



Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.34/8
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Agenda Item 13

REPORT ON THE COMPLETION OF THE STRATEGIC PRIORITY ON ADAPTATION

Recommended Council Decision

The Council considered document GEF/C.34/8, *Report on the Completion of the Strategic Priority on Adaptation*, welcomed the progress achieved by this pilot and noted with appreciation the information about its completion.

The Council requests the Office of Evaluation to conduct an independent evaluation of the \$50 million pilot. The Council will explore new decisions regarding possible future activities on adaptation under the GEF Trust Fund based on the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the SPA and the evolving guidance to the GEF of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the seventh session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-7), the GEF was requested to provide support for establishing pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment could be practically translated into projects that would provide real benefits and that might be integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning, on the basis either of information provided in national communications, or of in-depth national studies, including National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs).

2. In response to this guidance, the strategic priority “*Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation*”, also referred to as *Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA)*, with an initial allocation of \$50 million, was introduced in the GEF climate change focal area. Activities financed under the SPA priority were to generate real adaptation benefits on the ground. After completion, the pilot was expected to be evaluated by the independent Office of Evaluation (EO).

3. Through this document, the GEF Secretariat is reporting to the Council that the original allocation of \$50 million of SPA resources is now entirely committed as described in some detail in the Annex below, and that the pilot is ready for the EO evaluation. Some statistics are also highlighted, such as regional distribution, linkages to GEF focal areas, and other areas of interest.

SPA AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

4. The SPA was financed through the GEF Trust Fund; thus it had to generate global environmental benefits consistent with the GEF instrument, and its projects had to be linked to one of the GEF focal areas. At the operational level, this objective would be easily met when the projects were implemented in vulnerable ecosystems. For example, a SPA project that financed the implementation of adaptation measures aimed at reducing the vulnerability of coral reefs would generate adaptation benefits of a global environmental nature, as they would reduce root causes of biodiversity loss. Other examples in the SPA portfolio show linkages between adaptation and land degradation or international waters.

5. On the other hand, when climate change impacts core sectors of development, such as agriculture, water, health, infrastructure etc., the GEF has provided financial support to adaptation through the UNFCCC Climate Change Funds: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

BEGINNINGS AND COMPLETION OF THE STRATEGIC PRIORITY ON ADAPTATION (SPA)

6. Despite its apparent complexity, the requirement to provide double benefits and the different opinions of involved stakeholders about the definitions of adaptation and how to operationalize adaptation goals, the adaptation pipeline under the SPA grew steadily, and the first SPA projects are some of the best that the GEF agencies showcase as examples of adaptation on the ground.

7. The Integrated National Adaptation Project in Colombia, one of the rare cases in which adaptation and mitigation have been combined through water resources management and renewable energy through the maintenance of an hydroelectric system, is the oldest adaptation project carried out in Latin America. The Kiribati Adaptation project has shown that even a very small island state can tackle climate change in all sectors of its small economy to the benefit of its rich ecosystems if there is a strong political will accompanied by the full involvement of civil society. In a relatively short time, a new program, with new rules on how to calculate the incremental cost of adaptation, came to be widely understood. At the GEF, the inter-agency climate change adaptation task force was created, and a committed group of colleagues facilitated the dissemination of knowledge about the program and its rules in the regions.

FIRST OBSERVATIONS

8. All SPA projects are at an early stage of implementation, therefore our first observations are more procedural than substantive.

9. With respect to challenges, when projects were submitted to the GEF under the SPA it was often difficult to distinguish the “baseline” from the “adaptation alternative.” What was described as “adaptation” was often a biodiversity or land degradation business-as-usual project, such as a project that would address all stresses to the ecosystem under consideration except for climate change stresses, relabeled as “adaptation.” Through cooperation and dialogue, however, these kinds of projects were significantly modified and eventually all provided a valid adaptation alternative. There will be a need, however, to reconsider new approaches to the calculation of the incremental cost for adaptation; one approach may be to utilize lessons learned from the LDCF and SCCF.

