



## **GEF NGO NETWORK COMMENTS ON THE GEF-6 PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS**

### **GEF-6 Second Replenishment Meeting New Delhi, 10-11 September 2013**

The GEF NGO Network makes the following comments based on GEF Secretariat documents GEF/R.6/13 Draft, August 13, 2013, Part 1 and Part 2 and the report of the First meeting held in April 2013 in Paris.

#### **Overall Comment**

The GEF NGO Network welcomes the revised GEF 6 Programming Directions documents. We support the strategic thinking and innovation in the development of the GEF-6 programme, including the proposed introduction of „Signature Programs“.

Civil society organizations have been recognized as a key partner in some programmes. However, we are concerned that this is not well articulated in others. The GEF NGO Network believes that specific mechanisms should be put in place in GEF-6 to address the serious decline in CSO led projects in GEF-4 and GEF-5 as an inadvertent impact of the RAF/STAR. This should be addressed both in the programming directions as well as specific GEF-6 mechanisms.

#### **Resource Envelopes for GEF-6 and Proposed Funding Scenarios**

##### *Status-quo Scenario*

A “status quo” scenario of US\$ 4.25 billion will not allow the Parties to the Rio Conventions and GEF donors to make significant progress to reverse the deteriorating state of the global environment. This funding level would provide a mere shadow of the funding needs identified under the conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism. We inter alia reiterate the CBD COP-11 decision to call for a doubling of the total biodiversity-related international financial flows to developing countries by 2015.

##### *Enhanced Impact Scenario*

While the “enhanced impact scenario” of US\$ 5.32 billion, which reflects a 25% increase related to GEF-5, is a commendable attempt, it does not reflect the guidance of decisions taken by COPs or other international convention fora. These decisions and requests need to be seriously reflected when considering the resource envelopes for GEF-6.

##### *The GEF NGO Network Scenario*

Given the guidance of the conventions and corresponding funding needs assessment, the GEF NGO Network presents a GEF-6 scenario that takes into consideration the following key elements of a funding strategy for GEF-6. The rationale is provided in the sections below:

- The Biodiversity FA Strategy resources should be doubled as mandated by the CBD COP-11 decision,
- The Climate Change Mitigation FA Strategy should be increased modestly by 20% given the importance of continuing mitigation strategies and the preparation of new financial mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF),
- The allocation to the Mercury Convention should be increased substantially by 50% as the GEF serves as the key financial mechanism,
- The International Waters FA Strategy resources should be doubled as mandated by the CBD COP-11 decision,
- The allocation to the Land Degradation FA Strategy should be increased substantially by at least 50% [doubled],
- The resources for Sustainable Forest Management should be doubled as mandated by the CBD COP-11 decision,
- The Small Grants Program is a success story and resources should be increased to US\$ 210 million in order to scale up the program,
- The Signature Programs resources should be complementary and additional to the thematic FA resource allocations.

The figures are presented in the Annex.

#### **Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy (BD)**

The GEF NGO Network welcomes the adapted approach of the BD FA Strategy, which contributes to achieving the CBD's Strategic Plan. In order for Parties to make significant progress in achieving the Aichi Targets by 2020, the GEF-6 period will be a critical phase to support and assist eligible countries with appropriate programming guidance and additional funding to fulfill their commitments. The proposed GEF-6 Biodiversity programs will correspond with and support the substantial implementation of at least 14 Aichi Targets.

Given that US\$ 1.2 billion was pledged for the Biodiversity Focal Area in GEF-5 and that Parties agreed at CBD COP-11 to double resources by 2015 for biodiversity, **US\$ 2.4 billion should be pledged for the GEF-6 Biodiversity Focal Area**. However, this should be considered the minimum contribution as it is still well below the amount calculated to adequately cover the cost of implementing biodiversity activities to achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.

