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I. Highlights of upcoming Council Meetings

The next meeting of the GEF Council is scheduled to be held November 8-10, 2005 in Washington, DC. An NGO consultation, which will be held on November 7, 2005, will precede the meeting.

The Provisional Council Meeting Agenda is presented below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of a Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. STAP
5. Statements by Executive Secretaries of the Conventions and representative of CSD
6. Relations with Conventions and other Institutions
7. Monitoring and evaluation
8. Update on RAF
9. Work program
10. Process for selecting CEO/Chairman of the Facility
11. Third GEF Assembly
12. Items with budgetary implications
 - (a) Strengthening Council Members
 - (b) Management information system
 - (c) International Year of Deserts and Desertification
13. Elements of biosafety strategy
14. Private sector strategy
15. GEF activities related to forests
16. Review of Action Plan to Respond to Recommendations for Improving GEF's Performance
17. Cost effectiveness of GEF projects
18. Other business
19. Joint summary of the Chairs

More information on the upcoming Council meeting, including the Council papers is available on the GEF Website, www.theGEF.org (click on "Council Documents").

The following are snapshots of some of the agenda items for the Council meeting.

RAF

The GEF Secretariat and its Implementing Agencies have established an interagency Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) implementation team to develop the operational procedures necessary for the effective implementation of the RAF in GEF4 and the proposed approach for making public indicative country and group allocations. The team has already started its work. A paper, GEF/C.27/5, *Implementing the GEF Resource Allocation Framework*, has been prepared for Council review.

For more information, please, see the article on the RAF on page 2 of this issue.

Private Sector Strategy

The Council will be reviewing the strategy—*The GEF Strategy to Enhance Engagement with the Private Sector*, GEF/C.27/13. The GEF Secretariat together with the Implementing and Executing Agencies will report back to the Council with concrete proposals to implement the strategy in June 2006.

The strategy proposes building a framework for private sector collaboration that draws on lessons from GEF projects. The framework identifies three cross-cutting initiatives that could help the GEF family enhance its private sector collaboration as well as leverage GEF resources: pilot projects to support innovative private sector initiatives; a knowledge management system; and risk-free mitigating financial instruments to enhance private sector engagement within the focal areas.

The proposed strategy will give immediate operational effect to reforms. Within each GEF focal area, the GEF proposes modest and achievable initiatives to address country-specific conditions and priorities facilitate dialogue with the private sector, target selected near-term opportunities to demonstrate early results, and tie together into an integrated program the specific elements across the spectrum of the GEF's work.

Enhancing the Effectiveness of STAP

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) is striving to become more relevant, efficient, responsive, and effective in meeting GEF's pressing needs for scientific and technical advice. To achieve such ends, changes are required in the way STAP operates and in the way in which the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies relate to STAP. Accordingly, STAP, the GEF Secretariat, and the Implementing Agencies have made a number of decisions to achieve those objectives, as presented in the paper, GEF/C.27/Inf, *Improving the Effectiveness of STAP: Decisions by STAP, the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies*.

II. GEF Resource Allocation Framework

The GEF Council adopted a major reform program in September 2005 that will change the way GEF provides grants to recipient countries as of July 2006. The new system, known as the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF), will initially be applicable to biodiversity and climate change focal areas and is described in GEF/C.27/Inf 8/Rev.1, *The GEF Resource Allocation Framework*. GEF grants for the remaining focal areas—land degradation, international waters, persistent organic pollutants, and ozone—will continue to be allocated based on current practice. The RAF does not change the existing project cycle or the technical criteria used to evaluate the eligibility of specific projects for GEF grants. These technical criteria will continue to apply to all projects funded by the GEF.

The RAF, however, specifies the total resources that will be available to each recipient country during each replenishment period for the biodiversity and climate change focal areas. Countries will know by June 2006 the total amount of grants that each country is able to receive from the GEF for qualified climate change and biodiversity projects during the 2006–2010 period. GEF grant requests from a country in excess of these resource envelopes will be deferred until a subsequent period. Countries can make realistic long-term plans and coordinate their environmental projects based on these resource envelopes.

