



Global Environment Facility

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GEF Council
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Agenda Item 15

NOTE ON COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed the *Note on Collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development*, GEF/C.22/13, approves the proposals contained therein for GEF activities related to the CSD meeting to be held in New York, April 2004. The Council requests the Secretariat to consult with the Secretariat of the CSD on the suggestions for contributing to its work in preparation for the CSD meeting in 2005, and to report back to the Council at its meeting in May 2004 on the outcomes of those discussions and follow-up proposals.

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1. In May 2003, the Council requested the Secretariat “to prepare for the Council meeting in November 2003 a note on how the GEF might respond to the invitation of the CSD for the GEF to participate in the work of CSD to follow-up the decisions of the WSSD.”

I. CSD WORK AND LINKAGES TO GEF FOCAL AREAS

2. At its eleventh session in April/May 2003, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) concluded its first meeting since the Johannesburg Summit with an agreement on its future program and organization of work for the next 15 years. The CSD decided that its multi-year program of work beyond 2003 would be organized on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues (see Annex A). The CSD will now function on the basis of two-year "Implementation Cycles", including Review and Policy Years. The Review Year will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while the Policy Year will decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints.

3. From CSD-12, the beginning of the first two-year cycle (2004-2005), the CSD will focus on the thematic clusters of water, sanitation and human settlements. As with every cycle in the new program of work, CSD-12 will tackle this agenda using a number of cross-cutting issues, such as poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, sustainable development in a globalizing world; sustainable development of SIDS; sustainable development for Africa; and institutional framework for sustainable development. In each cycle, the thematic clusters of issues will be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

4. Among the thematic issues identified by the CSD multi-year programme, the most relevant ones to the GEF focal areas include waters for the cycle 2004 to 2005; energy and climate change for the cycle 2006 to 2007; land, drought and desertification for the cycle 2008 to 2009; chemicals for the cycle 2010 to 2011; forests, biodiversity, and mountains for the cycle 2012 to 2013; oceans and seas as well as marine resources and SIDS for the cycle 2014 and 2015.

5. In addition, CSD-11 “invite[d], further to paragraph 140 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation¹ relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility, and international and regional financial and trade institutions, within their mandates, to participate actively in the work of the Commission in order to inform it of their activities designed to further the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. To that end, it is essential to undertake further measures to:

- (a) promote stronger linkages between global, regional and country-level implementation measures;

¹ Paragraph 140 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation has been attached in Annex B

- (b) strengthen coherence and collaboration within and between organizations;
- (c) identify areas where further implementation measures may be required in order to improve progress;
- (d) mobilize and increase the effective use of resources from all sources for implementation; and
- (e) enhance collaboration and coordination in all areas, including information exchange and knowledge-sharing on all aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;”²

II. EXISTING COLLABORATION WITH CSD

6. The GEF has been collaborating with the CSD since its establishment. The CSD Secretariat is invited to all Council meetings. The GEF is invited to attend CSD meetings, and the GEF CEO has participated in a number of panels and other speaking opportunities afforded by the CSD. The GEF has submitted a number of documents to the CSD that describe GEF activities of relevance to the CSD, and it regularly provides inputs on GEF activities to relevant UN Secretary-General’s reports. The GEF Secretariat also participates as an observer in the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) and other relevant CSD Secretariat interagency meetings.

7. GEF cooperation with the CSD was considerably strengthened during the preparatory process of the WSSD, consistent with the decisions of the Council. The GEF organized a series of roundtables on Energy, Financing, Forests, and Land Degradation, and the conclusions and recommendations of the roundtables were disseminated to the CSD as an input into the preparations for the WSSD. The GEF Secretariat appointed a staff member, generously hosted by the CSD Secretariat, to enhance the GEF presence at the UN in New York during the WSSD preparatory process. The UN Under-Secretary-General responsible for CSD matters briefed the Council on preparations for the WSSD.

III. ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES TO FURTHER COLLABORATION WITH CSD

8. To respond to the invitation of CSD11, it is proposed that the GEF further strengthen its collaboration with CSD so as to better share the GEF experience in project implementation and lessons learned with the CSD. New elements for GEF and CSD cooperation could focus on information exchange and knowledge-sharing related to experiences, results and lessons learned through the implementation of GEF projects in areas under consideration by the CSD.

² See E/2003/29, E/CN.17/2003/6, CSD Report on the eleventh session 27 January 2003 and 28 April-9 May 2003

Activities in the CSD first cycle in 2004-2005

9. The first CSD cycle (2004-2005) will focus on water, sanitation, and human settlements along with a number of cross-cutting issues. While much of the discussion may center on the Millennium Development Goal related to piped water supplies and the WSSD target related to basic sanitation, the subject of essential reforms needed in water resources management will also be relevant. WSSD recognized the need for these reforms to sustain water resources for multiple uses, including livelihoods for the poor, including in the WSSD Plan of Implementation the target of developing “integrated water resources and use efficiency plans” by 2005³.

10. Given GEF’s mandate in the international waters and biodiversity focal area and its experiences in protection and management of water resources, GEF collaboration would focus on water resources during the first cycle.⁴

Opportunities For Collaboration in the Area of Water Resources

11. GEF would propose active participation in related CSD meetings. The experience sharing with CSD may focus on a wide range of issues: addressing transboundary water resources and conserving globally significant aquatic biodiversity; addressing degradation of water resources, depletion and pollution; integrated management and water use efficiency plans; linkages of GEF international water portfolio with other GEF focal areas, such as, integrated ecosystem management and land degradation, biodiversity conservation; and sharing experiences through GEF’s learning program known as IW:LEARN.

CSD meeting, New York, April 2004

12. For purposes of the CSD meeting in New York in April 2004, it is proposed that the GEF (the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies):

- (a) organize two side-event workshops at which project managers could share their experiences in implementing GEF-financed activities. One workshop would focus on three relevant projects from the international waters portfolio and the other would present two biodiversity projects concerning freshwater systems;
- (b) update GEF publications on our international waters portfolio and related activities for dissemination at the CSD meeting;
- (c) explore with the CSD Secretariat opportunities for organizing a display booth on GEF activities during the CSD; and

³ Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, paragraph 26.

⁴ GEF’s international waters portfolio consists of \$US 636 million in GEF grants in 133 recipient countries through 81 projects. In addition, the freshwater portfolio in biodiversity consists of 102 projects for \$US 441 million in GEF grants to 82 countries.

- (d) explore with the CSD opportunities to contribute to their *Learning Center* by drawing upon information available through IW Learn.⁵

CSD meeting, New York, April 2005

13. In 2005, as the policy year of the CSD two year cycle concerning waters, CSD will be expected to agree on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome the obstacles and constraints identified by its review. The GEF Third Biennial International Waters Conference (associated with IW:LEARN) is scheduled for January/February 2005 in Brazil. This GEF meeting may present an opportunity to provide input based on actual experience with GEF water-related projects to the CSD process. Specifically, it is suggested that the GEF might explore with the CSD whether it would be interested in consulting with this group of experts and project directors regarding the emerging policy recommendations and proposed measures to overcome implementation obstacles and constraints with the view to receiving practical feedback for CSD consideration at its meeting in 2005.

14. The Third GEF Biennial Conference would also provide an opportunity for a “match-making service” that could connect experts with proven records in implementing reforms and investments with those interested in integrating GEF/CSD priorities in their own policy/project planning.

15. Based on the conclusions of the CSD review in April 2004, the GEF could also explore with the CSD Secretariat the convening of a roundtable of project directors and country representatives to contribute to the global dialogue regarding integrated management and water use efficiency plans. This could be organized in conjunction with the meeting in Brazil in January 2005 or earlier if so requested by the CSD Secretariat. Organization of a special roundtable would require additional resources not currently available in the GEF Corporate Budget or the IW LEARN Project.

16. If the Council responds favorably to these ideas, the GEF will explore with the CSD Secretariat how best use could be made of this opportunity to provide input and feedback into the CSD policy work on waters and report back to the Council at its meeting in May 2004.

