



# Talking Points

A newsletter providing information on GEF activities and processes

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## In this issue:

### I. Highlights from the Upcoming GEF Council Meeting, November 19-21, 2003

- Capacity Building
- Performance-Based Framework

### II. Focal Point News

- Evaluation of Focal Point Support
- Update on New GEF National Dialogue Initiative
- Country Dialogue Workshop in Syria
- Constituency Meetings
  - Eastern Africa
  - Southern Africa
  - South American Southern Cone

### III. GEF/NGO Network News

- **NGO Consultation Agenda**

### IV. Focal Area News

- **Strategic Priorities for Climate Change**
- **GEF Named a Financial Mechanism of UNCCD**

### V. News from Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- Third Study of GEF's Performance
- Program & Policy Evaluation
- Biodiversity
- Team represents GEF at World Parks Congress

### VI. Other News

- **Streamlining Process for Development of MSPs**
- **GEF Project Cycle Update**
- **New GEF Publications**

## I. Highlights from the Upcoming GEF Council Meeting

The next meeting of the GEF Council will be held November 19-21, 2003 in Washington D.C. The Meeting will be preceded by an NGO consultation to be held on November 18, 2003.

In addition to its normal administrative business, the GEF Council will discuss papers on a strategic approach to capacity

building, and a performance-based framework for allocation of GEF resources.

The Provisional Council Meeting Agenda is available on page 2 of this newsletter, for more information on the upcoming Council Meeting, including the proposed agenda, please visit the GEF Web site, [www.TheGEF.org](http://www.TheGEF.org) (click on "council documents.")

### What is the GEF?

The Global Environment Facility is a mechanism for international cooperation that provides financing for activities that achieve global environment benefits in the areas of: (1) biological diversity; (2) climate change; (3) international waters; (4) land degradation; (5) persistent organic pollutants; and (6) ozone layer depletion. The GEF has 176 member states.

Since its creation in 1991, the GEF has allocated \$4.5 billion in grants to support more than 1,300 projects in 140 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In addition, GEF has committed approximately \$117.4 million in small grants to NGOs and community groups in developing countries, directly involving them in addressing global environmental problems.

### What is the GEF Council?

The GEF Council, the principal governing body of the GEF, meets twice a year. The Council is responsible for developing, adopting, and evaluating the operational policies and programs for GEF-financed activities. Thirty-two Council Members are appointed by their constituency groupings of countries. For each constituency, an Alternate is also appointed who has full power to act for the Council Member in his or her absence. A listing of current Council Members and Alternates can be found on the GEF Web site.

#### INEWS FLASH!

The next GEF Council Meeting will be held

on November 19-21, 2003, in Washington D.C.

Check GEF's Web site, [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org), for more information.

## Capacity Building

In May 1999, the GEF Council approved the 18-month Capacity Development Initiative (CDI), which was intended to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive approach for developing local capacity to meet the challenges of global environmental action. The CDI conducted a broad assessment of the capacity-building needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition; took stock of earlier and ongoing efforts to assist national capacity building; and prepared a report outlining a strategy for capacity building.

The report was presented to the GEF Council in May 2001. Several new pathways were suggested for GEF support for capacity building: a self-assessment of capacity needs, targeted capacity-building projects, and country-specific programs for addressing critical capacity-building needs in LDCs and SIDS. In addition, the CDI suggested that capacity-building elements of regular GEF projects be enhanced and strengthened.

The Council requested that the GEF Secretariat begin the self-assessment of capacity-building needs and conduct further consultations on the other pathways. The GEF Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed during additional consultations will present a revised strategic approach to enhanced capacity building for GEF action in November.

The goal is to provide adequate, cost-effective support for nationally determined and prioritized capacity-building needs. These prioritized needs should be consistent with the relevant conventions and the objectives of the GEF, and include clearly identified indicators of progress and achievement.

### Performance-Based Framework

The GEF Council has agreed to establish a system for allocating scarce GEF resources within and among focal areas, with a view toward maximizing the impact of GEF resources. Based on discussions around an Issues Note on the topic at the May 2003 Council meeting, further development of a Performance-based Framework (PBF) has been carried out by a Technical Working Group, chaired by the GEF Secretariat.

