹ comprised of 37 project concepts and endorsed the concepts and objectives of the 5 new programmatic approaches, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by November 28, 2008.

20. Total resources requested in this work program amounted to \$201.17 million which included GEF project grant and agency fees (please see attached Annex for more details). The approved work program is comprised of the following 37 Project Identification Forms (PIFs), 16 of which are submitted under ten programmatic approaches (5 PAs have been previously endorsed by Council and 5 are new ones seeking Council endorsement):

Biodiversity

- **Regional (Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname) :** BS Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Caribbean Sub Region Countries of Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname in the Context of a Regional Project (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.63 m)

¹ The Council Member representing the United States of America, in light of its national legislation regarding its country's voting position for certain development projects in certain countries, opposed the following project: **Regional (Afghanistan, Iran) : Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin (UNDP)**

- **Regional (Congo DR, Congo) :** CBSP Catalyzing Sustainable Forest Management in the Lake Tele-Lake Tumba (LTLT) Transboundary Wetland Landscape (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.17 m)
- **Brazil :** Improving Brazilian Capacity to Conserve and Use Biodiversity through Information Management and Use (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$8.17 m)
- **Cape Verde :** SPWA-BD Consolidation of Cape Verde's Protected Areas System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.29 m)
- **Congo DR :** CBSP Enforcement of Protected Areas Network (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$6.00 m)
- **Equatorial Guinea :** CBSP Sustainable Forest Management in Equatorial Guinea for the Conservation of Representative Ecosystems and Globally Significant Biodiversity (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.77 m)
- **Ethiopia :** Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation in the Farming Systems of Ethiopia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.86 m)
- **Jamaica :** Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.77 m)
- **Mali :** SPWA-BD Expansion and Strengthening of Mali's PA System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.77 m)
- **Mozambique :** Sustainable Financing of the Protected Area System in Mozambique (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.90 m)
- **Namibia :** Protected Landscape Conservation Areas Initiative (NAM PLACE) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.50 m)
- **Niger :** SPWA-BD Integrating the Sustainable Management of Faunal Corridors into Niger's Protected Area System (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.77 m)
- **Russian Federation :** Improving the Coverage and Management Efficiency of Protected Areas in the Steppe Biome of Russia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5.30 m)
- **Sri Lanka :** Strengthening Capacity to Control the Introduction and Spread of Alien Invasive Species (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1.83 m)
- **Sudan :** Launching Protected Area Network Management and Building Capacity in Post-conflict Southern Sudan (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.82 m)

Climate Change

- **China :** Promoting Energy Efficient Room Air Conditioners (PEERAC) Project (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6.26 m)
- **India :** IND Financing Energy Efficiency at Small and Medium Enterprises - under the Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$11.30 m)
- **Indonesia :** CF: Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Industries through System Optimization and Energy Management Standards (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.18 m)
- **Philippines :** CF: Industrial Energy Efficiency (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.17 m)

- **Philippines** : Chiller Energy Efficiency Project (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.60 m)
- **Thailand** : Industrial Energy Efficiency (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.62 m)
- **Venezuela** : IMPROVE: Increase Product Efficiency in Venezuela (RESUBMISSION) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.09 m)
- **Vietnam** : Phasing out Incandescent Lamps through Lighting Market Transformation in Vietnam (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.03 m)

International Waters

- **Regional (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Cape Verde)** : Implementing Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (UNEP/UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$9.65 m)
- **Regional (Jordan, Palestinian Authority)** : Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$3.50 m)
- **Regional (Afghanistan, Iran)** : Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.00 m)
- **Regional (Antigua And Barbuda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, St. Lucia, Suriname)** : Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CRew) (IADB/UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$20.00 m)
- **Mexico** : Regional Framework for Sustainable Use of the Rio Bravo (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.00 m)

Land Degradation

- **Montenegro** : Montenegro Institutional Development and Agriculture Strengthening (MIDAS) (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$4.00 m)

Multi-focal Areas

- **Regional (Cameroon, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic)** : CBSP Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$13.00 m)
- **Regional (Chile, Peru)** : Towards Ecosystem Management of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6.93 m)
- **Argentina** : Establishment of Incentives for the Conservation of Ecosystem Services of Global Significance (UNDP/UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.91 m)
- **Brazil** : SFM Strengthening National Policy and Knowledge Frameworks in Support of Sustainable Management of Brazil's Forest Resources (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$8.85 m)
- **Cambodia** : SFM Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management and the Development of Bio-energy Markets to Promote Environmental Sustainability and to Reduce Green House Gas Emissions in Cambodia (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.36 m)

- **China** : PRC-GEF Partnership: Silk Road Ecosystem Restoration Project (ADB) (GEF Project Grant : \$5.12 m)
- **Ecuador** : SFM Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Water Resources in the Ibarra-San Lorenzo Corridor (IFAD) (GEF Project Grant : \$2.70 m)
- **India** : SLEM - Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Conservation and Management for Improved Livelihoods in Uttarakhand Watershed Sector (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$7.00 m)