⁵ GEF supports an active learning program among its projects in the international waters focal area known as IW:LEARN. After its 3-year testing phase, IW:LEARN is entering a 5-year operational phase based on lessons learned as a joint project of all three GEF Implementing Agencies and GEF Secretariat. The IW LEARN mission relates to quality enhancement of portfolio performance through learning, structured exchanges of experiences among GEF water-related projects, and replication of best practices. For example, the GEF IW:LEARN Resource Learning Center will focus, during the period of 2004 to 2008, on project-driven requests for capacity building on transboundary water issues, structured learning among GEF water projects, technical assistance in developing project websites and databases, and facilitating e-based learning processes among similar types of GEF projects around the world. IW:LEARN could participate in the 2004 and 2005 CSD *Learning Center* activities to provide participants with exposure to these structured learning techniques for quality enhancement.

Activities at the Small Island Developing States Conference in 2004

17. CSD-11 agreed to the convening of an international meeting in 2004 to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The meeting will take place in September 2004, in Mauritius.

18. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are important clients for the GEF in all its focal areas, and this conference will provide another opportunity for the GEF to further collaborate with SIDS and the CSD. It is proposed that the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies could usefully organize one or two workshops covering programs and projects in all GEF focal areas in SIDS which directly help SIDS implement an aspect of the Barbados Programme of Action. A special publication on GEF cooperation in SIDS will also be prepared and made available in advance of the meeting.

Budget implications for the first CSD cycle

19. The activities proposed for the CSD meeting in April 2004 and the meeting on the Barbados Plan of Action in September 2005 can be organized using financing available through the GEF Corporate Budget. At the Council meeting in May 2004, the Secretariat will report to the Council on its participation in the next CSD meeting and propose more concrete activities for 2005 based on further consultations with the CSD Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies and taking into account the results of the meeting. Should additional budgetary resources be required, the Council will be informed at that time.

Replicating GEF/CSD collaboration in the water area to other CSD cycles and broader agenda on knowledge sharing

20. With a view to replicating the collaboration with the CSD during its first cycle to other CSD cycles, the GEF and CSD will assess and learn from the experiences gained and lessons learned during the first cycle.

21. One proposal that will be assessed is the experience of IW LEARN. Initial evaluations have indicated that the IW LEARN is a very useful tool for sharing information and knowledge, and consideration can be given to developing similar learning approaches in the other GEF focal areas to ensure information exchange among projects. If this were to move forward, it would be proposed so as to contribute in a timely fashion to the other CSD cycles in areas that are consistent with the GEF mandate, such as, energy and climate change for the cycle 2006 to 2007; land, drought and desertification for the cycle 2008 to 2009; chemicals for the cycle 2010 to 2011; forests, biodiversity, and mountains for the cycle 2012 to 2013; oceans and seas as well as marine resources and SIDS for the cycle 2014 and 2015.

Knowledge management

22. The issue of knowledge management is discussed in the *GEF Business Plan FY05-07*, document GEF/C.22/6. As GEF undertakes to strengthen its knowledge management system, it

can be expected that information and lessons will be made available that can contribute to enriching the discussions of the CSD on GEF-related issues through better information on the implementation of on-the-ground activities that contribute to sustainable development goals.

ANNEX A. MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CSD

Cycle	Thematic cluster	Cross-cutting issues
2004/2005	Water Sanitation Human Settlements	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education
2006/2007	Energy for Sustainable Development Industrial Development Air Pollution / Atmosphere Climate Change	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education
2008/2009	Agriculture Rural Development Land Drought Desertification Africa	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education
2010/2011*	Transport Chemicals Waste Management Mining A Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education
2012/2013*	Forests Biodiversity Biotechnology Tourism Mountains	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education
2014/2015*	Oceans and Seas Marine Resources Small Island Developing States Disaster Management and Vulnerability	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education

2016/2017	Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	
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* These thematic clusters will remain as part of the Multi-Year Programme of Work as scheduled unless otherwise agreed by the Commission (applies to the clusters for 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2014/2015)