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April 6, 2005

Dear Council Member,

I am writing in reference to my letter of February 25, 2005, under cover of which we circulated for Council review and approval the February 2005 Intersessional Work Program.

I am pleased to inform you that the following decision is therefore approved.

The Council reviewed the proposed work program transmitted to Council, and approves it¹ subject to comments submitted to the Secretariat by April 4, 2005.

The Council finds that with the exception of:

- 1) *Regional (Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana): Removing Barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa***
- 2) *Turkmenistan: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Significant Biological Diversity in Khazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast***

each project presented to it as part of the work program is or would be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures and may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the Implementing or Executing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the Council's comments on the work program accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

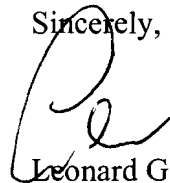
¹ One Council Member, in light of national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, opposed the following project proposals: *Iran: Removing Barriers to Large Scale Commercial Wind Energy Development and Regional (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lank, Thailand): Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem.*

With respect to *Regional (Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana): Removing Barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa*, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive draft final project documents and transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the Implementing Agency. The project may be reviewed at a subsequent Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

With respect to the *Turkmenistan: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Significant Biological Diversity in Khazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast*, the Council requests that the project proposal be deferred for consideration at the June 2005 Council meeting.

The Secretariat will be posting all comments received on the work program at the GEF website at www.theGEF.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Good', written over a large, stylized letter 'P'.

Leonard Good
Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman

cc: Alternates, all those invited to Council meetings