



Global Environment Facility

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August 25, 2003

Dear Council Member,

Further to my letter of July 24, 2003, I am writing to inform you that the Council has approved by mail the proposed work program, subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) one Council Member was unable to approve at this time the project proposal entitled, "Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for the Cartagena Protocol". This proposal will be deferred for consideration by the Council at its meeting in November 2003; and
- (b) one Council Member, in light of national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, did not support the project proposal, "Iran: Conservation of Wetlands Project".
- (c) one Council Member requested that the project entitled, "Mali: Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Inner Niger Delta and its Transitions Areas, Mopti Region", be circulated to the Council for review prior to CEO endorsement.

The approved decision reads:

The Council reviewed the proposed work program posted on July 24, 2003, and approves it, with the exception of the project proposal entitled, "Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for the Cartagena Protocol," and subject to the comments of Council Members received by the Secretariat.

The Council finds that, with the exception of the project entitled, "Mali: Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Sustainable Management of Natural

Resources in the Inner Niger Delta and its Transition Areas, Mopti Region”, each project presented to it as part of the work program: (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 Implementing 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.

With respect to the project listed above, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive the draft final project document and transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing the 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.

Sincerely,



Leonard Good
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman

Cc: Alternates, all those invited to Council meetings