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES IN THE NOVEMBER WORK PROGRAM

Biodiversity

- Strategic Program for West Africa (Biodiversity) (SPWA-BD) (NEW)
- Biosafety Program (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

Climate Change

- Strategic Program for West Africa (Climate Change) (SPWA-CC) (NEW)
- Framework for Promoting Low Greenhouse Gas Emission in Buildings (NEW)
- Reducing Industry's Carbon Footprint in Southeast Asia through Compliance with a Management System for Energy (NEW)
- Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency in India (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

Multi-focal Areas

- Congo Basin Strategic Program (CBSP) (NEW)
- Sustainable Forest Management (endorsed by Council in November 2007)
- PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems Program (endorsed by Council in April 2008)
- Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Partnership Program (endorsed by Council in November 2007)

21. With respect to any PIF approved in this work program, either under one of the programmatic approaches or as a stand alone PIF, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive a copy of the draft final project document that is submitted to the CEO for endorsement. Council Members may transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the GEF Agency.

Decision on Agenda Item 12 GEF Trust Fund for Programs

22. The Council took note of the suggestion for establishing a GEF Trust Fund for Programs (GTFP) as described in document GEF/C.34/7, *GEF Trust Fund for Programs*, and invited the Secretariat to revise the document to respond to the questions raised by the Council about the proposed GTFP, including exploring options other than the creation of a trust fund, and to circulate by February 2009 in a decision by mail a proposal for meeting the co-financing needs of the Programmatic approaches.

Decision on Agenda Item 13 Report on the Completion of the Strategic Priority on Adaptation

23. The Council considered document GEF/C.34/8, *Report on the Completion of the Strategic Priority on Adaptation*, and welcomed the progress achieved by this pilot and noted with appreciation the information about its completion.

24. The Council requested the Office of Evaluation to conduct an independent evaluation of the \$50 million pilot. The Council will consider future activities, if any, on adaptation under the GEF Trust Fund based on the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the SPA and the evolving guidance to the GEF of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Decision on Agenda Item 14 Enhancing Civil Society Engagement and Partnership with the GEF

25. The Council considered document GEF/C.34/9, *Enhancing Civil Society Engagement and Partnership with the GEF*, and welcomed the steps taken by the GEF Secretariat and the GEF NGO Network to strengthen the GEF's partnership and engagement with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

26. The Council applauded the efforts of the GEF NGO Network in developing the Strategic Operational Plan for 2008-2010 as presented for the Council's information in Annex I of document GEF/C.34/9, encouraged donors to support it and invited the GEF Secretariat, GEF agencies and GEF focal points to support its implementation.

27. To this effect, the Council approved reviving the Voluntary NGO Trust Fund to act as a funding mechanism to support the Network; furthermore, the Council approved adjusting the support provided for the participation of eligible Network representatives at Council meetings from the 50,000 US dollars set in 1995 to 70,445 US dollars, to account for cost increase of services, travel and inflation.

28. The Council approved the replacement of the NGO accreditation to the GEF with membership in the Network.

Decision on Agenda Item 15 Decision on the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

29. The Council requested the Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, in cooperation with the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility, to initiate discussions on the replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund with the convening of a planning meeting in Washington on November 14, 2008, for the negotiations of the fifth replenishment of resources of the GEF Trust Fund.

Decision on Agenda Item 16 Appointment/Reappointment of the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility

30. The Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Ms. Monique Barbut as CEO/Chairperson of the Facility for a three year term beginning July 14, 2009. The Council expressed its appreciation of Ms. Barbut during her first term as CEO/Chairperson of the GEF. The Council wished, in particular, to commend the CEO for bringing about much needed reforms at the GEF and believed that continuity in leadership will benefit the GEF in the challenging years ahead.

31. The Council looked forward to working with Ms. Barbut and offering her their full support. The Council asked the Secretariat to present to Council at the June 2009 Council meeting a paper exploring the option of making the CEO term and the replenishment cycle coterminous.

Decision on Agenda Item 17 Other Business

32. The Council decided to increase the budget for the review of fiduciary standards to \$250,000 in order that a high quality report may be presented to the Council meeting in June 2009.

33. The Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for an audit by the Internal Audit Department of the World Bank for its Spring meeting in 2011 and requested the Secretariat to arrange for further audits at four yearly intervals.

34. The Council endorsed the CEO's proposal to prepare, in consultation with the Director of the Evaluation Office (EO), an annual, Council-led performance review process for the CEO and the Director of EO in line with the core functions described in the Instrument and relevant Council decisions. The Council looked forward to a proposal at the June 2009 Council meeting and the first reviews in November 2009.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

35. The meeting closed on November 13, 2008.