The Group was constituted in July 2003 from experts nominated by the Council and other experts identified by the Secretariat. The Group will submit its first report for discussion by the Council at the November 2003 meeting.

*More information on members of the working group can be found on the GEF Web site, [www.TheGEF.org](http://www.TheGEF.org), under "What's New?"*

### GEF Council Meeting Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of a Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statement by the Chair of STAP
5. Appointment of the Independent M&E Coordinator
6. Relations with Conventions
7. Work Program
8. GEF Business Plan FY05-07
9. Action Plan To Respond to Recommendations for Improving GEF's Performance
10. Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity Building
11. Monitoring and Evaluation
12. Third Study of GEF's Overall Performance (OPS 3): Terms of Reference and Budget
13. Performance-Based Framework for Allocating of GEF Resources
14. Review of Experience with Executing Agencies under Expanded Opportunities
15. Note on Collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development
16. Initial Proposals to enhance the process for selecting the CEO/Chairman of the GEF
17. Confirmation of Participants joining constituency groupings
18. Representation of constituencies at Council Meetings
19. Other Business
20. Joint Summary of the Chairs

*Please visit the GEF Web site at [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org) (click on "Council Documents" under "Frequently Visited Pages," then click on "GEF/C.22 November 19-21, 2003") for an annotated agenda.*

## **II. FOCAL POINT NEWS**

### **Evaluation of Focal Point Support**

As reported in the last issue of *Talking Points* (July 2003, Volume 3, No. 1), support provided under the focal point support initiative is to be evaluated, in consultation with the national Focal Points, during FY04. The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess whether the support provided to Focal Points and Council Members has achieved the objective of (i) strengthening the national coordination activities of the GEF Focal Points and (ii) supporting recipient country Council Members in fulfilling their responsibilities to members of their constituency.

A proposal will be prepared for Council review in May 2004 on means to continue strengthening the national Focal Points and Council Members. The proposal will be based on findings of the evaluation, as well as the recommendations of the Second GEF Assembly, the Second Overall Performance Study, the policy recommendations of the Third Replenishment that were endorsed by the Council, and other lessons learned.

Questionnaires will be sent to Focal Points, NGO representatives, and the Implementing and Executing Agencies in November. We ask for your support and input into this exercise, which will provide information on lessons learned, and help assess the support required for effective and efficient country coordination and outreach activities.

### **GEF National Dialogue Initiative**

The new GEF National Dialogue Initiative, recently approved by the GEF Council, builds upon lessons learned from the GEF Country Dialogue Workshops. The Initiative responds to the recommendations of the Second GEF Assembly, the Third Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and the Second Overall Performance Study of the GEF concerning strengthened country involvement and ownership and capacity building for national focal points.

The main objectives of the GEF Dialogue Initiative are to assist Participating countries by:

- (a) promoting in-depth understanding of the GEF's strategic directions, policies and procedures;
- (b) strengthening country coordination and ownership in GEF operations and sharing lessons learned from project implementation; and

- (c) achieving greater mainstreaming of GEF activities into national planning frameworks and coordination and synergies amongst the GEF focal areas and convention issues at the national level.

The Dialogue Initiative will be organized over a four-year period as a collaborative process between the GEF National Focal Points, the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies. It will begin in 2004 following an additional 5 GEF CDWs to be hosted by countries during the first half of 2004.

First Component (Sep 2004 - Jan 2005): Activity during the first component of the Dialogue Initiative will focus on Sub-regional Consultations with GEF national focal points in recipient Participating countries. These Consultations will serve as a means to engage all countries in understanding the current strategic priorities and operational modalities of the GEF. They will also serve as a vehicle to solicit countries' views on the design and scope of country level consultations during the second component of the project.

Second Component (Jan 2005 - Dec 2007): The design and objectives of each multi-stakeholder National Consultation, conducted during the second component of the Dialogue Initiative, will be based on individual country circumstances and will focus primarily on GEF policy-related issues.