The allocations for each country in the covered focal areas are done in a transparent and agreed-upon manner. The RAF explicitly links the total grants to each country in each focal area to (1) the country's potential to generate global environmental benefits consistent with the relevant global environmental convention and (2) its performance, which reflects country capacity, national policies and practices, and the enabling environment that facilitates successful implementation of GEF projects, including transparency and good governance. Additionally, the RAF also provides a minimum allocation of \$1 million per covered focal area for each country, to ensure an equitable distribution of GEF resources. In addition, the RAF sets aside 5 percent of the resources available for a focal area for regional and global projects.

The CEO has created an interagency team consisting of staff from the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to coordinate the transition to and the implementation of the RAF. This team will elaborate the procedures to operationalize the RAF. It has already submitted its first output regarding the public disclosure of allocations to the Council for consideration at the November 2005 meeting (GEF/C.27/5/Rev. 1). The team expects to present additional detailed operational procedures and policies on the RAF for Council consideration in June 2006.

The Council adopted the RAF in response to the policy recommendations of the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. The GEF Council will review the RAF, including the operational experience after two years of implementation.

Upcoming issues of *Talking Points* will highlight additional details about the RAF.

For more information, please, contact Kiran Pandey at the GEF Secretariat:
KPandey@TheGEF.org.

III. Focal Point News

Council Members Hold Constituency Meetings

Constituency meetings help to enhance communication and coordination between constituency members by providing a forum for members to meet and exchange information and lessons learned. Constituency meetings also provide an opportunity for participants to meet prior to Council meetings to discuss issues under consideration by the Council and to ensure that constituency views are reflected in the Council deliberations.

Mongolia Hosts Constituency Meeting

A meeting for the constituency of Cambodia, Korea DPR, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam was hosted by the Council Member, Mr. J. Enkhsaikhan, representing the constituency in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on October 6, 2005. This meeting presented an opportunity for focal points from the countries to interact and discuss constituency matters. The meeting also agreed on a schedule for GEF Council rotation among member countries. According to such an agreement, Thailand will assume the Council seat starting from January 2006 while Vietnam will be the Alternate for the constituency. Furthermore, the participants of the constituency meeting have agreed to introduce a group e-mail for the constituency in order to strengthen intra-constituency communication.

Southern Cone Constituency Holds Constituency Meeting

A meeting of the Focal Points for the Southern Cone Constituency comprising: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, October 27-28, 2005. Participants at the meeting, hosted by Mr. Fernando Lugris, the Council Member representing Uruguay, prepared for the upcoming meetings and discussed the potential impact of the RAF on member countries.

IV. Country Dialogue News

Jordan, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu Host National Dialogues

Through support from the GEF Dialogue Initiative, four governments hosted National Dialogues during September 2005.

Jordan

From September 19–21, Jordan held a National Dialogue. Organized by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation with support provided by UNDP Jordan, the dialogue attracted more than 100 stakeholders from a range of government institutions, community based organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, the private sector, academic and research organizations, embassies and the donor community, other international organizations, and the media.

The dialogue focused on (a) raising awareness of the GEF and its eligibility criteria, operational programs and strategic priorities, and Jordan's existing GEF portfolio; (b) clarifying GEF focal point roles; (c) linking Jordan's national strategies to implement the international environmental conventions, National Environmental Action Plan, Agenda 21 plans, and the GEF's strategic priorities; and (d) highlighting case studies in Jordan's GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP).

During the dialogue, the new SGP publication was officially launched, *101 and Beyond —SGP Initiatives in Jordan*. The dialogue also served to launch Jordan's National Action Plan to Combat Desertification. A report and recommendations from Jordan's National Dialogue are available on the GEF Dialogue Initiative's website.

