



Global Environment Facility

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Dear Operational Focal Point,

Communications received from countries regarding programming under the RAF

I would like to thank the country operational focal points who provided the Secretariat with their initial lists of project ideas to be developed under the RAF. We have received communications from 55 countries.

The Secretariat has completed a preliminary review of these communications, and I would like to share with you my assessment. While countries have provided detailed lists of project proposals and identified GEF Implementing/Executing Agencies to implement those proposals, it is not clear how the proposals reflect national priorities, GEF strategies, and global environmental commitments. I am also concerned that it is proposed that a substantial number of projects be developed with GEF Implementing/Executing Agencies in areas outside their comparative advantage.

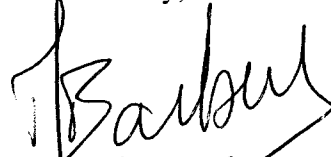
As the new CEO, I want to ensure that resources during GEF-4 are programmed in accordance with: (i) the strategic directions as outlined in the GEF-4 focal area strategies; (ii) country priorities emerging from national sustainable development programs and global environmental commitments; and (iii) the comparative advantage of the GEF Implementing/Executing Agency. I would like you to note that we will be presenting revised focal area strategies for discussion at the December 2006 Council meeting. We would appreciate if you could take these strategies into account as you further refine your own priorities for engagement with the GEF.

As we initiate programming in GEF-4, I want to minimize confusion regarding the way forward in implementing the RAF. Towards this objective, over the next few weeks, the GEF Secretariat will be contacting every country to begin discussions on: (i) the priority areas under which you would like to program GEF resources; and (ii) the share of resources you want to allocate to each priority. The Secretariat will follow up on these

discussions and work with you and the Implementing/Executing Agencies to identify and develop concrete proposals for approval during the upcoming two years covering fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

I look forward to your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbat', written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right.

Monique Barbat
CEO and Chairperson

cc: Council Members and Alternates
Country Political Focal Points
Executive Coordinators of GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies
GEF Trustee