

GEF Country Support Program for Focal Points Summary of Needs Assessment

A detailed needs assessment was developed based on feedback from GEF Focal Points (FPs) during the eight sub-regional consultations held by the GEF National Dialogue Initiative between April and August 2006.

This summary reflects priority Focal Point needs and requests identified in the consultations and the responses proposed to address them. These responses are based on recommendations made by GEF Focal Points during the consultations.

The GEF will respond to these needs through the following mechanisms:

- Direct support (DS) through the Country Support Program (CSP);
- The GEF online knowledge management framework (KMF) - a “one-stop” GEF focal point web portal, and/or
- Sub-regional workshops to be held in 2007-2009

Focal Point needs and queries	CSP proposed responses
General GEF topics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project cycle should be more rapid, effective, and efficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMF will provide GEF FP-tailored explanations of GEF project cycle, the RAF and the project cycle, and the roles and responsibilities of the OFPs throughout the project cycle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify roles and responsibilities of IAs/EAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF Focal Point handbook and KMF to provide information on IAs/EAs roles and responsibilities. • Workshops and National Dialogues to include IA/EA representatives for greater interaction with GEF FPs about their roles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of familiarity with new adaptation funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop modules and KMF guidance materials on development and use of adaptation funds and implementation of adaptation projects.
Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) in GEF4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions that countries were not consulted about the RAF and that the RAF was not supported by a majority of the GEF Council. • Disclosure and transparency regarding RAF allocations and indices, how they were determined and applied, and future changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMF will include briefing on the evolution, negotiations, and approval of the RAF with direct links to GEFSec website RAF page.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAF covers biodiversity and climate change, but what about other focal areas, especially land degradation, and about synergies among focal areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMF guidance tailored to GEF FPs on enhancing synergies among focal areas and developing land degradation, POPS, international waters, and adaptation projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country and stakeholder participation in mid-term and 4-year evaluations, and whether evaluations will affect RAF implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with GEF Evaluation Office, KMF to provide opportunity to provide feedback on implementation of the RAF and guidance to GEF FPs as necessary.
GEF focal points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify roles and responsibilities of OFPs, PFPs, and convention focal points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point handbook to provide clear statement of GEF FP roles and responsibilities and relations with convention GEF FPs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive OFP workload and burden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance on using DS funds most effectively towards alleviating OFP burden. • Workshop module on OFP facilitation role with presentations by experienced OFPs on dealing with workload.
Specific CSP issues	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to access and use \$8000 in direct support? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue dissemination of “Toolkit to Access Financial Resources under the Country Support Program for Focal Points.” • Consider development of streamlined version of toolkit and other guidance to be available through KMF.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8000 is insufficient to cover costs of in-country coordination and facilitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convey FP concerns to GEFSec for further action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP does not support civil society, private sector, PFPs, and convention focal points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF-NGO paper proposes extension of CSP to civil society. • Both OFPs and PFPs will participate in sub-regional workshops. • KMF to address liaison with convention focal points and link directly with GEF NGO Network and Small Grants Program.
Knowledge management and institutional memory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional memory is lost with OFP and staff turnover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DS funds may be used to set up databases and websites. • Workshop module on methodologies and online mechanisms to support institutional memory with presentations by GEF FPs on proven systems. • KMF links to Enabling Activities, NCSAs and GEFSec’s Project Management Information System (PMIS).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more systematic information, GEF updates, regional exchange, sharing of best practices, database of experts, translations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMF with links to regional programs and organizations. • CSP materials translated into relevant UN languages. • Workshop module on creating (virtual) regional and thematic networks, highlighting existing mechanisms for information and knowledge sharing and management. • Develop KMF roster of experts, those available for virtual consultations, with direct links to STAP roster and studies. • Regular information updates from GEFSec
GEF national coordination, mainstreaming, and communications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to strengthen GEF national coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMF will include “GEF National Coordination – Lessons Learned” study, and develop additional case studies of best practices in national coordination. • Workshop training modules on: GEF coordination mechanisms with presentations by countries with relevant experiences; consensus-building and conflict resolution in multi-stakeholder environmental processes; developing national GEF strategies based on concrete cases. • KMF direct links with national GEF strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do GEF projects fit in our overall sustainable development activities and with convention obligations and monitoring? How to identify and create linkages between GEF projects and other sustainable development projects? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop training modules on: GEF mainstreaming strategies with presentations by countries with relevant experiences; developing regional strategies and projects (especially for SIDS). • KMF direct links with NCSA processes. • KMF will develop case studies on best practices in mainstreaming global environmental issues in national development, drawing upon NDI experiences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications amongst GEF actors and stakeholder in-country are weak. • Disseminating information about the GEF means raising expectations among stakeholders. These expectations may not necessarily be met under the RAF and so constituency will be disappointed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop modules on developing GEF communications strategies (as part of GEF coordination and mainstreaming strategies) and stakeholder mapping and management. • KMF will highlight direct links to guidance material on stakeholder participation and environmental communications. • DS funds can facilitate national coordination and communications among stakeholders.
Monitoring and Evaluation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFPs need capacity-building and support to actively participate in broader country level M&E processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMF/Focal point handbook will include guidance on GEF FP role in broader M&E processes, especially at country level. • Workshop module on facilitating M&E at country level to be led by GEF Evaluation Office and experienced OFPs.