Solomon Islands

On September 23, 2005, the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Conservation with support from the UNDP Liaison Office held the Solomon Islands National Dialogue. About 50 participants attended the one-day event, representing government, civil society, and the donor community.

The dialogue focused on (a) raising awareness about GEF projects in the Solomon Islands, the

GEF and its strategic priorities, capacity building activities, and project formulation; (b) clarifying the role of the GEF operational focal point; (c) discussing partnerships between government and NGOs, the private sector and development agencies, centered around the proposed Solomon Islands Sustainable Development Advisory Council, and (d) exploring opportunities available within the SGP.

Papua New Guinea

Organized by the Ministry of Environment and Conservation with support provided by the UNDP Country Office in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's National Dialogue on September 27, 2005, was attended by 40 participants, representing government, civil society, and the donor community.

The dialogue focused on (a) raising awareness of the GEF's procedures and strategic priorities, the role of the GEF focal points, civil society and other partners; (b) sharing lessons learned in project implementation, emphasizing the NGO-executed Milne Bay Marine Protected Area; (c) identifying national priorities for GEF assistance in the areas of land degradation, biodiversity conservation, and climate change, and (d) exploring SGP's achievements.

Tuvalu

Forty stakeholders attended Tuvalu's National Dialogue on September 30, 2005. They represented government and civil society. The Office of the Prime Minister organized the event and Prime Minister Maatia Toafa opened the dialogue.

The dialogue focused on raising awareness about the GEF and its strategic priorities, identifying Tuvalu's national strategies and priority issues, and exploring opportunities available within SGP.

Detailed outcomes of these National Dialogues, including recommendation summaries prepared by the respective GEF operational focal points, are available on the Initiative's website at www.undp.org/gef/dialogue.

Stephen Gold, Global Manager, GEF National Dialogue Initiative, stephengold@undp.org, contributed to this article.

V. Focal Area News

Climate Change

International Forum on On-Grid Renewable Energy

Over the past decade, GEF has provided over \$1 billion for more than 140 renewable energy projects in developing countries through all its Implementing Agencies. This experience has demonstrated that grid-connected renewable energy policy is one of the most promising areas for sustainable renewable energy markets in developing countries. To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries, the GEF, the World Bank, and the Government of Mexico are inviting stakeholders to a three-day forum on grid-connected renewable energy policy frameworks, from February 1–3, 2006, in Mexico City.

The forum will present key issues, best practices, and country-specific case studies on such topics as renewable energy in different power sector set-ups, the true value of renewable energy, renewable energy incentive policies (mandated market policies, financial incentive policies, and public investment funds), and private sector participation in renewable energy investment.

A number of countries are expected to present their plans to develop renewable energy policies. Some may request assistance to advance their renewable energy programs at the end of the conference. As a follow-up, grants from the GEF, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), and other bilateral and multilateral agencies can be available for technical assistance to those countries.

The forum will provide a unique opportunity for exchanges among senior policymakers, regulators, private developers, and utilities from both developed and developing countries.

For more information, please, contact Xiaodong Wang: xwang1@worldbank.org or Daniel Farchy: dfarchy@worldbank.org at the World Bank or Christine Woerlen: cwoerlen@thegef.org at the GEF Secretariat.

Biodiversity

GEF Support for Sustainable Forest Management

More than half of the major terrestrial habitat types are classified as forests, ranging from tropical moist broadleaf forests to temperate coniferous forests to coastal mangrove forests to dry forests. These forest ecosystems have qualities in common: they all provide resources for people's livelihoods, essential ecosystem services, and critical habitats for many diverse forms of life. Beyond these contributions, forests provide social and cultural inspiration, and serve as spiritual havens. As a reflection of the importance that the global community places on forests, the GEF has invested a total of \$1.18 billion in sustainable forest management since its inception. This represents about 14 percent of the overall funds pledged to the GEF. The GEF funds leveraged an additional \$3.4 billion provided by various co-financing sources, such as governments, communities, and NGOs.

