

64th GEF Council Meeting
June 26 – June 29, 2022
Brasilia, Brazil

**SUMMARY OF THE EXTENSIONS GRANTED
UNDER THE CANCELLATION POLICY**

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the most up to date summary of projects for which exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy¹ have been requested and granted by the CEO since the previous report was presented at the 63rd GEF Council meeting in December 2022. It is presented to Council outside the usual circulation deadlines to capture the most recent data in advance of the 64th GEF Council meeting.

2. The [Project Cancellation Policy](#) was approved by Council at its 55th Meeting in December 2018. The Policy includes provisions under which countries may formally request that the GEF CEO grant an exception to cancellation deadlines. These exceptions may only be granted in cases of extraordinary events or circumstances beyond the control of the parties (Agency, country), such as war, flood, earthquake or epidemic, or similar circumstances which prevent them from adhering to the business standards established in the Policy.

3. The Policy stipulates that the CEO communicate any exception decision to the Council for information and post the information on the GEF website.

BACKGROUND

4. The Project Cancellation Policy was formulated to align incentives for timely project preparation and more specifically to dis-incentivize excessive delays between PIF approval and CEO-endorsement/approval of projects.

5. The COVID-19 crisis, however, impacted preparation of some projects from early 2020 to date, in some cases causing delays in project preparation. As a result, in active consultation within the Partnership, the GEF Secretariat introduced a series of measures to increase flexibility and avoid the risk of cancellation. These actions have been developed to mitigate the impact and risks linked to COVID-19 and ensure efficient and effective design and implementation of GEF resources.

6. The first action was a blanket extension of six months of two important deadlines specified in the Cancellation Policy: (i) the 8 and 12-month deadline² for submission of CEO Approval/Endorsement requests; and (ii) the 12 and 18-month deadline³ for final CEO Approval/Endorsement. This extension was provided for all stand-alone projects and child projects under Programs for which PIFs/PFDs were approved from the beginning of GEF-7 to June 3, 2020.

7. The second action was described in the Council document '[The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership](#)' (GEF/C.59.11) for Council consideration at its 59th meeting in December 2020. That

¹ OP/PL/02

² Depending on project type. 8-month deadline applicable to Medium-Sized Projects. 12-month deadline applicable to Full-Sized Projects.

³ 12-month deadline applicable to Medium-Sized Projects. 18-month deadline applicable to Full-Sized Projects.

document reported on information received through surveys of Agencies, consultations with countries and discussions at the Fall 2020 Agency retreat. The document also summarized the measures Agencies and Countries had introduced to address the challenges encountered during the pandemic.

8. In this context, the Council approved an exceptional and time-bound authority for the GEF CEO to grant longer extensions to the Project Cancellation Policy, for a total of up to 24 months and for all projects types, effective from December 11, 2020 (approval date of the Summary of the Chair - [GEF/C.59/Summary](#)) through the final day of the 60th GEF Council meeting (June 18, 2021)⁴.

9. As of today, the Secretariat received a total of 264 requests for extension. Of those, 46 were reported during the 60th Council Meeting ([GEF/C.60/Inf.10](#)), 32 were reported during the 61st Council Meeting ([GEF/C.61/Inf.12](#)), 115 were reported during the 62nd Council Meeting ([GEF/C.62/Inf.10](#)) and 14 were reported during the 63rd Council Meeting ([GEF/C.63/Inf.13](#)).

10. During the period reported in this document (November 22, 2022 – June 22, 2023) 54 requests for extension, invoking the force majeure provision of the Project Cancellation Policy, due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been received by the Secretariat. Out of the 54 received requests, 49 have been granted by the GEF CEO under the provisions of the Policy and Council decisions referenced herein while the remaining 5 are under processing; as a result, no projects that requested extension have been automatically cancelled under the terms of the Policy. Out of the 54 requests for extension received, 16 projects have been endorsed or approved by the CEO since. Table 1 below provides the list of the 54 projects for which such exceptions have been received.

