

A Report on the status of the GEF Proposal entitled:

Assessments of Impacts of, and Adaptation to, Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors in Coordination with the IPCC

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It is a pleasure to report to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in my role as chairman of the IPCC. During the last six months the IPCC has been working closely with UNEP and the GEF secretariat on developing a Project Development Facility / Block B proposal for a project entitled "Assessments of Impacts of, and Adaptation to, Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors in Coordination with the IPCC". I am pleased to report that due to the outstanding cooperation and flexibility of both UNEP and the GEF secretariat this PDF/B has been approved for \$350K.

The genesis of this proposal was a request by the IPCC to the GEF to fund part of the travel costs of developing country experts to attend expert meetings of the IPCC. This request was rejected because it was felt that the proposal was inconsistent with GEF criteria and did not truly represent capacity building, but was rather simply institutional support to the IPCC. While I strongly believe that participation in IPCC expert meetings is indeed an outstanding form of capacity building the rejection led to a very profitable exchange of ideas among the IPCC, UNEP and the GEF secretariat, along with discussions with the chair of the SBI, John Ashe, the chair of the SBSTA, Harald Dovland, and the UNFCCC secretariat.

These discussions have resulted in a concept for a proposal that is, in my opinion, innovative and supports capacity-building in developing countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Small Island States. The primary objectives of the proposal are to:

- develop national and regional capacity that will support climate change impact and adaptation studies and shorter-term weather related emergency preparedness in the context of national priorities for sustainable development;
- improve assessments of climate change impacts and adaptation response options for a variety of socio-economic sectors and ecological systems in a number of developing country situations (about 20-50 national/regional studies are anticipated, each lasting between three and four years), using a common methodology based on the IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations, 1995; and
- improve the level of participation of developing country experts in IPCC assessments of climate change.

The results of these studies will be used as an input to:

- Stage II adaptation activities in the context of national communications; and
- the Fourth IPCC Assessment Report.

The full proposal will be developed, in conjunction with developed and developing country experts and government representatives, between now and September for consideration at the GEF Council meeting in November 2000. The full proposal request is expected to be for about \$7.5 million dollars over a four year period. The project preparation and implementation will be guided by a steering committee composed of a representatives from the UNFCCC Secretariat, SBSTA, SBI, GEF Secretariat, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, IPCC Chair, IPCC Secretariat, a co-chair from IPCC Working Groups I and II, Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the International Geosphere Biosphere Program START. This steering committee will also ensure that the proposed work complements ongoing or planned GEF or other non-GEF activities.

UNEP will be the implementing agency, and a combination of UNEP and the IPCC will be the executing agency for the PDF/B. However, neither UNEP nor the IPCC will be the executing agency for the full proposal. Individually, or in combination, the IGBP START office and the Third World Academy of Sciences are possible executing agencies.

Assuming approval of the proposal by the GEF Council in November, the request for proposals could be issued early in 2001, with project selection, based on a set of criteria to be established by the steering committee, by April/May 2001.

While the majority of the funding will be for data analysis and modeling, some of the funds will be available for developing country experts to participate in the preparation and peer-review of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report.

In conclusion, I am pleased to report an excellent working relationship among the IPCC, UNEP and the GEF secretariat, and I look forward to continued interactions with the chairs of the SBI and SBSTA and the UNFCCC secretariat as the full proposal is developed.