GEF support to sustainable forest management has been directed primarily through the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas. Projects in the forest landscape have focused on three types of interventions: 1) management of forest protected areas and buffer zones; 2) forest management in the forest production landscape; and 3) management of forest ecosystems in the wider landscape, often targeting the interaction between forests and other land use systems in a defined ecological or project unit (e.g., watershed, hydrogeological basin, or biome).

An entire overview of the GEF portfolio and opportunities for enhancing support to sustainable forest management in GEF-4 is provided in the GEF November Council Paper: *GEF/C.27/14, GEF Activities Related To Forests*.

For more information, please, contact the GEF Secretariat: Andrea Kutter, akutter@TheGEF.org and Mark Zimsky, mzimsky@TheGEF.org.

GEF Support to Wilderness Areas Showcased at 8th World Wilderness Congress

At the opening of the 8th World Wilderness Congress, on September 30, 2005, in Anchorage, Alaska, Len Good, the GEF CEO and Chairman, announced that the GEF has provided more than \$970 million in grants to protect wilderness areas around the world. These GEF grants have leveraged an additional \$1.8 billion in co financing from partners.

The GEF is currently supporting initiatives in major wilderness areas of Amazonia and Congo forests, Miombo Mopane woodlands and grasslands, Okavango Delta (Botswana), and North American deserts (Sonoran-Baja Californian and Chihuahuan, Mexico). Throughout the world, the GEF has provided broad assistance and made targeted efforts to conserve ecosystems, habitats, and species of plants and animals. As such, the GEF has financed many activities targeting both specific wilderness protected areas and protected area systems. In many instances, projects may not focus directly on wilderness protected areas, but support integrated conservation and development activities in ecosystems that affect wilderness area sustainability.

In the GEF biodiversity portfolio, 194 projects have been identified as projects promoting wilderness area conservation. Projects range from those promoting strict protection to those promoting sustainable use. For example, the Amazon Region Protected Areas project (ARPA) in Brazil promotes the establishment of protected areas for strict protection, while the Conservation and the Sustainable Use of Wild Salmonid Biological Diversity project in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula project encourages sustainable use.

For more information, please, contact S. Tambi Matambo at the GEF Secretariat, smatambo@thegef.org.

VI. GEF-NGO Network News

Independent Review of the GEF-NGO Network Completed

At the request of the Central Focal Point of the GEF-NGO Network, the GEF Secretariat has assisted in conducting an independent network review to provide recommendations on how it can be further enhanced.

The independent review examines the GEF-NGO Network operation, management, roles and responsibilities, and NGO participation. Its final report provides recommendations about how the network can be more effective and supportive with enhanced NGO participation.

The final report of the independent review of the NGO Network will be presented to the November GEF Council as an Information Document *GEF/C.27/Inf.5*, available on the GEF Website at:

http://gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Document_s/GEF_C27/gef_c27.html#WorkingDocuments.

The GEF Secretariat proposes to follow-up on this review by preparing proposals for Council consideration at its meeting in June 2006 to address the main findings and conclusions of the Review. In preparing these proposals, the GEF Secretariat will seek the news and input of Council Members and members of the GEF-NGO Network, and the Implementing and Executing Agencies.

VII. News from the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Office

GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation Proposes New GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy

The GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation has developed a draft GEF monitoring and evaluation policy to support international standards for monitoring and evaluation and promote efficiency and effectiveness of GEF operations. The draft policy will be presented at the November 2005 GEF Council meeting.

The consultative process on monitoring and evaluation has already led to increased participation of agency evaluation offices and a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities in

the system. The GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation focuses on conducting independent evaluations, setting norms for monitoring and evaluation, and overseeing the monitoring and evaluation function. The policy also covers the participation of stakeholders and countries, and confirms the principle of participatory monitoring and evaluation in the GEF.

The policy contains minimum monitoring and evaluation requirements for GEF-funded activities that the agencies implement, covering project design, application of monitoring and evaluation at the project level, and project evaluation. The requirements call for active planning of monitoring and evaluation from the outset, by concrete and fully budgeted project monitoring and evaluation plans with indicators, baselines, and responsibilities.

