



Statement to 14th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting, June 20, 2013

Agenda item 4 progress Report on the LDCF/SCCF

The GEF NGO Network appreciates and commends the contributions (approximately 90 % of current commitments) made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to date that has seen over 48 of the 49 LDCs receive funds to prepare NAPAs addressing immediate adaptation needs.

The GEF STAP has reported of the ever-growing stresses on natural and production systems and clearly mentions of the increasingly clear signs that for some ecosystems, such as coral reefs and low lying coastal regions, grasslands and semi-arid areas, and high altitude/high latitude areas, even 2°C is too much.

Speaking of vulnerability, FAO has concluded that land degradation is increasing in severity and extent in many parts of the world with more than 20% of all cultivated areas, 30% of forests, and 10% of grasslands undergoing degradation. An estimated 1.5 billion people, nearly a quarter of the world's population, directly depend on the land that is being degraded.

The NEPAD estimates about 66% of Africa is arid or semi-arid and more than 300 of the 800 million people in sub-Saharan Africa live in a water-scarce environment – meaning that they have less than 1,000 m³ per capita.

We all know that even if emissions are stabilized relatively soon, climate change and its effects will last many years, and adaptation will be necessary.

Climate change adaptation is especially important in developing countries since those countries are predicted to bear the brunt of the effects of climate change as shown above.

The GEF NGO Network welcomes GEF's priorities and strategies under CC adaptation i.e. supporting developing countries to become climate resilient by promoting both immediate and longer-term adaptation measures in development policies, plans, programs, projects and actions.

Interestingly, countries have demonstrated capacity to absorb funds under LDCF/SCCF in a bid to scale-up adaptation and take on long term adaptation in line with NAP process to be initiated as per COP18 decision.

We are however concerned that the overall allocation of funds to LDCF/SCCF is inadequate to meet the current adaptation needs. The World Bank estimates the cost between 2010 and 2050 of adapting to approximately 2°C warmer world by 2050 is in the range of \$70 billion to \$100 billion a year.

Currently, LDCF and SCCF need initial funding of \$2.5 billion and \$1 billion respectively, yet only an average of \$100 million per year has been availed.

The civil society calls on this council to commit rather than volunteer, more funds since LDCs and other countries are moving into programmatic adaptation measures so as to enable preparation of the NAP process while maintaining support for the LDC workshop programme including full scale NAPA implementation.