*A new website will be developed for the Dialogue Initiative at [www.undp.org/gef/dialogue/index.htm](http://www.undp.org/gef/dialogue/index.htm) in 2004.*

### **Syria Hosts GEF Workshop**

The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment hosted a Country Dialogue Workshop (CDW) on September 22 at Mashtal Al Helo, in Tartous Province, Syria. Thirty-eight participants, representing government ministries, research institutions, donors, regional centers, members of the news media, and NGOs, in addition to Convention Focal Points, were involved in the two-day dialogue. A field visit was organized to two GEF projects in Lattakia Province.

Mr. Taoufik Ben Amara, UNDP Resident Representative, welcomed participants to the meeting and clarified its objectives, which were to (i) promote in-depth understanding of the GEF's strategic directions, policies and procedures; (ii) strengthen country coordination and ownership in GEF operations and share lessons learned from project implementation; (iii) achieve greater mainstreaming of GEF activities into national planning frameworks and coordination and synergies among the

GEF focal areas and convention issues at the national level; and (iv) to strengthen the capacity of national Focal Points.

Mr. Aram Saliba, Governor of Tartous, represented the Minister of Local Administration and Environment and highlighted the importance of the workshop and the need to service the environment at a local level.

The Workshop ended with recommendations for improved communication and country coordination as well as recommendations for enhancement of the internal procedures within the Government ministries regarding the development and implementation of projects. The important role to be played by women and NGOs in the development and implementation of GEF projects was also noted.

*For more information on country dialogue workshops, visit <http://www.undp.org/gef/workshop/index.htm>*

### **Constituency Meetings Held**

The Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the South American Southern Cone constituencies held meetings prior to the GEF council meeting in November. The purpose of these meetings were (i) to brief participants on the conclusions of the GEF Council Meeting held in May 2003, ii) consult with participants in and formulate their position on issues to be discussed at the Council Meeting to be held in November 2003, iii) discuss representation issues, including the Council and Alternate Member seat rotation system, and iv) consider new projects for the region.

The Eastern Africa Constituency agreed to the participation of Seychelles and Rwanda in their constituency and the Southern Africa constituency welcomed Namibia into their constituency. The constituencies also discussed the use of focal point support for country coordination and ways to ensure effective communication between constituency members. The meeting of the Eastern Africa Constituency included country presentations by GEF focal points outlining GEF activities in the constituent countries.

*A report of these meetings will be made available on the GEF Web site, [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org), under "What's New?"*

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## **III. GEF/NGO NETWORK NEWS**

### **PARTNERING WITH NGOS:**

Unique among financial institutions, the GEF welcomes the participation of NGOs in its Council's deliberations. Since the GEF's inception, NGOs have worked with the GEF in a variety of ways, ranging from policy analysis and project planning at the international level to project implementation and monitoring at the local level. NGOs have been strong supporters of and participants in GEF's Small Grants Programme, and spearheaded creation of the GEF's medium-sized projects. Currently, more than 700 NGOs are participating in GEF activities as co-executing agents or service contractors. More than three-quarters of these NGOs are based in developing countries.

*For information on GEF's NGO network, visit [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org), click on 'participants,' and then 'nongovernmental organizations.'*

**!NEWS FLASH!  
Next NGO Consultation is November 18,  
2003  
Eugene R. Black Auditorium (H Auditorium)  
600 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington D.C.  
9:00am to 6:00pm**

## GEF NGO Consultation Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Q&A with GEF CEO and Chairman
3. GEF Business Plan FY05-07
4. Capacity Building
5. Performance Based Framework for Allocation of GEF Resources
6. Update to the Country Dialogue Workshops
7. Small Grants Programme (SGP)
8. Case Study: Project San Lorenzo, CEASPA (Panama)
9. Monitoring and Evaluation
10. Status of Local Benefit Study
11. GEF Action Plan
12. OP on Land Degradation
13. Collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development
14. Case Study: The Sundarbans Project
15. Review of Experience with Executing Agencies under Expanded Opportunities
16. Other Business

Please visit the GEF Web site at [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org) (click on "Council Documents" under "Frequently Visited Pages," then click on "GEF/C.22 November 19-21, 2003") for an annotated agenda.

