

March 29, 2011

Dear Council Member:

I am writing in reference to my letter of February 28, 2011, under cover of which we circulated for GEF Council review and approval the March 2011 Intersessional Work Program.

I am pleased to inform you that the Council has approved by mail the proposed work program.

The approved decision, taking into account Council Member comments, reads as follows:

The GEF Council reviewed the proposed work program posted on February 28, 2011, and approves the work program comprising the following 11 Project Identification Forms (PIFs), subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat by March 28, 2011:

Biodiversity

1. China: Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China's Dongting Lake Protected Area (FAO) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,950,000)

Climate Change

2. Russian Federation: Russia Energy Efficiency Financing (REEF) Project (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$22,727,273)

Land Degradation

3. Tajikistan: Second Upland Agricultural Livelihoods and Environmental Management (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant : \$5,400,000)

Multi Focal Area

4. Azerbaijan: Sustainable Land and Forest Management in the Greater Caucasus Landscape (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$5,680,000)

5. Costa Rica: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Costa Rica (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,398,148)
6. Ecuador: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Ecuador (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$4,398,145)
7. India: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in India (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$5,000,000)
8. Kenya: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Kenya (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$5,000,000)
9. Pakistan: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Pakistan (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant : \$2,777,778)
10. Philippines: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in the Philippines (UNDP) (GEF Project Grant: \$4,583,333)

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

11. China: Minimizing Formation and Releases of Unintentionally Produced POPs (UPOPs) from China's Pulp and Paper Sector (World Bank) (GEF Project Grant: \$15,000,000)

With respect to the following four 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) Azerbaijan: Sustainable Land and Forest Management in the Greater Caucasus Landscape
- b) Costa Rica: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Costa Rica
- c) Ecuador: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Ecuador
- d) Kenya: Fifth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Kenya

With respect to the remaining seven 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 a confirmation by the CEO 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Barbut', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Monique Barbut
Chief Executive Officer
And Chairperson

cc: Alternates, all those invited to Council meetings