



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

### **GEF-6 Third Replenishment Meeting Paris, 10-12 December 2013**

The GEF NGO Network makes the following comments based on GEF Secretariat documents GEF/R.6/20/Rev01 of November 26, 2013.

#### **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, a substantial increase above the status quo scenario in GEF-6 is necessary which we recognized to be consensus in this group as expressed yesterday. However, the increase should be considered at least 20% above the status quo scenario, which is still well below the amount calculated to adequately achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.

#### **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 need to be scaled up as the strategy corresponds to 5 CBD Aichi Targets to at least the proposed US\$ 500 million in the programming document.

#### **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 sustainable land management are major challenges in securing ecosystem

services and sufficient livelihoods. Hence, a substantial increase of GEF resources is required.

#### **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 CO<sub>2</sub> and other 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.

We believe that there need to be some adjustments to the programme to better reflect the engagement of civil society in the implementation of the programme. There are many opportunities for this and will be essential to mainstream options for a low carbon society. Sustainable transport is also a key issue that should be enhanced in the context of urban environment.

#### **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. As stated earlier the allocation for chemicals and waste need to be enhanced to facilitate new work under POPs and Minamata Conventions.

#### **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, enhancing sustainable use, improving conservation and forest management, and restoring degraded forest ecosystems. These are of the utmost importance in supporting the achievement of the CBD's Strategic Plan.

#### **Integrated Approaches**

The pilot approaches proposed in the Integrated Approaches 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 Approaches will need to be developed based on broad and transparent partnerships.

The **"Amazon Basin"** Integrated Approach 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 believe that the current focus on Brazil, Peru and Colombia should be modified and the programme should focus on the entire Amazon Biome including the full basin as well as the Guyana Shield as this full area is of extreme value for

biodiversity. This would provide a linkage with the Guyana Shield Initiative which is already underway and supported by the respective national governments, France and others.

We support addressing deforestation as a major driver of biodiversity loss in the **“Global Commodities”** 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”** 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 regionally focused Integrated Approach on **“Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa”** is critical to address major challenges in that region including addressing land degradation and reducing deforestation. This programme will also help address the imbalance of support to Africa.

#### **Small Grants Program**

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 of 200 million for the SGP is recommended in GEF-6. In addition there should be an expedited process for SGP to access STAR resources to avoid the delays and inefficiencies which have been experienced in GEF 5

We have further specific comments which we will submit in writing.

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