## IV. FOCAL AREA NEWS

### GEF Strategic Directions

Council considered the GEF strategic business plan at its last meeting in May 2003. In order to enhance the allocation of scarce GEF resources to high priority areas, all focal areas developed some strategic priorities. These priorities reflect lessons learned from experience and are intended to (1) enhance the impact on the global environment and (2) reinforce the synergies between global and local benefits. All new GEF projects have to comply with these strategic priorities.

In the last issue of Talking Points, we presented the strategic priorities for biodiversity. In this issue, we highlight the emerging strategic priorities for climate change.

### Strategic Priorities for Climate Change

In the climate change focal area, GEF support during the first decade has focused largely on mitigation consistent with guidance from the Climate Convention. The portfolio has tested a range of project approaches and interventions, with an emphasis on the long-term, but also with some short-term measures (projects with low costs and risks, such as landfill gas to avoid methane release).

The strategic priorities aim to accelerate the shift from technology-based approaches towards those that are market-based and application-oriented, emphasizing policies and institutions that enhance sustainable development benefits. Just like the Operational Programs for the climate change focal area, the strategic priorities seek the closer link between economic development and climate protection—taking into account that climate protection, as well as being an environmental issue, is intrinsically linked to the energy systems that countries need for their economic development.

The proposed strategic priorities, including means of achieving them, are:

(a) *Transformation of Markets for High Volume Products and Processes.* Under this priority, small projects can have a huge input. In the past GEF projects have successfully introduced energy-efficient appliances, resulting in a significant and lasting market penetration or transformation. Activities can include standardization and labeling programs, demand-side management, and information dissemination.

(b) *Increased Access to Local Sources of Financing for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.* This strategic priority addresses one of the main barriers for market development for energy efficiency and renewable energy: the upfront investment costs are high even if the operating costs are lower than for conventional energy generation. This priority seeks to provide capital for investment, and also introduces some more refined financial instruments.

(c) *Power Sector Policy Frameworks Supportive of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.* In order to create a level playing field, renewable energy and energy efficiency need the appropriate

enabling environment, which is the focus of this priority.

(d) *Productive Uses of Renewable Energy*. Under this priority, income generation and essential social services gain preferred access to GEF projects. This allows for projects that are mainstreamed into the non-energy sectors, for example, health, education and rural development.

(e) *Global Market Aggregation and National Innovation for Emerging Technologies*. New low-emission technologies often hit even more barriers, as they are unknown and might carry higher technology risks. This strategic priority tries to reduce the technology gap between the North and the South for selected applications.

(f) *Modal Shifts in Urban Transport and Clean Vehicle/Fuel Technologies*. Environmentally sustainable transportation systems are the focus of operational program 11 (OP11), and of this strategic priority. GEF projects under this priority seek to enhance the energy efficiency of the transportation sector, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the climate program has included limited funding for adaptation to climate change in the context of funding for national communications required of all countries by the Climate Convention. As this issue receives increased attention in the Convention, the GEF is exploring possible means of providing increased financial support for this objective.

### **GEF Named a Financial Mechanism of UN Convention to Combat Desertification**

The sixth session of the Conference of Parties (COP-6) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was convened in Havana, Cuba, from August 25 to September 5, 2003. The COP adopted a decision to accept the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention. The COP also requested that arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the Convention be elaborated upon and concluded between the Secretariats of the UNCCD and the GEF.

GEF CEO and Chairman Len Good informed the COP that a target of US\$500 million had been set by the GEF to support activities in the next three years that address desertification and deforestation. Approximately US\$250 million of the US\$500 million is expected to be

devoted to projects related to the GEF focal area of land degradation (which focuses on desertification and deforestation). An additional US\$250 million is targeted for activities that address land degradation in conjunction with GEF projects in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, persistent organic pollutants, and international waters.

### **GEF Participates in World Parks Congress**

The Fifth World Parks Congress (WPC) was held September 8-17, 2003 in Durban, South Africa. Staff from the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies participated in the meeting. Len Good, GEF CEO and Chairman, addressed the opening session, which was attended by approximately 3,000 delegates. Other distinguished speakers included Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan and the former and current presidents of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela and Mr. Thabo Mbeki.