The policy was finalized after review by the GEF partners at a workshop in September 2005. The partners pointed to a number of challenges that the GEF faces: aggregation, attribution, and portfolio monitoring of results; establishment of indicators and baselines for global environmental impact; and effective promotion of knowledge sharing and learning. Ultimately, monitoring and evaluation should help make a difference to GEF results and achievements.

The policy is expected to become effective upon Council approval by year-end.

More information on the monitoring and evaluation policy can be found under the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation section of the November 2005 GEF Council at www.thegef.org. For more information or feedback on the policy, please, contact Siv Tokle at stokle@thegef.org.

Launch of Joint Evaluation of GEF Activity Cycle and Modalities

In September 2005, participants in the GEF monitoring and evaluation workshop discussed the start of the Joint Evaluation of the GEF Cycle and Modalities. The independent GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation and the Implementing Agencies' evaluation offices will undertake the evaluation, examining the efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance of the cycle and modalities. In support of simplification and standardization in GEF operations, the evaluation will review the experience in the programming and management of GEF activities

and recommend improvements. It will also review the legal framework and past evaluations, explore use of other modalities, and undertake portfolio and documentation analysis. In the spring, countries will be visited and participate in a survey. The evaluation should be completed by November 2006 in time to influence the GEF-4 programming and RAF implications.

For more information or suggestions, please, contact Siv Tokle at stokle@thegef.org.

Evaluation of GEF Support to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation has just completed its evaluation report on GEF Support to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which has been posted on the GEF website for the November 2005 GEF Council meeting. The evaluation was based on visits and telephone interviews with government officials and other stakeholders in 17 countries, and reviews of 38 completed National Biosafety Frameworks.

The evaluation concludes that the support has been mostly effective and has contributed significantly to the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. It recommends that GEF should continue its support, especially for the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks that have been completed and are now in the process of being drafted by developing country parties. It also recommends that future assistance should be better customized to the conditions in each country. Further, efforts for regional collaboration among countries should also be supported.

The evaluation will help the GEF Council to decide how the GEF should proceed with its support for capacity building in this area. Also submitted to the November GEF Council meeting was the paper "Elements for a Biosafety Strategy," prepared by the GEF Secretariat, which draws on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation. The GEF Office of Monitoring and Evaluation would like to thank the hundreds of government officials and other stakeholders, who provided invaluable information and made the evaluation possible.

For more information, please, contact Jarle Harstad at: jharstad@thegef.org.

VIII. News from the Implementing Agencies

UNDP

First NCSA Completed in Africa

The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management Project in the Seychelles was officially launched on December 3, 2003 and was completed in May 2005, making the Seychelles the first African country to complete this process.

The Seychelles NCSA seeks to determine the priority needs and establish a plan of action for developing Seychelles' capacity to meet its commitments to global environmental management. The NCSA was completed through a country-driven consultative process and resulted in several reports on Seychelles' environmental capacity. A more complete list of the project documents and a list of published materials can be found at:

www.env.gov.sc/knowledgebase

The NCSA process has played a dual role: assessing the country's environmental capacity needs and creating awareness and engaging stakeholders in the activities of the international environmental convention activities.

For more information, please, contact Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne at the International Conventions Unit, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Seychelles:

r.lalanne@pps.gov.sc

For more information, please, contact Stephen Gold, Global Manager, GEF National Dialogue Initiative, Stephen.gold@undp.org.

Captaining a Flagship Project for the Danube

The Danube Regional Project (DRP), launched on December 1, 2001, is the final phase of a long-term commitment by UNDP-GEF to improve the Danube River environment. The \$17.2 million project helps Danube countries implement the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC), primarily by reducing nutrient and toxic pollution and strengthening

transboundary cooperation in the river basin, which is shared by 18 countries.

