

March 22, 2012

Dear Council Member:

This letter supersedes my letter of February 29, 2012 conveying the Council's approval of the February 2012 Intersessional Work Program.

I am writing in reference to a communication that we received from a Council member who had earlier objected to the **Russian Federation: Conserving Biodiversity in the Changing Arctic** but who now recommends approval of the project after consultations with the concerned parties.

Hence, I am pleased to inform you that the Council's approved decision, taking into account Council Members' comments, would read as amended:

The GEF Council reviewed the proposed work program posted on January 30, 2012, and approves the work program comprising the following 38 Project Identification Forms (PIFs), subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat by February 24, 2012:

Biodiversity

1. **China** : *A Landscape Approach to Wildlife Conservation in Northeastern China (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,000,000)*
2. **Ecuador** : *Advancing Landscape Approaches in Ecuador's National Protected Area System to Improve Conservation of Globally Endangered Wildlife (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,450,472)*
3. **Guatemala** : *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5,354,545)*
4. **Honduras** : *Strengthening the Sub-system of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,036,364)*
5. **India** : *Developing an Effective Multiple Use Management Framework for Conserving Biodiversity in the Mountain Landscapes of the High Ranges, Western Ghats (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$6,275,000)*

6. **Mexico** : *Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Protect Biodiversity under Conditions of Climate Change (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$10,172,727)
7. **Namibia** : *Strengthening the Capacity of the Protected Area System to Address New Management Challenges (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$4,000,000)
8. **Peru** : *Conservation and Sustainable Use of High-Andean Ecosystems through Compensation of Environmental Services for Rural Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion in Peru (IFAD)* (GEF Project Grant : \$5,354,545)
9. **Peru**: *Strengthening Sustainable Management of the Guano Islands, Islets and Capes National Reserves System (World Bank)* (GEF Project Grant: \$8,922,638)

Climate Change

10. **Armenia** : *Green Urban Lighting (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$1,600,000)
11. **Belarus** : *Removing Barriers to Wind Power Development in Belarus (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$3,045,000)
12. **Colombia** : *Low-carbon and Efficient National Freight Logistics Initiative (IADB)* (GEF Project Grant : \$3,000,000)
13. **Dominican Republic** : *Stimulating Industrial Competitiveness Through Biomass-based, Grid-connected Electricity Generation (UNIDO)* (GEF Project Grant : \$1,300,000)
14. **Guyana** : *Sustainable Energy Program (IADB)* (GEF Project Grant : \$5,000,000)
15. **India** : *Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$9,010,604)
16. **India** : *Promoting Business Models for Increasing Penetration and Scaling up of Solar Energy (UNIDO)* (GEF Project Grant : \$4,365,174)
17. **Lebanon** : *Small Decentralized Renewable Energy Power Generation (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$1,450,000)
18. **Pakistan** : *Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries (UNIDO)* (GEF Project Grant : \$3,550,000)
19. **Serbia** : *Reducing Barriers to Accelerate the Development of Biomass Markets in Serbia (UNDP)* (GEF Project Grant : \$2,845,000)
20. **Ukraine** : *Introduction of Energy Management System Standard in Ukrainian Industry (UNIDO)* (GEF Project Grant : \$5,550,000)

International Waters

21. **Global** : *A Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme: Aquifers, Lake/Reservoir Basins, River Basins, Large Marine Ecosystems, and Open Ocean to Catalyze Sound Environmental Management (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5,000,000)*
22. **Global** : *Development of a Methodology With Tools and Decision Support Systems to Incorporate Floods and Droughts into IWRM in Transboundary Basins (UNEP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,090,275)*

Land Degradation

23. **Angola** : *Land Rehabilitation and Rangelands Management in Small Holders Agro-pastoral Production Systems in Southwestern Angola (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,013,636)*
24. **Botswana** : *Mainstreaming SLM in Rangeland Areas of Ngamiland District Productive Landscapes for Improved livelihoods (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,081,800)*
25. **Pakistan** : *Sustainable Land Management Programme to Combat Desertification in Pakistan (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,791,000)*
26. **Uzbekistan** : *Reducing Pressures on Natural Resources from Competing Land Use in Non-irrigated Arid Mountain, Semi-desert and Desert Landscapes (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,313,600)*

Multi Focal Area

27. **Colombia** : *Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity in Dry Ecosystems to Guarantee the Flow of Ecosystem Services and to Mitigate the Processes of Deforestation and Desertification. (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$8,787,819)*
28. **Seychelles** : *Expansion and Strengthening of the Protected Area Subsystem of the Outer Islands of Seychelles and its Integration into the broader land and seascape (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$1,785,500)*

POPs

29. **Regional (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad)** : *Disposal Of Obsolete Pesticides Including POPs And Strengthening Pesticide Management In The Permanent Interstate Committee For Drought Control In The Sahel (CILSS) Member States (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$7,450,000)*
30. **Benin** : *Disposal of POPs and Obsolete Pesticides and Strengthening Life-cycle Management of Pesticides (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$1,830,000)*

31. **Cameroon** : Disposal of POPs and Obsolete Pesticides and Strengthening Sound Pesticide Management (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$1,710,000)
32. **India** : Development and Promotion of Non-POPs alternatives to DDT (UNIDO/UNEP), (GEF Project Grant : \$10,000,000)
33. **Indonesia** : Introduction of an Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal System for PCBs Wastes and PCB Contaminated Equipment in Indonesia (UNIDO) (GEF Project Grant : \$6,000,000)
34. **Kazakhstan** : NIP Update, Integration of POPs into National Planning and Promoting Sound Healthcare Waste Management in Kazakhstan (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,400,000)
35. **Morocco** : Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs and Implementation of Pesticides Management Programme (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,500,000)
36. **Pakistan**: Comprehensive Reduction and Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$5,150,000)

PIFs under Previously Approved Programmatic Approaches

37. **China**: Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area Landscape in Altai Mountains and Wetlands¹ (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$3,544,679) under the CBPF-MSL Mainstreams of Life – Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation Program
38. **Russian Federation**: Conserving Biodiversity in the Changing Arctic² (UNEP)(GEF Project Grant: \$5,733,944) under the ARCTIC-GEF – Russian Federation Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Arctic under a Rapidly Changing Climate (Arctic Agenda 2020)

With respect to the following six PIFs approved as part of the work program, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive draft final project documents at least four weeks prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency to provide Council Members the opportunity to transmit to the CEO any concerns they may have:

- a) **Honduras**: Strengthening the Sub-system of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- b) **Guyana**: Sustainable Energy Program for Guyana
- c) **India**: Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) and other New Information to the UNFCCC
- d) **Global**: Development of a Methodology with Tools and Decision Support Systems to Incorporate Floods and Droughts into IWRM in Transboundary Basins

¹ Sub-project to be charged against the CBPF-MSL Mainstreams of Life – Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation Program approved by Council in November 2011

² Sub-project to be charged against the the ARCTIC-GEF – Russian Federation Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Arctic under a Rapidly Changing Climate (Arctic Agenda 2020) approved by Council in November 2011

- e) **Dominican Republic:** *Stimulating Industrial Competitiveness through Biomass-based, Grid-connected Electricity Generation*
- f) **Russian Federation:** *Conserving Biodiversity in the Changing Arctic*

With respect to the remaining 32 PIFs approved as part of the work program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the work program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF approved in this work program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If the GEF CEO determines that there have been major changes to the project scope and approach since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbut', enclosed within a hand-drawn rectangular box.

Monique Barbut
CEO and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility

cc: Alternates, all those invited to Council meetings