The GEF organized an exhibit booth to distribute GEF publications and help familiarize WPC delegates with the GEF and its mandate. The GEF also produced a publication specifically for distribution at the WPC that highlighted the GEF's contribution to protected areas worldwide.

GEF's engagement in the WPC provided an excellent opportunity to liaise with key stakeholders and to gather input from delegates regarding GEF processes.

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## **V. NEWS FROM MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)**

### **Third Study of GEF's Performance**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> GEF Overall Performance Study (OPS3) process will begin in FY04 with the preparation of Terms of Reference (TOR) for discussion at the November 2003 GEF Council Meeting. In accordance with the TOR, the M&E director will recruit an independent team of consultants to begin work in June 2004. The OPS3 report will be presented to the GEF Council in May 2005. This schedule will allow for the final report to be completed by the time negotiations on the Fourth GEF Replenishment are started.

It is proposed that OPS3 will comprise the following key issues:

- Global results and impacts of GEF programs, including linkages among focal areas;

- Appropriateness of GEF's institutional arrangements;
- Adequacy of GEF policies, strategies, programs, and procedures; and
- Program and project adherence to GEF review criteria such as country ownership, financial leverage, sustainability, replication, and monitoring and evaluation.

## Program and Policy Evaluations

Program studies will play a crucial role in the preparation for the Third Study of the GEF's Overall Performance (OPS3). The studies will cover the full scope of GEF operational programs, including policy, programmatic, technical and operational issues. All available data will be used, including project implementation reports (PIR), the specially managed project review (SMPR), crosscutting evaluations, and mid-term and terminal project evaluations. The reviews of the ozone, persistent organic pollutants, and integrated ecosystem (OP12) programs will be initiated and completed in the first half of fiscal year 2005. The first phase of these studies will consist of efforts to design methodologies and program indicators. The GEF M&E unit would like to request support from Focal Points in providing feedback from project experience and field visits.

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## VI. Other News

### Streamlining the Process for Development of Medium-Sized Projects

The GEF Secretariat has established a Medium-Sized Project (MSP) Working Group to advise the Secretariat on how best to respond to the recommendations of the MSP Evaluation.

The Working Group consists of a representative from each of the three implementing agencies, one from an executing agency working under expanded opportunities (IFAD), two representatives from NGOs, and GEF Secretariat staff.

The Working Group has conducted several consultation meetings since July and continues to meet at regular intervals. A paper will be presented for discussion at the NGO consultation and/or the Council meeting in May 2004.

## GEF Project Cycle Update

The Project Cycle is currently being updated to reflect changes that have been proposed and approved by the GEF Council. A revised Project Cycle Paper will be submitted to the November 2003 Council meeting as an information document.

These proposed changes are already being implemented, and the update of the Project Cycle will incorporate all changes for ease of reference. The revisions will clarify several GEF project processing procedures and guidelines. Among other things, the updated Project Cycle paper will include revisions of the project review criteria and a number of templates such as the Project Executive Summary, which are to be posted on the GEF Web site. All Implementing and Executing Agencies will use the templates on the GEF Web site for future submissions, including concept documents, PDF applications, and work program inclusions.

## New GEF Publications

- *Making a Visible Difference in Our World* (36 pages, available online) – Support for new and existing parks, wildlife refuges, heritage sites, and other protected places accounts for 60 percent of the GEF's project portfolio. Partnerships forged by the GEF are conserving 226 million hectares—or about one-fourth of the total area protected globally. This book examines GEF's work to ensure that the benefits of these protected areas extend beyond boundaries.
- *Operational Report on GEF Projects* (approximately 400 pages, to be published by mid-November) – Descriptions of all GEF projects provided by GEF's three implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank.) The same information is available online in a searchable project database that also includes project documents. To access this database, visit [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org) and click on "Project Database" (on the left side of the page.)
- *Working Paper 19: The Global Environment Facility as a Pioneering Institution*, by Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (32 pages, available online) – The GEF is the first international institution to bring together UN and Bretton Woods institutions. Working Paper 19 examines how this partnership works, the history of GEF, and lessons learned that could be valuable to other international institutions.