The DRP is part of the GEF Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction in the Danube/Black Sea Basin—one of GEF's largest and most ambitious water-related projects. The partnership supports the goals of the Commissions for the Danube and Black Sea to reduce nutrient and toxic loads to the levels necessary to allow Black Sea ecosystems to recover to conditions in the 1960s.

To reduce nutrient and toxic pollution, the DRP works with a wide range of local, national, and international stakeholders. For example, the DRP is helping national pollution control offices to assess which areas in the basin are at risk from floods washing hazardous substances into water bodies. The project works with farmers to improve techniques for applying fertilizers and pesticides. Danube governments will receive assistance to implement voluntary bans on phosphates used in washing detergents, and a pilot project will demonstrate the effectiveness of wetlands in removing nutrients.

The DPR complement the *Danube River Basin Analysis 2004*, which the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River helped develop. The analysis is the first comprehensive study of the Danube environment and pressures affecting it. All countries with large areas in the basin agreed to develop the report, including six EU member states (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Slovenia) and seven others (Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine). The report, available on the website: www.icpdr.org, shows the impacts and threats from nutrient and toxic pollution to the Danube and Black Sea.

For more information on the Danube Regional Project, please, visit the www.icpdr.org or www.undp-drp.org or contact Ivan Zavadsky, Danube Regional Project manager: ivan.zavadsky@unvienna.org.

IX. News from GEF Small Grants Programme

SGP and UNV Initiate a Tsunami-response Partnership in Sri Lanka

Following the December 2004 tsunami that destroyed most of the southern and eastern coastal zones of Sri Lanka, a consortium of NGOs and civil society organizations supported by GEF SGP produced a program of action. In light of this tragedy, the GEF SGP and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) signed an agreement in June 2005 to contribute to the restoration of the coastal environment and the livelihoods of communities affected by the 2004 tsunami.

The GEF SGP country program in Sri Lanka will work with local communities through NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) to initiate a process of rehabilitating the natural ecosystem and restore affected communities' livelihoods.

The initial activity of the GEF SGP–UNV partnership is the reclamation of projects' benefits and activities destroyed by the tsunami. The partnership will also focus on new efforts to assist the process of restoring the coastal vegetation, mangroves, repairing and cleaning of reef, and ultimately restoring the ecosystem services and the resource-based livelihoods of coastal communities. Seventeen UNVs will work with the GEF SGP country program team towards achieving these objectives.

SGP and PREDAS Forge Partnership for Community Energy Projects in West African Countries

On October 7, 2005, in Burkina Faso, the Regional Programme for the Promotion of Household and Alternative Energies in the Sahel (PREDAS) and the GEF SGP signed a framework of agreement for partnership in household energy activities in Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mauritania, and Niger.

The partnership recognizes the role of climate change projects in providing specific types of energy services for community development. It also acknowledges the work of NGOs and CBOs

in implementing energy projects. Overall, the partnership seeks to (a) jointly support activities that lead to household energy project identification, design and development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, (b) facilitate learning and sharing of project experiences among community and participating countries, (c) raise awareness to help meet the objectives of SGP and PREDAS household energy activities in the countries.

The partnership will enhance SGP climate change projects in removing barriers to energy efficiency and energy conservation, and in adopting renewable energy. It will jointly support projects that link local needs with global environmental objectives through parallel cofinancing of community energy projects.

This framework of agreement for partnership in household energy activities is an important achievement for the two organizations. It will reinforce existing collaboration and strengthen the already established SGP portfolio of climate change projects while expanding PREDAS household energy activities in the five countries.

SGP Deputy Global Manager Assigned as Deputy Resident Representative for Operations in Nigeria

Laurence Reno, the SGP Deputy Global Manager who joined the Central Project Management Team (CPMT) in July 2004, has been reassigned to Abuja, Nigeria as Deputy Resident Representative for Operations. Laurence left for Abuja on October 3, 2005, to commence her new duties. The GEF Secretariat wishes her success in her new position.

