

GEF approach to synergistic action on global environment issues

- Espoo, Finland, July 2 – 3, 2003

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GEF's role

- **Synergies among the Conventions in terms of their decisions are for the Parties to establish.**
- **As the financial mechanism/ instrument for the Conventions, the GEF responds to decisions of the Parties**
- **For implementation purposes, the GEF can play a role in blending and synthesizing Convention guidance**
- **GEF's response in specific instances is determined by national approaches, institutions and decisions**

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GEF STRUCTURE

The GEF Instrument is set within the context of sustainable development but to begin with it

- is focal area based
- recognized land degradation as cross sectoral only (before the Instrument's amendment in 2002)

However, GEF's operational policies from the start, and increasingly so, lean towards synergistic approaches.

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GEF's Operational Strategy - 1996

Overall strategic consideration :

"Avoid Transfer of Negative Environmental Impacts Between Focal Areas

In preparing GEF projects, the Implementing Agencies will consider potential effects in other focal areas. All efforts will be made to design projects that are consistent with the operational strategies of the other focal areas and avoid negative impacts in focal areas outside of the focus of the project."

(Op. strategy, page 7)

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GEF Operational strategy (1996)

Strategic considerations within focal areas

- **BD focal area** : one of the main considerations is “integration of efforts to achieve global benefits in other focal areas...”(Op. strategy, page 14)
- **CC focal area** : land degradation is specifically addressed, both in the context of mitigation and adaptation
- **IW focal area** : seeks to coordinate with other focal areas. Recognizes that “GEF projects integrating several focal areas have the potential to multiply global benefits...” (Op. strategy, page 50).

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GEF Operational Programs

- The ten original OPs (June 1997), and other GEF policies leading to the formulation of projects kept these broad principles in mind
- Multi-focal projects have been encouraged : by June 2003, 75 such projects approved/ in the pipeline including 26 regional and 7 global
- Adaptation to climate change has been addressed indirectly through a large number of GEF projects in non-CC operational programs

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Examples of multifocal projects

- Integrated ecosystem management in four representative ecosystems (Senegal–UNDP)
- Conservation and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
- Conservation and Sustainable use of Dryland Agro-biodiversity in the Fertile Crescent

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OP 12 (April 2000)

Direct response to calls from the CBD, UNFCCC and CCD for synergistic, holistic approaches.

“The OP... responds to growing stakeholders’ interests in addressing holistically **multiple convention objectives** in accordance with national priorities. It builds on and complements GEF’s existing Operational Programs by providing opportunities to address ...the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, land degradation, management of water bodies, and/ or stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gases... within the the context of sustainable development.”

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NCSA

- Resulting from the GEF's CDI (2001)
- Limited assistance to countries to assess capacity building needs for addressing the global environment
- Strong emphasis on identifying cross-sectoral needs, building on sectoral enabling activities

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NCSA (cont'd)

- Requirement that UNFCCC, CBD and CCD focal points be consulted in preparing NCSA project for funding
- Wide stakeholder participation encouraged
- Sign off by GEF focal point
- Too early for feedback, but some positive results emerging

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Looking ahead

- Multifocal projects continue to be given high priority. Business plan for 2004 – 2006 envisages substantial resource allocation for this purpose
- Substantial resource allocation also for cross-cutting capacity building during this period, approved by the GEF Council in May, 2003 (operational modalities yet to be finalized)
- Evolving GEF strategy on adaptation, which is by definition cross-focal

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