



Regional Programming and Strategy Workshop for Asian Least Developed Countries

September 19-22, 2023, Siem Reap, Cambodia

PROGRAM (as of September 18, 2023)

Overview and objectives

The GEF regional programming and strategy workshops and associated technical clinic series are designed to address some of the key challenges faced by the 46 least developed countries (LDCs) in accessing finance for climate change adaptation. The regional workshops are part of a new corporate dedicated program under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the GEF-8 Period of July 2022 to June 2026¹ to ensure that all 46 LDCs have access to enhanced support during the GEF-8 period. The GEF manages a fund dedicated to supporting climate adaptation priorities of 46 LDCs, as part of the financial mechanism for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The initial country allocation for the GEF-8 period has doubled to \$20 million per LDC from the GEF-7 period.

In this context, the GEF secretariat is collaborating with the LDC Group for the UNFCCC process under the auspices of the Senegal Chairmanship, to organize these workshops in Francophone Africa, Anglophone Africa, Asia-Pacific and Caribbean LDCs. Dedicated regional workshops will also be held for non-LDC SIDS, to enhance access to the SCCF.

Hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia, the regional workshop for Asian LDCs is organized by the GEF secretariat for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Nepal.

The objective of the regional workshops is to create awareness and develop enhanced skills and knowledge for preparing and supervising the implementation of projects/programs to address priority adaptation needs. In particular, the regional workshops aim to strengthen capacity and skills of the participants by providing information and tools that will assist them in articulating their priority adaptation needs in line with the GEF programming priorities and requirements, as well to facilitate access to suitable climate finance from other, complementary sources. The workshops will provide insights on the entire project development process through various interactive sessions and exercises. Participants will have an opportunity to brainstorm project concept ideas that may be funded by the LDCF in GEF-8 period.

¹ GEF, 2023, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 2022 to June 2026](#), GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/04/Rev.01.

Meeting Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
DAY 1 September 19, 2023	
9:00 am	Registration
	<i>Opening Segment</i>
9:30 am	Welcome remarks by Dr. Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist/Manager, LDCF/SCCF, GEF Secretariat
9:40 am	Opening remarks by Mr. Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, Means of Implementation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat (Virtual)
9:50 am	Opening remarks by His Excellency Dr. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment, Kingdom of Cambodia
10:00 am	<i>Photo session</i>
10:15 am	Around-the-Room Introductions Facilitator: Mr. Tshewang Dorji, Climate Change Specialist, GEF Secretariat
10:30 am	Pre-Workshop Participant Survey Facilitator: Mr. Tshewang Dorji, GEF Secretariat
10:45 am	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 am	Overview of the GEF & LDCF/SCCF Portfolio in Asian LDCs Mr. Tshewang Dorji, GEF Secretariat
11:30 am	Sharing Lessons, Experiences, and Good Practice in Accessing LDCF/SCCF <i>This panel discussion will feature panelists from participating countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Nepal) to share knowledge, experience, and good practice in accessing LDCF/SCCF to address adaptation priorities.</i> <i>All participants will be encouraged to compliment the panelists and share their experiences and lessons learned in accessing LDCF/SCCF and suggestions on addressing any challenges.</i> Facilitator: HE Mr. Tin Ponlok, GEF Operational Focal Point, Cambodia
12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30 pm	Overview of the GEF Climate Adaptation Strategy for 2022-26

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	<p><i>A short video will introduce the Strategy, followed by an in-depth presentation on the strategy elements, as well as its results framework and project cycle. A Q & A session will follow.</i></p> <p>Mr. Rawlestone Moore, GEF Secretariat</p>
2:30 pm	<p>Insights from the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)</p> <p>Mr. Mark Stafford Smith, Senior Advisor to the Chair, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) (virtual)</p>
2:45 pm	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
3:15 pm	<p>Engaging CSOs and Indigenous People in GEF Initiatives</p> <p><i>This panel discussion will be an opportunity to share experiences of CSOs and Indigenous Peoples/local communities in GEF projects, and explore ways to strengthen their engagement in GEF initiatives at the ground level.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Akhteruzzaman Sano, Chair, GEF CSO Network</p> <p>Panelists: CSO representative from participating LDCs</p>
4:00 pm	<p>Complementary Programming with GCF and GEF</p> <p><i>This panel session will discuss the GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration, and present the joint investment planning exercise in five countries, including Bangladesh. The session is also enable countries to share their experiences with, and outlook for, complementary support by the GEF and GCF, and to receive feedback from the GCF and GEF.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Simon Pollock, GEF Secretariat</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Ms. Chizuru Aoki, GEF Secretariat</p> <p>Mr. Fumihiko Tominaga, GCF Secretariat</p> <p>Mr. Md Hasan Hasibur Rahman, Bangladesh</p>
4:45 pm	<p>Informal Bilateral Meetings between Countries and GEF Secretariat</p> <p><i>This space will provide opportunities for countries to discuss their GEF-8 LDCF project ideas and concepts on the priority adaptation action. For those countries whose concepts are already approved by LDCF/SCCF Council, the informal bilateral will explore ways to provide input for formulation of CEO Endorsement package</i></p> <p>Per Diem disbursement</p>
6:30 pm	<p>End of Day 1</p>
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<p>Reception</p>