X. Good Practice Notes

GEF National Coordination—Lessons Learned, Study Results Available

The GEF Dialogue Initiative is pleased to announce that it has completed the first phase of a study entitled *GEF National Coordination—Lessons Learned*. The study was undertaken as a collaborative process with the respective GEF Operational Focal Points and the local offices of UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank in five GEF participating countries: Bolivia, China, Columbia, Poland, and Uganda.

The study aims to learn from and share the experiences of the GEF decision making processes, for the benefit of the GEF focal points and other stakeholders. The study examined the diverse multiple stakeholder decision making processes in these five countries relevant to global environmental issues and the GEF. It was prepared to provide practical examples of how countries have developed and employed GEF national coordination mechanisms to facilitate crosscutting linkages and mainstream global environmental activities into national development plans.

The study is divided into four sections: an introduction; an outline of the elements of coordination; the benefits and pitfalls of coordination, and detailed findings and lessons learned from the countries participating in this study.

GEF National Coordination—Lessons Learned is available on the GEF Dialogue Initiative website and will soon be available in hard copy. The program looks forward to working with other OFPs to add their experiences in GEF coordination at the national level to this study.

For more information, please, contact Stephen Gold, Global Manager, GEF National Dialogue Initiative, stephengold@undp.org.

XI. New GEF Publications-October 2005

GEF Global Action on Sustainable Land Management (Map, Folder, and Fact Sheets)
[Available online]

Released to coincide with the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 17–28, 2005, this series highlights GEF's work to support sustainable land management, from the addition of land degradation as a focal area, to the designation of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD. The fact sheets emphasize GEF's commitment to promote sustainable land management as the most effective approach to prevent and control land degradation.

GEF Annual Report 2004: Producing Results for the Global Environment (84 pages)
[Available online and in print form in English, French, and Spanish.]

A review of GEF activity during fiscal year 2004, including financial statements, lists of GEF Council Members, focal points, and NGO contacts, as well as latest information on GEF's portfolio and new projects.

**New GEF Council Members, Alternates and Focal Points
September 2005-November 2005**

Council Members

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Geert Aagaard Andersen	Denmark	Council Member	09/01/2005
Mr. Gerben de Jong	Netherlands	Council Member	09/02/2005
Mr. Najeh Dali	Tunisia	Council Member / Operational Focal Point	10/11/2005
Mr. Alejandro Nieto	Spain	Council Member / Political Focal Point	10/13/2005
Mr. Jukka Siukosaari	Finland	Council Member / Operational Focal Point / Political Focal Point	11/03/2005

Alternate Members

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. M'hamed Hilali	Morocco	Alternate Member / Political Focal Point	10/11/2005
Ms. Amalia Garcia-Thörn	Sweden	Alternate Member	11/03/2005

Operational Focal Points

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Jinkang Wu	China	Operational Focal Point	09/01/2005
Ms. Anita Alban Mora	Ecuador	Operational Focal Point	09/07/2005
Mr. Akillino Susaia	Micronesia	Operational Focal Point	09/19/2005
Ms. Olena Yavorska	Ukraine	Operational Focal Point	09/19/2005
Ms. Adriana Mendoza Agudelo	Colombia	Operational Focal Point	09/29/2005
Mr. Eric Mugurusi	Tanzania	Operational Focal Point / Political Focal Point	10/03/2005
Dr. Mohammed Eila	Palestinian Authority	Operational Focal Point	10/06/2005
Her Excellency Maria Teresa Freddolino	Argentina	Operational Focal Point	10/18/2005
Ms. Marcia Philbert-Jules	St. Lucia	Operational Focal Point	10/24/2005

Political Focal Points

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Crossley Tatui	Niue	Political Focal Point	09/12/2005
Dr. Max Puig	Dominican Republic	Political Focal Point	10/17/2005
Mr. Miguel Marques Gomes	Luxembourg	Political Focal Point	10/26/2005
His Excellency Jordan Dardov	Bulgaria	Political Focal Point	10/27/2005