#### **Climate Change Mitigation Focal Area Strategy (CC)**

The GEF-6 country allocations should be adjusted to reflect not only industrial emissions, but also emissions related to agriculture, forestry, and land use (AFOLU). This would enhance allocation to countries where AFOLU emissions are greater than industrial emissions – which is the majority of GEF Recipient countries. The GEF NGO Network supports the enhanced emphasis on LULUCF (Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry) and the agricultural sector to reduce CO2 emissions.

The proposed integrated approach for low carbon urban development is well noted to link action to address both climate change and chemicals. The GEF NGO Network also believes that some priority should be made to support the leadership of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in promoting low-carbon development strategies. Hence, the contribution for the CC strategy should be increased.

#### **Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy (CW)**

The GEF NGO Network is broadly satisfied with the CW strategy. With regard to the support for CSO involvement, the GEF NGO Network believes that it should not only be restricted to SGP funding. There should be reference to the option for medium sized projects implemented by CSOs in the CW strategy. It would also be useful to highlight the value of capacity building and exchange of experience and

lessons learned through regional or international networks.

#### **International Waters Focal Area Strategy (IW)**

As more than 145 sovereign states are highly dependent on internationally shared rivers, aquifers, lakes and wetlands, the IW strategy is a cornerstone for achieving food security. GEF-6 IW programming appears to be a strategic and cost-effective way to step up GEF's work with all stakeholders, including the private sector, and enable the achievement of meaningful, long-lasting and large-scale conservation and development goals to reverse the rapid decline of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

However, the IW resources needs to be scaled up as the strategy corresponds inter alia with 5 freshwater and marine-related CBD Aichi Targets addressing drivers of habitat loss (Target 5), enhancing sustainable use of fisheries (Target 6), reducing pressures on coral reefs (Target 10), improving conservation and management of wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems (Target 11), enhancing freshwater and marine ecosystem services and resilience (Target 14, 15), and preventing pollution (Target 8). These are of utmost importance in achieving the CBD's Strategic Plan by 2020.

Given that US\$ 440 million was targeted for the IW strategy in GEF-5 and that Parties agreed at CBD COP-11 to double resources by 2015 for biodiversity, which includes freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems, **US\$ 880 million should be targeted for the GEF-6 IW Focal Area**. However, this should be considered the minimum contribution as it is still well below the amount calculated to adequately cover the cost of implementing freshwater and marine biodiversity activities to achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.

#### **Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy (LD)**

The GEF NGO Network supports the approach in the LD strategy, however we would like to encourage further consideration of addressing the degradation of wetlands, which have high biodiversity, play a critical role in climate regulation, and provide essential ecosystem services for the livelihood of many people. Avoiding further land degradation and enhancing the restoration of degraded land and ecosystems are major challenges in securing ecosystem services and sufficient livelihoods. Hence, a significant increase of GEF resources is needed.

#### **Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SFM)**

The GEF NGO Network supports the enhancement of GEF's assistance through further investments to sustainably manage forest resources that provide a wide range of ecosystem services and multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change mitigation, land restoration and diverse livelihoods.

The SFM strategy corresponds inter alia with 5 forest-related CBD Aichi Targets addressing drivers of deforestation and degradation (Target 5), enhancing sustainable use (Target 7), improving conservation and forest management (Target 11), and restoring degraded forest ecosystems (Target 14, 15). These are of the utmost importance in achieving the CBD's Strategic Plan by 2020. The GEF-6 period will be a critical phase to assist eligible countries with appropriate programming guidance and additional funding to fulfill their commitments under the CBD and other conventions.

Given that US\$ 250 million was targeted for SFM in GEF-5 and that Parties agreed at CBD COP-11 to double resources by 2015 for biodiversity, which includes forests, **US\$ 500 million should be targeted for the GEF-6 SFM**. However, this should be considered the minimum contribution as it is still well below the amount calculated to adequately cover the cost of implementing biodiversity activities to achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.

### **Corporate Programs Strategy**

The GEF NGO Network strongly supports the continuation and enhancement of Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD), Country Relation (CR), and Small Grants Program. We believe that the proposed focus of CCCD to mainstream global environment issues into national frameworks is a very strategic direction to enhance transformational change.

