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Subject: Spanish comments on the GEF resource allocation framework

Dear Len,

Please find attached Spanish comments on the GEF Resource Allocation Framework, as we talk during the Paris Seminar held this week.

We hope it would be possible to find a constructive solution during the next Council meeting in November.

Once more I would like to thank you for the role the Secretariat is playing to find a consensus so we can face the fourth replenishment in the right way.

Best regards

<<Spanish comments GEF RAF.doc>>

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## Spanish comments on the GEF resource allocation framework

We would first like to thank the Secretariat for the work undertaken to prepare the base document discussed during the past Seminar held in Paris and for your contribution to the successful development of this meeting. We found it very helpful in terms of clarifying the issues around the future resource allocation framework.

After due consideration and taking into account all the positive discussions during the Seminar, we agree it is necessary to improve the actual allocation system of the GEF in order to have a more transparent and efficient system.

We consider that a phased approach towards the second option presented by the Secretariat in the document could be a way to find the necessary consensus to take a decision during the next Council meeting in November.

This approach would require giving more weight to global environmental benefits (GEB) than to country performance in a first step. In this phase the system should concentrate an important effort in enhancing capacity building of countries.

We consider it is necessary to work hard before the system could be fully operative in order to improve environmental and performance indicators. Regarding environmental indicators it seems clear GEF should follow the Conventions guidelines for data collection and indicators construction:

- Climate change indicator: Countries efforts to mitigate emissions should be included in the final indicator.
- Biodiversity indicators:
  - \* It should be no doubt about the origin and reliability of the data used.
  - \* Regarding *Habitat Scale* and *Threat* we consider that the idea of “*area o regions...cleared for agriculture*” contained in their definitions is not well defined.
  - \* It is important not to exclude any type of areas
  - \* The document considers only one of the two objectives of the CBD, conservation. We would like to know how are covered the other two objectives: sustainable use and benefit sharing

Finally, regarding the additional issues proposed for operationalizing the GEF resource allocation framework we would like to point out:

- Resource allocation framework cycle: we agree with the necessity of a mid-term review during the replenishment period expressed by other member countries
- Set asides from the resource allocation framework: Although a better definition of percentages is necessary we agree with the proposed set asides included in the seminar paper (small grants initiatives, global projects, regional projects and capacity building activities that cut across focal areas)
- Ceilings and floors: We consider it is necessary to establish ceilings and floors in the line proposed, which could be subject of further discussions during the meeting. Regarding floors, they should cover country capacity building activities.

We are hopeful that after discussion of the new document the Secretariat is going to prepare with the results of the Seminar and the contributions of member countries, we can arrive to a consensus about the GEF resource allocation framework during the next Council meeting in November.