

GEF SUPPORT FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

To help countries adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) supports projects that reduce countries' vulnerability to climate change impacts and helps them build adaptive capacity.

Based on guidance from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the GEF has adopted a three-stage approach to adaptation:

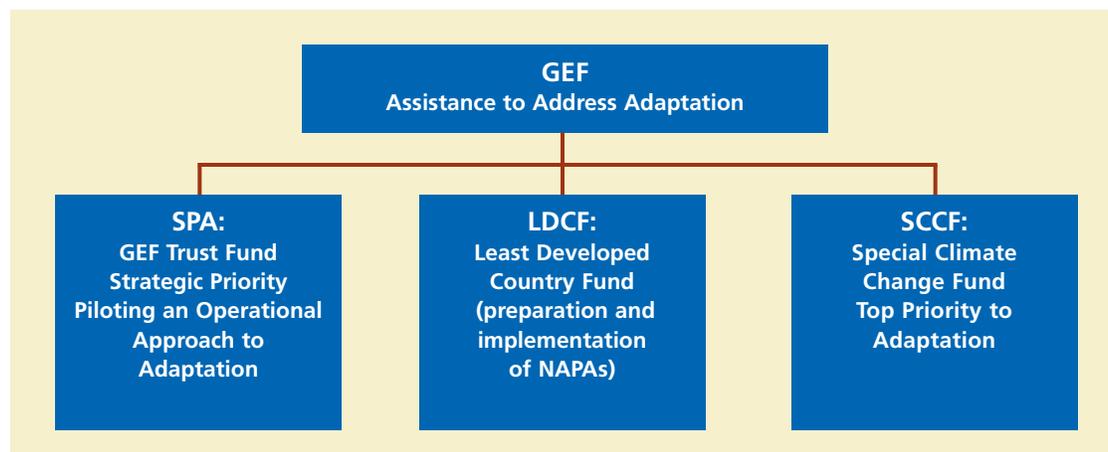
- Stage I: *planning* through studies to identify vulnerabilities, policy options, and capacity building.
- Stage II: *identifying measures to prepare* for adaptation and further capacity building.
- Stage III: *promoting measures to facilitate adaptation*, including insurance and other interventions.

As it has become more apparent that global warming is occurring, the Conference of the

Parties' (COP) guidance to the GEF has emphasized the need to move from preparation to implementation. The GEF has responded by initiating four different paths to support adaptation activities, of which three are currently operational. Consistent with the evolving UNFCCC guidance, projects supported by these four avenues will seek to integrate adaptation policies and measures in all sectors of development, including water, agriculture, energy, health, and vulnerable ecosystems.

THE STRATEGIC PRIORITY TO PILOT AN OPERATIONAL APPROACH TO ADAPTATION

The objective of the Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) is to reduce vulnerability and to increase adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in the focal areas in which the GEF works. The SPA, as part of the GEF Trust Fund, will support pilot and demonstration projects that address local adaptation needs and generate



global environmental benefits in all GEF focal areas. Projects that generate both local (development-focused) and global benefits will be eligible under the SPA, if their benefits are primarily global in nature. An initial \$50 million pilot is ongoing and several projects are under preparation.

LDCF: LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY FUND

If a proposed project principally benefits such development sectors as health, agriculture, water, or infrastructure, it will have access to GEF funding through the new funds established under the Climate Convention: the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and eventually the Adaptation Fund (AF).

In response to UNFCCC guidance from the 2001 Seventh Conference of the Parties, the GEF established the LDCF to address the extreme vulnerability and limited adaptive capacity of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

LDCF initially supported preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). To date, a majority of LDCs have received funds to prepare their NAPAs, many of which are now close to completion. NAPAs aim to identify priority activities that address the urgent and immediate climate change adaptation needs of the LDCs. The NAPAs conclude with a list of prioritized project profiles to be subsequently implemented with support from the LDCF.

Initial voluntary contributions to the LDCF amount to \$32.5 million, of which about \$12 million has been allocated to NAPA preparation. During the Ninth Conference of the Parties,

UNFCCC called for the fund to support the implementation of NAPAs as soon as possible after their completion. The final deliberations on the LDCF will be adopted at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Montreal. In addition to the remaining \$21.5 million, the GEF is expected to mobilize additional funds to implement the projects prioritized by the NAPAs.

SCCF: SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

The SCCF, established in response to guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, was originally aimed at supporting activities in the following areas:

- (a) Adaptation
- (b) Technology transfer
- (c) Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste management
- (d) Economic diversification

Adaptation activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change have top priority for funding under the SCCF. To date, guidance has only been received concerning adaptation and technology transfer, including technologies for adaptation.

The GEF Council approved a proposed program outlining plans to use SCCF resources in November 2004. Subsequently, the GEF Secretariat mobilized an initial amount of \$34 million in pledges, of which \$33 million are allocated for adaptation and \$1 million for technology transfer. Additional pledges are under consideration.

The GEF pipeline is now open for submissions of project proposals under the SCCF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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