*For copies of these publications, call 1 (202) 473-0508; e-mail [rodriguez@theGEF.org](mailto:rodriguez@theGEF.org); or write to the Global Environment Facility Secretariat, 1818 H St., NW, Washington DC 20433 USA. To locate selected publications online, visit [www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org), and click on "Publications," which is located in the "Frequently Visited Pages" box on the right side of the page.*



**The GEF Secretariat would like to welcome the following new Council Members,  
Alternate Members, and Focal Points**

**GEF FOCAL POINTS**

GEF country Focal Points play a key role in ensuring that GEF projects are country-driven and based on national priorities. There are two types of GEF country Focal Points :

**Political Focal Points** are responsible for GEF governance issues and policies and communications with their constituencies. All member countries have political focal points.

**Operational Focal Points** are responsible for in-country program coordination of GEF projects and other operational activities. Only countries eligible for GEF funding are expected to designate operational focal points.

A complete listing of Council Members, Alternates, and focal points can be found on the GEF Web site,  
[www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org)

**Council Members**

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Koichi Hasegawa	Japan	Council Member	09/04/2003
Ms. Marita Steinke	Germany	Council Member	09/04/2003
Colonel Bala Mande	Nigeria	Council Member Political Focal Point	09/26/2003
Mr. Dan Frederiksen	Denmark	Council Member	10/06/2003
Ms. Ludovica Soderini	Italy	Council Member	10/07/2003
Mr. Ramon Fernandez	France	Council Member	10/08/2003
Ms. Elisea G. Gozun	Philippines	Council Member Operational Focal Point	10/13/2003
Ms. BrittMarie Hartvig	Sweden	Council Member	10/15/2003

**Alternate Members**

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Katsuro Kitagawa	Japan	Alternate Member	09/04/2003
Mr. Roberto Goidanich	Brazil	Alternate Member	09/26/2003
Mr. Kari Karanko	Finland	Alternate Member	10/15/2003
Mr. Walter Hermann	Germany	Alternate Member	10/20/2003
Mr. Aboubaker Douale Waiss	Djibouti	Alternate Member Operational Focal Point	10/20/2003
Mr. Raphael Kabwaza	Malawi	Alternate Member Political Focal Point Operational Focal Point	10/21/2003
Mr. Doorga Persaud	Guyana	Alternate Member Operational Focal Point	10/22/2003
Mr. Effendy Sumardja	Indonesia	Alternate Member Political Focal Point Operational Focal Point	10/22/2003

Ms. Claudia McMurray	United States	Alternate Member	10/31/2003
Mr. Jinkang Wu	China, People's Republic of	Alternate Member	10/31/2003
Mr. Nuno da Mota Pinto	Portugal	Alternate Member	11/06/2003

### Political Focal Points

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mrs. Nino Ckhkobadze	Georgia	Political Focal Point	09/08/2003
His Excellency Lauro Baja Jr.	Philippines	Political Focal Point	09/30/2003
Mr. Mirza Tasadduq Hussain Beg	Bangladesh	Political Focal Point	10/07/2003
His Excellency Gheorghe DUCA	Moldova	Political Focal Point	10/20/2003
His Excellency Lufter Xhuveli	Albania	Political Focal Point	10/20/2003

### Operational Focal Points

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Carlos Costa	Brazil	Operational Focal Point	09/04/2003
Mr. César Rivera	Ecuador	Operational Focal Point	09/04/2003
Her Excellency Aitkul Samakova	Kazakhstan	Operational Focal Point	09/04/2003
Dr. Yousef Shuraiki	Jordan	Operational Focal Point	09/12/2003
Professor Ratemo W. Micheka	Kenya	Operational Focal Point Political Focal Point	10/04/2003
Ms. Marithza Del Castillo Antezana de Villazon	Bolivia	Operational Focal Point	10/07/2003
Ms. Fatouma ALI ABDALLAH	Comoros	Operational Focal Point	10/20/2003
Mr. Roland GAJSAK	Croatia	Operational Focal Point	10/20/2003
Mr. HOUNG-SEOB KIM	Korea, Republic Of	Operational Focal Point Political Focal Point	10/20/2003