

THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND (LDCF)

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its seventh session in Marrakech and is managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The fund addresses the special needs of the 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. This includes preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to identify urgent and immediate needs of LDCs to adapt to climate change.

- (i) The GEF has so far mobilized voluntary contributions of about \$172 million for the LDCF; its target in the next 4 years is to reach \$500 million, which is the amount estimated by the UNFCCC needed to finance NAPA implementation.¹

THE NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION (NAPAS)

The rationale for developing NAPAs rests on the high vulnerability and low adaptive capacity of LDCs: many of which count among them some of the world's poorest. This demands in turn the need of immediate and urgent support for projects that allow for the adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. Activities proposed through the NAPAs are those whose further delay could increase vulnerability, or lead to increased costs at a later stage. Therefore NAPAs are aimed

at identifying priority activities that address these urgent needs and concerns. Annotated Guidelines,² developed by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) are a tool that may be used to prepare a NAPA.

FIRST STEP: NAPA PREPARATION

- Inter-disciplinary and multi-ministerial process aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of climate change
- Identification of “urgent and immediate needs” of the LDCs, according to specific guidelines provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)
- Mobilization of resources by GEF to finance the preparation of NAPAs.

To date, the GEF has supported the preparation of 48 NAPAs.

These include the following countries which have completed their NAPAs: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Zambia.

¹ Decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 6.

² Decision 28/CP.7, Annotated guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs

In addition, six NAPAs are in the final stages of preparation and are expected to be completed before the spring 2009 Council meeting, including Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Yemen. Finally, four NAPA proposals (Angola, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste) were approved during the second half of 2007 and first half of 2008, and are expected to be completed before the end of 2009.

In addition, six NAPAs are in the final stages of preparation and are expected to be completed before the Spring 2009 Council meeting. Finally, four NAPA proposals (Angola, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste) were approved during the second half of 2007 and first half of 2008, and are expected to be completed before the end of 2009. All completed NAPAs can be accessed through the UNFCCC website <http://unfccc.int>.

SECOND STEP: NAPA IMPLEMENTATION

- Mobilization of resources to finance concrete projects on the ground for the implementation of NAPAs
- NAPA follow up project preparation and submission
- Project approval
- Project implementation
- Project monitoring and evaluation

Based on LDC feedback and consultations, the GEF developed a streamlined project cycle and

simplified procedures rules to allow LDCs to more easily access LDCF resources. The GEF has so far mobilized \$172 million to implement NAPA follow up projects and the response of the LDCs has been remarkable. As of fall 2008, twenty-four countries have officially submitted their NAPA implementation projects under the LDCF.

Among these project proposals, nineteen have already been approved as consistent with the LDCF eligibility criteria in the following countries: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Haiti, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tuvalu, and Zambia.

So far, \$57 million have been authorised for concrete action in these LDCs. And these first results have been very encouraging: they show that the LDCs, despite their small economies and limited institutional and technical capacities, are now among the most advanced in the world with respect to cutting edge actions to reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Building on this example, the evolving financial architecture of climate change is continuing to draw inspiration from the pioneering work of the LDCF, now an established system with a proven track record and an ongoing commitment to its LDC clients.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433 USA
Tel: 202-473-0508
Fax: 202-522-3240