⁴ GEF/C.59/Summary, para 86

Table 1 - Projects that have requested extension from 22 November 2022 to 22 June 2023

GEF ID	Project Title	Agency	Country	Focal Area	Type	New Deadline Date for actual CEO endorsement / approval
11040	Towards a Sustainable City through Energy Efficiency in Kairouan	UNDP	Tunisia	Climate Change	MSP	12/25/2023
11034	Environmental routes to incorporate communities in good conservation practices and nature-based businesses that promote human development in ecosystems of high environmental and social vulnerability in the Regional Corridor El Palmar - Tariquia, in the de	CAF	Bolivia	Biodiversity	MSP	9/9/2023
11019	Effective Management of Mchinji Ecosystems for Restoration of Upper Bua River Catchment	UNEP	Malawi	Biodiversity	MSP	12/5/2023
11017	Supporting the Implementation of the National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Litter in the context of Green Recovery post-COVID 19 in Viet Nam	UNDP	Viet Nam	International Waters	MSP	9/12/2023
11011	Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems	UNDP	Global	International Waters	FSP	Under Review
11010	Building smallholder farmers resilience through climate smart agriculture techniques in Oio and cacheu north regions in Guinea Bissau	BOAD	Guinea-Bissau	Climate Change	MSP	12/17/2023
11007	Strengthening the Sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby, recognized as particularly important for the conservation of biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire	UNEP	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	MSP	11/15/2023

11004	Strengthening the resilience of small farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture (PRP-AIC) techniques in Tahoua Region	UNDP	Niger	Climate Change	FSP	Under Review
10999	Integrated adoption of electric mobility in the maritime sector through clean technology innovation	UNIDO	Cabo Verde	Climate Change	MSP	12/14/2023
10997	Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of Comoros	UNDP	Comoros	Climate Change	FSP	Under Review
10991	Promoting the safe application of biotechnology through Multi country Cooperation in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Asia	UNEP	Regional	Biodiversity	MSP	12/16/2023
10989	Promoting technology innovation and entrepreneurship to mitigate climate change and combat land degradation in informal settlements and peri-urban areas	UNIDO	Namibia	Multi Focal Area	MSP	12/9/2023
10987	Integrated Natural Resource Management in Very Humid Climatic Regions of Eastern Black Sea Region in Turkey	UNDP	Türkiye	Land Degradation	MSP	10/17/2023
10984	Implementation of National Biosecurity Framework of Ethiopia	UNEP	Ethiopia	Biodiversity	MSP	12/16/2023
10982	Biosecurity Implementation Framework for the Management of Biological Resources in Moldova	UNEP	Moldova	Biodiversity	MSP	12/16/2023
10979	Integration of Natural Capital Accounting Into Lesotho's Policy And Decision Making For Sustainable Development	UNEP	Lesotho	Biodiversity	MSP	12/5/2023
10972	Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project	World Bank	Iraq	Chemicals and Waste	FSP	Under Review

10966	Unlocking a sustainable and an inclusive Wildlife Economy potential in Tsholotsho District of the Hwange-Kazuma Landscape in Zimbabwe	UNEP	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity	MSP	12/5/2023
10935	Introducing systemic climate resilience methodologies in infrastructure investment planning	UNIDO	Global	Climate Change	MSP	12/14/2023
10931	Expanding blue economy benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services by managing surf ecosystems	UNIDO	Regional	International Waters	MSP	12/14/2023
10919	Enhancing capacity for the adoption and implementation of EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (EAf4SG)	FAO	Regional	International Waters	MSP	8/15/2023
10910	Promoting eco-friendly crop protection solutions for persistent organic pollutant and highly hazardous pesticide reduction in Asia	UNIDO	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	FSP	6/10/2024
10907	Facilitating biodiversity conservation by enhancing aquaculture policy, planning, management, and production	UNEP	Palau	Biodiversity	MSP	8/15/2023
10904	Financing Agrichemicals Removal and Management (FARM) in Lao PDR	UNDP	Lao PDR	Chemicals and Waste	FSP	9/30/2023
10890	Global Partnership for Mitigation of Underwater Noise from Shipping (GloNoise Partnership)	UNDP	Global	International Waters	MSP	12/16/2023
10886	Accelerating low-carbon circular economy through cleantech innovation towards sustainable development in Viet Nam	UNIDO	Viet Nam	Climate Change	MSP	3/1/2023