Time	Agenda Item
DAY 2 September 20, 2023	
9:00 am	<p>Overview of Day 2 Agenda and Reflection from Day 1</p> <p>Mr. Rawleston Moore, GEF Secretariat</p>
9:10 am	<p>Enhancing Climate Adaptation Impact in Project Design and Insights from GEF Council Members and Alternates</p> <p>This session will start with a presentation by the GEF Secretariat on how sound project designs can enhance climate adaptation impact of LDCF project concepts. The alternate member of the GEF Council, entrusted with reviewing and approving Work Programs of LDCF/SCCF projects, will discuss the role of the Council and what it looks for in projects presented for Council approval.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Ms. Chizuru Aoki, GEF Secretariat</p> <p>Ms. Somaly Chan, GEF Alternate Council Member</p>
<p><i>Closed Session for Country Participants 10:00 am – 3:00 pm</i></p> <p><i>With Morning Coffee Break</i></p>	
10:00 am	<p>Brainstorming of Country Project Concept or Full Proposals</p> <p>(Breakout sessions by country)</p>
12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30 pm	<p>Brainstorming of Country Project Concept or Full Proposals (continued)</p>
3:00 pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>
3:30 pm	<p>Learning Stations</p> <p><i>Learning stations feature recently completed or ongoing LDCF projects in the region, presented by local/national stakeholders and the GEF Agencies. Participants have an occasion to visit one or multiple learning stations to discuss and learn from project representatives. The learning stations are interactive and informal, and questions and sharing of experiences are encouraged.</i></p> <p><u>Learning station 1:</u></p> <p><i>Project Name:</i> Reducing Climate Change-induced Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst in the Punakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar Valley in Bhutan <i>Agency:</i> UNDP</p> <p>Facilitators:</p> <p>Mr. Rawleston Moore, GEF Secretariat</p>

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	<p><u>Learning Station 2:</u> <i>Project Name:</i> Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems to Improve Adaptation to Climate Change and Food Security in Lao PDR <i>Agency:</i> FAO Facilitators: Mr. Akhteruzzaman Sano, Chair, GEF CSO Network</p>
5:00 pm	<p>Information on Field Trip <i>Information on the field trip to an LDCF project site will be provided by the host country and the GEF Agency.</i></p>
5:30 pm	End of Day 2
<p>DAY 3 September 21, 2023</p> <p>FIELD TRIP</p> <p><i>Project Name:</i> Strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities using micro-watershed approaches to climate change and variability to attain sustainable food security in Cambodia. <i>Agency:</i> FAO</p>	
7:00 am	Departure from the Hotel to the Project Site
12:30 pm	Lunch
4:00 pm	Return to the Hotel
<p>DAY 4 September 22, 2023</p>	
9:00 am	<p>Debrief Session on the Field Trip Mr. Rawleston Moore, GEF Secretariat</p>
9:30 am	<p>Around the Table: Presentation on Priority Concepts and Projects <i>Each country will briefly share the main elements of the concepts developed in the breakout sessions on day 2. The GEF Secretariat representatives will offer feedback.</i></p>
10:30 am	<p>Looking to Next Year of the Dedicated Program: Sectoral and Thematic Deep Dives <i>The GEF Secretariat will run an interactive poll with all participants on sectors and themes that participants may find useful for additional “deep-dive” technical workshops and clinics in the next fiscal year, as a follow-up to the regional workshops.</i> Mr. Tshewang Dorji, GEF Secretariat</p>
11:00 am	Coffee Break

Time	Agenda Item
11:30 am	Post-Workshop Survey and Feedback Mr. Simon Pollock, GEF Secretariat
12:00 pm	Workshop Closing Closing remarks by representative of host country/Operational Focal Point (tbc) Reflections by Mr. Tshewang Dorji, GEF Secretariat
12:30 pm	Lunch
<i>End of Workshop</i>	