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Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua
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GEF Regional Latin America Workshop GEF Partnership's Projects for Global Environmental Benefits Generation September 3-5, 2024, Hilton Colon Hotel, Quito, Ecuador

1. Introduction

The GEF is half-way through the eighth-replenishment cycle (GEF-8), which cover the period July 2022 to June 2026. The approved GEF-8 replenishment package includes a comprehensive programming strategy and a set of policy commitments to support countries. This strategy includes a refocused country engagement strategy.

The GEF-8 Country Engagement Strategy (CES) focuses on comprehensively working with countries to:

- Ensure maximum impact of the collective use of GEF resources;
- Facilitate inclusive and sustained engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in recipient countries, including GEF Focal Points, relevant ministries, Convention Focal Points, executing agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions, the private sector and other interested groups;
- Ensure and facilitate coordination of country activities with regional and global scale actions where appropriate; and
- Develop and share best practices to maximize knowledge-sharing, learning, innovations, and scaling up of impact.¹

The renewed Country Support Programme (CSP) which provides capacity building to key stakeholder in the country including GEF focal points, Convention Focal points and CSOs among others will implement some aspects of the CES and this includes the regional workshops.

2. Objectives of the Regional Workshops

The regional workshop is designed to keep GEF Focal Points, Convention Focal points and other key stakeholders up to date with GEF policies and programming. The workshop for the Latin American countries takes place after similar workshop in Southern Africa, West Asia and North Africa, East and Central Asia, and the Caribbean.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Bring together GEF focal points, Convention Focal points, Civil Society Organizations and GEF Agencies to provide a briefing on the GEF 8 Programming directions and GEF policy recommendations.

¹ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05/EN_GEF.C.62.Inf_.11_GEF-8%20Country%20Engagement%20Strategy%20Implementation%20Arrangements.pdf



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- Provide countries with an opportunity to understand the GEF project cycle and explore the design of transformational GEF projects through interactive methods.
- Provide a platform for CSOs to engage with government counterparts and explore ways of coordinating and working together at the country level.
- Provide updates and engagement with Convention Focal points on key issues.
- Provide a learning and knowledge exchange opportunity through field visits and sharing of good practice.
- Engage bilaterally with each country delegation on the outlook for GEF-8 and portfolio implementation.

3. Participants

The GEF Secretariat will invite the following from each country:

1. Country Representatives: GEF Political and Operational Focal Points.
2. Convention Focal points from UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNCBD, Stockholm and Minamata (5 per country).
3. Civils Society representatives including GEF CSO network representative, youth and IPLCs.
4. Key regional and sub-regional entities (self-sponsored).
5. GEF Agencies (self-sponsored).
6. Climate funds.

4. Meeting Format

The workshop will take place over three days with one day dedicated to visiting a GEF project. The first two days are dedicated to a program discussed and agreed on based on needs expressed by countries and priorities to be communicated from the GEF Secretariat.

The meetings are organized by the GEF Secretariat in close coordination with the GEF OFP office in the host country. The GEF Secretariat takes care of all costs associated with the workshop.



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AGENDA

DAY 1 – September 3 rd		
7:30 – 9:00	<i>Per Diem Distribution</i>	
8:30 – 9:00	REGISTRATION	
9:00 – 9:30	Opening Session and Welcome Remarks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming remarks by the GEF Welcoming remarks by GEF Council Members representing. Welcoming remarks: Host Country Minister for Environment. Group Photo	GEFSEC
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction to the workshop Agenda and working methods	GEFSEC
9:45 – 10:45	Overview of the GEF Family of Funds: Operations Policy Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the GEF GEF Operations Part I: Project Cycle, implications of changes in Medium Sized Projects' ceilings 	GEFSEC
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Overview of the GEF Family of Funds: Operations Policy Framework (Continues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF Operations Part II: Interactive session on Streamlining the Project Cycle 	GEFSEC
12:00 – 13:00	Overview of the GEF Family of Funds: Operations Policy Framework and the GEF Instruments and their use in the GEF-8 Programing Cycle. (Continues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF-8 Programing: STAR and Non-STAR Focal Area, Enabling Activities, Integrated Programs, etc. 	GEFSEC
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Per Diem Distribution</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Discussion: Experience Sharing amongst OFPs and Convention Focal points – Coordination at country level	GEFSEC Ecuador
15:30 – 16:30	GEF Independent Evaluation Office	IEO
16:30- 18:00	Bilateral meetings with country teams	All
18:30	<i>Dinner Reception hosted by the GEF and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition – National Museum of Ecuador</i>	GEFSEC Ecuador



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DAY 2 – September 4 th		
7:30 –9:00	<i>Per Diem Distribution</i>	
9:00 – 10:00	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)	GEFSEC
10:00 – 11:00	Blended Finance Program (former Non-Grant Instrument -NGI)	GEFSEC
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	All
11:15 - 12:45	Panel Discussion: CSOs	GEFSEC/CSOs
12:45 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Per Diem Distribution</i>	
14:30- 15:00	GEF communications: policy and operation	GEFSEC
15:00-16:00	<p>Introduction of the Field Visit - Project <i>Strengthening of the local bioenterprise network as a strategy for conservation, tourism development and food sovereignty in the Zuleta biocorridor: “La Magia de Vivir”</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction. • GEF grant and co-financing. • Capacity considerations of recipients to manage and implement projects. • Regional perspectives. • Lessons Learned. 	Ecuador government (MAATE)/ Ecuador SGP
16:00-18:00	Bilateral meetings with country teams	All
16:00 – 18:00	<i>Per Diem Distribution</i>	
	<i>Dinner – free arrangement</i>	



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DAY 3 – September 5 th : GEF Financed Project Field Visit – Learning from Real-World Examples		
6:30 – 7:30	Hotel breakfast	GEF
7:30 – 10:00	Buses will leave from the Hilton Colon Hotel. (Meet in the hotel lobby) Quito – Zuleta Community transportation	GEF
10:00 – 11:15	Welcome Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional ceremony • Welcome remarks from national and local governments 	SGP Ecuador
11:15– 12:45	Community leaders share their experiences in implementing an SGP bio corridor project <Learning stations in 4 groups> *Participants are divided into 4 groups and visit 4 learning stations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Forest and paramo conservation 2) Strengthening Biodiversity-based enterprise 3) Community experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. 4) Strengthened process of associativity, strategic alliances and youth and gender approach. 	SGP Ecuador
12:45 – 14:00	Pambamesa Lunch (prepared by the local communities)	SGP Ecuador
14:00 – 14:30	Visit Biodiversity-based enterprise stands hand embroidery, alpaca fiber and fabrics, wood carving, agroecological products, bee honey, and other products.	SGP Ecuador
14:30 – 15:30	Community leaders share their experiences in forest conservation (paramo) and their Biodiversity-based enterprise <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Museum, 2. Hand embroidery, 3. Wood carving 	SGP Ecuador
15:30 – 18:00	Back to the hotel, Zuleta – Quito transportation (Optional stop: Mitad del Mundo Cayambe – on the way back to Quito from Zuleta)	GEF