10883	Co-management of climate extremes for agriculture resilience via innovative technologies for irrigation in São Tomé and Príncipe	AfDB	Sao Tome and Principe	Climate Change	FSP	6/10/2024
10878	Improving thermal energy efficiency in the design, manufacture and operation of industrial boilers for low-carbon micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in India	UNIDO	India	Climate Change	FSP	12/10/2023
10873	Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS)	UNDP	Regional	Multi Focal Area	FSP	12/10/2023
10865	Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in AIO SIDS	UNDP	Regional	Multi Focal Area	FSP	6/10/2024
10858	Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia	UNDP	Micronesia	Multi Focal Area	FSP	9/27/2023
10852	Green Finance & Sustainable Agriculture in the Dry Forest Ecoregion of Ecuador and Peru	CAF	Regional	Multi Focal Area	FSP	3/15/2024
10850	Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon	UNEP	Cameroon	Biodiversity	MSP	5/30/2023
10849	Sustainable Management and Resilient Thinking for our Energy Revolution (SMARTER)	UNDP	Barbados	Climate Change	MSP	11/12/2023
10846	GEF GOLD+ Mali: Enhancing the formalization and mercury reduction in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Mali	UNIDO	Mali	Chemicals and Waste	FSP	Under review

10841	Zambia National Child Project under the GEF Africa Minigrids Program	UNDP	Zambia	Climate Change	MSP	3/31/2023
10840	Strengthening access and benefit-sharing (ABS) policies and institutional frameworks through demonstrable models in Saint Lucia	UNEP	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	MSP	3/31/2023
10834	Mali national child project under the Africa Minigrids Program	UNDP	Mali	Climate Change	MSP	3/31/2023
10833	Niger National Child Project under the GEF Africa Minigrids Program	UNDP	Niger	Climate Change	MSP	3/31/2023
10831	Benin National Child Project under the GEF Africa Minigrids Program	UNDP	Benin	Climate Change	MSP	2/28/2023
10823	Strengthening integrated approaches to build climate resilience of vulnerable rural communities and agricultural production systems in the central region of Segou in the Republic of Mali.	IFAD	Mali	Climate Change	MSP	7/15/2023
10809	Strengthening the capacity of institutions in Nigeria to implement the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement	FAO	Nigeria	Climate Change	MSP	9/30/2023
10792	Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2) - Somalia	IFAD	Somalia	Multi Focal Area	FSP	6/30/2023
10777	Transformational Adaptation for Climate Resilience in Lake Chilwa Basin of Malawi (TRANSFORM)	UNDP	Malawi	Climate Change	FSP	9/10/2023
10776	Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments	UNDP	India	Biodiversity	FSP	12/10/2023
10773	Mainstreaming of Biosafety and Institutional Capacity Building to strengthen effective implementation of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	UNEP	India	Biodiversity	MSP	12/10/2023

10770	China Energy Transition Towards Carbon Neutrality Project	World Bank	China	Climate Change	FSP	12/18/2023
10766	IFC-GEF Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP)	World Bank	Global	Climate Change	FSP	12/18/2023
10731	Strengthened Systems for Community-based Conservation of Forests and Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (CoPLI)	IFAD	Indonesia	Biodiversity	FSP	6/18/2023
10713	Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities in Timor-Leste	UNEP	Timor Leste	Multi Focal Area	FSP	6/18/2023
10703	Promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish)	FAO	Regional	Multi Focal Area	FSP	6/30/2023
10695	Restoration of ecosystems, integrated natural resource management and promotion of SLM in Mbuluzi River Basin of Eswatini	UNEP	Eswatini	Multi Focal Area	FSP	11/30/2023
10649	Living in harmony with nature: Connecting biodiversity with production systems in the Gualaca Altitudinal Corridor Landscape.	CAF	Panama	Biodiversity	MSP	10/27/2023
10518	Implementation of the Fanga'uta Lagoon Stewardship Plan and Replication of Lessons Learned to Priority Areas in Vava'u (Tonga R2R Phase 2)	UNDP	Tonga	Biodiversity	FSP	9/10/2023