10. With respect to benefits, the SPA gave to the agencies the first opportunity to access financing for adaptation, and the demand was and continues to be very high, despite the difficulties.

THE WAY FORWARD AND CLIMATE COP DECISIONS ON THE GEF AND ADAPTATION

11. The GEF Council is expected to make additional decisions with respect to further financing envelopes for adaptation under the GEF Trust Fund after the completion of the SPA pilot, depending upon the recommendations of the Office of Evaluation and the evolving guidance to the GEF from the UNFCCC.

SPA PROJECT FINANCING IN USD

Country/Region	Project Title	Agency	GEF Total Costs USD	Co-financing USD	Project Total USD
Kiribati	Kiribati Adaptation Program - Pilot Implementation Phase	World Bank	2,070,019	4,800,000	6,870,019
Regional (Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines)	Implementation of Pilot Adaptation Measures in Coastal Areas of Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines	World Bank	2,616,000	3,370,000	5,986,000
Colombia	Integrated National Adaptation Plan: High Mountain Ecosystems, Colombia's Caribbean Insular Areas and Human Health (INAP)	World Bank	6,171,300	9,500,000	15,671,300
Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay)	Sustainable Management of the Water Resources of the la Plata Basin with Respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change	UNEP	1,090,000	51,914,711	53,004,711
Global	Adaptation Learning Mechanism: Learning By Doing	UNDP	788,724	645,000	1,433,724
Hungary	Lake Balaton Integrated Vulnerability Assessment, Early Warning and Adaptation Strategies	UNDP	1,131,000	3,090,000	4,221,000
Regional (Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania)	Integrating Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change into Sustainable Development Policy Planning and Implementation in Southern and Eastern Africa	UNEP	1,090,000	1,265,000	2,355,000
Mozambique	Zambezi Valley Market Led Smallholder Development	World Bank	1,689,500	21,200,000	22,889,500
Namibia	Adapting to Climate Change through the Improvement of Traditional Crops and Livestock Farming	UNDP	1,100,000	5,795,806	6,895,806
Regional (Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Cape Verde)	Adaptation to Climate Change - Responding to Coastline Change and its Human Dimensions in West Africa through Integrated Coastal Area Management	UNDP	4,360,000	9,729,517	14,089,517
Uruguay	Implementing Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures in Coastal Areas of Uruguay	UNDP	1,100,000	2,922,900	4,022,900

Country/Region	Project Title	Agency	GEF Total Costs USD	Co-financing USD	Project Total USD
Sri Lanka	Participatory Coastal Zone Restoration and Sustainable Management in the Eastern Province of Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka	IFAD	2,101,447	7,569,450	9,670,897
Global (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Niger, Samoa, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Vietnam)	Community Based Adaptation (CBA) Programme	UNDP	5,510,516	4,525,140	10,035,656
Yemen	Adaptation to Climate Change Using Agrobiodiversity Resources in the Rain Fed Highlands of Yemen	World Bank	4,620,000	4,080,000	8,700,000
India	Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Partnership Program	World Bank	4,400,000		4,400,000
Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela)	Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin	UNEP	2,200,000	43,780,000	50,780,090
Albania	Identification and Implementation of Adaptation Response Measures in the Drini-Mati River Deltas	UNDP	1,099,890	984,525	2,084,415
Armenia	Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts in the Mountain Forest Ecosystems of Armenia	UNDP	1,045,000	900,000	1,945,000
Tajikistan	Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change	UNDP	1,100,000	4,000,000	5,100,000
Regional (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Timor Leste, Vanuatu)	Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific	ADB	2,000,000	15,150,000	17,150,000
Regional (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)	Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia	ADB	2,000,000	76,000,000	78,000,000
Tunisia	Land and Water Optimization Project	World Bank	700,000	75,700,000	76,400,000
Total			49,983,396		

STATISTICS

