

**Information regarding support provided by the Global Environment Facility to developing country Parties that are not least developed countries to enable the preparation of their national adaptation plan processes**

*Introduction*

1. At its 19<sup>th</sup> session in November 2013, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) “invite[d] United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to consider establishing or enhancing support programmes for the national adaptation plan [NAP] process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties that are not least developed countries [LDC], and to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, information on how they have responded to this invitation”. (decision 18/CP.19, paragraph 5)

2. The present submission by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides information regarding (i) a global support program, financed by the GEF through the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), that will contribute towards the preparation of the NAP process in developing countries that are not LDCs; and (ii) additional modalities through which such countries have accessed and may access further financial and technical support from the SCCF to advance their NAP processes.

*Relevant guidance by the Conference of the Parties and decisions taken by the LDCF/SCCF Council*

3. At its 19<sup>th</sup> session, the COP requested “the Global Environment Facility [GEF] to further specify the steps that it has undertaken in response to the request contained in decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 1(c)” (decision 6/CP.19).

4. Decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 1 (c) requests the [GEF], as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, “[t]hrough the Special Climate Change Fund [SCCF], to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan [NAP] process for interested developing country Parties that are not least developed country [LDC] Parties, as it requested the [GEF], through the Least Developed Countries Fund [LDCF], to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the [NAP] process for the [LDC] Parties in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 22”.

5. In response to the guidance provided by the COP, the LDCF/SCCF Council, at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2013, endorsed the document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.14/06, *Operationalizing*

*Support to the Preparation of the National Adaptation Plan Process in Response to Guidance from the UNFCCC COP<sup>1</sup>*, as an operational basis for supporting the national adaptation plan process in eligible developing countries through the LDCF and the SCCF.

*A global support program for the preparation of the NAP process in developing countries that are not LDCs*

6. In accordance with COP guidance and pursuant to its decision on document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.14/06, the LDCF/SCCF Council approved on March 21, 2014 the project *Global: Assisting non-LDC Developing Countries with Country-driven Processes to Advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*, with a grant and associated fees amounting to \$4,927,500 from the SCCF Adaptation Program (SCCF-A).

7. The global support program (GSP) will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with several executing partners; among them the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

8. The program seeks to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to allow non-LDC developing countries to integrate climate change adaptation into their medium- and long-term development planning processes in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner. The project has three main components, aiming to (i) enhance the capacities of non-LDC Parties to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in the context of their development policies, strategies, plans and budgets; (ii) develop and disseminate tools and approaches to support the NAP process; and (iii) promote the exchange of lessons and knowledge through South-South and North-South cooperation.

9. Following the approval of the project concept by the LDCF/SCCF Council in March, the GSP is currently under preparation. The design and implementation of GSP will draw on the experience of the on-going project *Global: Assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*, which is financed by the GEF through the LDCF.

*Accessing further support from the SCCF to advance the NAP process: medium-sized projects, full-sized projects and programmatic approaches*

10. In addition to the GSP, the GEF, through the SCCF, may provide financial support towards the preparation of the NAP process in developing countries that are Parties to the UNFCCC through medium-sized projects (MSP), full-sized projects (FSP) and programmatic approaches (PA); consistent with COP guidance and the decision taken by the LDCF/SCCF Council on document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.14/06. In preparation for the SCCF Work Program in March, the GEF Secretariat, through the GEF Agencies, invited developing countries to put

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF-LDCF.SCCF\\_14-06%20Operationalizing%20Support%20to%20the%20Preparation%20of%20the%20NAP%20Process%20in%20Response%20to%20Guidance%20from%20the%20UNFCCC.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF-LDCF.SCCF_14-06%20Operationalizing%20Support%20to%20the%20Preparation%20of%20the%20NAP%20Process%20in%20Response%20to%20Guidance%20from%20the%20UNFCCC.pdf)

forward project and program proposals to advance their NAP processes. The GEF Secretariat continues to welcome such proposals for future Work Programs.

11. To date, non-LDC Parties have successfully applied the modalities for MSPs, FSPs and PAs to access support from the SCCF that contributes towards the objectives of the NAP process, namely to: “(a) to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience; [and] (b) to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate” (decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 18).

12. For example, as at June 30, 2013, four SCCF projects had already achieved relevant outcomes towards integrating climate change adaptation into 23 national policies, plans, frameworks and decision-making processes in 16 countries, of which 11 are non-LDCs. In addition, two projects had successfully strengthened six sub-national plans in four countries, three of them non-LDCs. Looking forward, the SCCF projects and programs that have entered implementation to date are expected to integrate climate change adaptation into a total of 82 national policies, plans, frameworks and decision-making processes in 30 countries, 25 of which are non-LDCs. At the sub-national level, 177 plans and associated process will be strengthened, also in 30 countries and 25 non-LDCs.

13. The GEF, through the SCCF, has provided support to several non-LDC developing countries to enhance their institutional and technical capacities to identify, prioritize, implement, coordinate, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures at the regional, national and sub-national levels. As at June 30, 2013, four SCCF projects had already achieved their expected outcomes in this regard, with a total of 172 key institutions strengthened in 22 countries, of which 16 are non-LDCs. Considering the projects that are currently under implementation, 9 more non-LDCs are currently benefiting from similar, institutional and technical capacity building.

14. Finally, as a crucial component in laying the groundwork for the NAP process, the GEF, through the SCCF, has consistently supported relevant scientific and technical assessments to enhance the knowledge base for effective climate change adaptation. Moreover, SCCF projects and programs help strengthen hydro-meteorological and climate information services to enable countries to continuously monitor, forecast and prepare for climate change risks.

15. Past and current achievements notwithstanding, the GEF recognizes that additional resources and technical support is required in order for developing countries to be able to integrate climate change adaptation into their near-, medium- and long-term policies, programs and development planning processes in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner. Building on its experience of supporting adaptation projects and programs in 120 countries with total grant resources exceeding \$1.17 billion and, specifically, drawing on several past and on-going initiatives that contribute towards the objectives of the NAP process, the GEF stands ready to support developing country Parties that are not LDCs in advancing their NAP processes in a country-driven manner. The GEF Secretariat remains available to address any questions that

Parties may have with regard to the relevant access modalities or other matters pertaining to its support towards the NAP process.