The GEF NGO Network strongly supports the continued evolution of the Small Grants Program (SGP) to a more integrated approach with broadened partnerships. However, a higher core allocation to the SGP is needed in GEF-6.

### **Signatory Programs**

The pilot approaches proposed in the Signature Programs would allow new strategies to address high priority drivers of environmental deterioration that can only be managed from a regional and international perspective. To achieve their full potential, these integrated Signature Programs will need to be developed based on broad and transparent partnerships.

We support addressing deforestation as a major driver of biodiversity loss in the “Global Commodities” Signatory Program. Amongst others, this will directly contribute to achieving CBD Aichi Target 5. Actions aimed at developing biodiversity-friendly value chains and products are critical in this regard.

The “Rebuilding Global Fisheries” Signature Program is essential to advance in restoring coastal and marine ecosystems. Additionally, it would contribute to reducing poverty. We support the statement that *“Ending overfishing –the biggest threat, along with pollution and habitat loss, to ocean health – is a critical step to restoration”*. This program will significantly contribute to achieving CBD Aichi Target 6 to achieve sustainable fisheries by 2020.

The two regionally focused Signature Programs - “Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa” and “Amazon” – will inter alia contribute to achieving the CBD Aichi Targets on forest and agricultural biodiversity, biodiversity conservation through protected areas, and sustainable use of genetic resources.

We propose an additional signature program related to large scale public mobilization in achieving global environmental goals. This would contribute to CBD Aichi Target 1.

It was stated in the document that *“The proposed programs are not envisioned as substitutes for the suite of initiatives contained in the individual focal area strategies. Rather, the signature programs complement the focal area strategies...”* Given this intention, the resources for the “Signatory Programs” should also be **complementary to the focal area allocation**.

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## Annex: Proposed Indicative Resource Envelopes for GEF-6 + GEF NGO Network Scenario

Focal Areas/Themes	GEF-5 Targets (\$ million)	GEF-6 Programming Targets (\$ million)				GEF NGO Network Scenario	
		Status Quo	Increase over GEF-5	Enhanced Impact	Increase over GEF-5	Needed Impact	Increase over GEF-5
BIODIVERSITY							
Focal Area Strategic Priorities	1,080	960		1,395		2,200	100%
Contribution to Sustainable Forest M	130	130		155		260	100%
Contribution to Signature Programs	0	140		140		140	
<b>Total BD</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>100%</b>
CLIMATE CHANGE							
Focal Area Strategic Priorities	1,260	1000		1300		1,380	10%
Contribution to Sustainable Forest M	100	100		120		200	100%
Contribution to Signature Programs	0	120		120		120	
<b>Total CC</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>25%</b>
INTERNATIONAL WATERS							
Focal Area Strategic Priorities	440	390		470		880	100%
Contribution to Signature Programs	0	60		60		60	
<b>Total IW</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>115%</b>
LAND DEGRADATION							
Focal Area Strategic Priorities	385	335		410		580	50%
Contribution to Sustainable Forest M	20	20		25		40	100%
Contribution to Signature Programs	0	60		60		60	
<b>Total LD</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>70%</b>
CHEMICALS/WASTE							
Focal Area Strategic Priorities	425	500		575		635	50%
Contribution to Signature Programs	0	25		25		25	
<b>Total CW</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Total- Focal Areas/Themes</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4,855</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>6,580</b>	<b>70%</b>
Corporate Programs	70	50		70		100	50%
Small Grants Program	140	140		155		210	50%
Contribution to Signature Programs	0	20		20		20	
<b>Total CP</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>57%</b>
Outreach to the Private Sector	80	70		80		80	
Corporate Budget	120	130		140		140	
<b>TOTAL GEF Replenishment</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>7,130</b>	<b>68%</b>
Sustainable FM	250	250		300		500	100%
Signature Programs	0	425		425		425	