



CITES Standing Committee

Financing for CITES

17 August 2011
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Introduction: CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013

- Goal 2 “ Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention.”
- This includes funding for:
 - Operations of the convention;
 - Compliance with the convention;
 - Capacity building.



Introduction: ODA for Biodiversity

- It is estimated that approximately USD50 billion per year is required to reverse ecosystem loss and degradation which amount to half of all ODA;
- Currently, ODA for biodiversity conservation is currently USD3billion per year;
- TEEB suggests biodiversity loss could lead to a loss of 7% of Gross World Production by 2050.



What's the best bet? A Two-track Approach

- To designate GEF as a financial mechanism for the CITES Convention;
- To pursue innovative financing solutions.



The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- Largest financier of the global environment;
- It was established as one of the principal mechanisms for global environment funding and international cooperation;
- USD9.2 billion invested through the GEF since its inception in 1991;
- Established in 1991 as a pilot. In 1994 made permanent with adoption of GEF Instrument;
- The GEF Instrument has been amended 3 times; to add land degradation and POPs as GEF focal areas; and to designate GEF as financial mechanism for UNCCD and the Stockholm Convention.



GEF

- Membership of 182 governments;
- Six focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants;
- Financial mechanism (or operating entity of the financial mechanism) for 4 Conventions:
 - CBD;
 - UNFCCC;
 - Stockholm Convention; and
 - UNCCD.



GEF: Governance

- An Assembly meets once every 4 years to review policy and operations and approves amendments to the Instrument;
- A 32-member Council meets twice a year and is the key to decision-making and policy-guidance;
- A GEF secretariat carries out administration functions and is accountable to the Council;
- The GEF CEO is head of the secretariat and is also the co-Chair of the Council;
- Ten Agencies identify, develop and manage GEF projects.



GEF: Eligibility Criteria

- Any state that is a member of the UN or any of its Specialized Agencies can be a participant;
- Any country that is eligible to borrow from the World Bank (IBRD and/or IDA) or if a country is an eligible recipient of UNDP technical Assistance through its Indicative Planning Figure (IPF).



GEF: Recent Developments

- Opening of the GEF (Para 24 of Instrument and Council decision GEF/C.40/09);
- Direct access for National Reporting and National Communications;
- Results based programming – tracking tools;
- System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).



Example: GEF as Financial Mechanism for the CBD

- The CBD entered into force in 1993; from inception to January 2009 (start of fifth replenishment discussions) **USD2,819 billion** worth of funding decisions on biodiversity;
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entered into force 2003; nearly **USD110M** spent since 1997 till May 2011; **USD40M** set aside in GEF-5 to build capacity to implement the CPB;
- Text for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and and Benefit Sharing adopted in 2010; **USD40M** set aside in GEF-5 to build capacity on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.



CITES Access to GEF

- Biodiversity is a focal area of the GEF but the JI Unit of the UN, in 2008, found that CITES has never benefited from the GEF , indirectly through the CBD window or directly itself;
- GEF is not a financial mechanism for CITES;
- CITES text makes no mention of a financial mechanism;
- Currently CITES can benefit through the CBD window through;
 - Activities identified in the NBSAPs; and
 - Develop projects through GEF Agencies;
- GEF has spent 2.8billion amount on biodiversity since its inception and has set aside 1.2billion for biodiversity in GEF-5.



CITES Access to GEF

- Recent decisions of the CBD in October 2010, have raised opportunities for the further implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008- 2013;
- The COP requested Parties to update their National NBSAPs by 2014 and to take into account synergies amongst the biodiversity-related Conventions, of which CITES is one;
- Activities identified in the NBSAPs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be better placed to attract financial resources, especially from Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism of the CBD.



National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

- The NBSAP is intended to be a roadmap for each country to achieve the goals of the Convention, taking into account its national situation;
- The development of the NBSAP is an important prerequisite for mainstreaming biodiversity and the three objectives of the CBD across all sectors of government through relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.



Designating GEF as a Financial Mechanism for CITES

- Option to designate GEF as a financial mechanism for CITES at the next COP;
- GEF funds agreed incremental costs of country-driven projects and programmes that would be aligned with CITES COP decisions;
- Identify what are the global environmental benefits for implementation of CITES;
- Attract new funding including co-financing from public and private sources for CITES implementation.



Example of a Process followed by UNCCD to Designate GEF as a Financial Mechanism

- 1992: General Assembly adopted a resolution and established an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to elaborate text for a convention to combat desertification;
- May 1993 and June 1994: INC met five times and drafted the UNCCD;
- 26 December 1996: The UNCCD entered into force;
- 1999: GEF Council approved the document *Clarifying Linkages between Land Degradation and the GEF Focal Areas: An Action Plan for Enhancing GEF Support*;
- 2000: fourth meeting of the UNCCD COP adopted a decision explore the best options for GEF support of UNCCD implementation;
- 2001: UNCCD COP supported GEF's proposal to designate land degradation as a focal area for GEF funding;



Process continued

- 2000: **WSSD** called on Second Assembly of GEF to take action on the recommendations of GEF Council *to designate land degradation as a focal area of the GEF and consider making GEF the financial mechanism for the UNCCD Convention;*
- 2002: Second GEF Assembly expanded GEF's mandate and added land degradation and designating it the financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- 2003: GEF Council adopted the operational modalities on sustainable land management that would designate land degradation as the fifth focal area of the fund;
- 2003: UNCCD COP accepted the GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention;
- 2005 at COP 7 developed an MOU between the GEF and UNCCD;
- 2010: The Fourth Assembly amended the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF making the GEF available to serve as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD.



Proposed Steps for CITES

- Standing Committee create a working group on financial resources;
- WG works with the secretariat to identify the path to designate GEF as a financial mechanism for CITES;
- Commence to make arrangements with the GEF to establish a working relationship defined in an MOU;
- Consider role of Rio +20 in recommending GEF to be a FM of CITES;
- COP13 may wish to designate GEF as a financial mechanism for the CITES Convention.



Important Milestones

- Rio +20 in 2012;
- CBD COP in 2012;
- CITES COP in 2013;
- Start of the GEF restructuring and replenishment discussions in mid-2013;
- Fifth GEF Assembly in 2013/2014;
- GEF-6 will start in July 2014.



Some “GEF-able” Project Ideas

- Projects to review wildlife trade policies;
- Certification projects under objective 2 of the GEF Biodiversity strategy for GEF 5
- Threatened species management under Objective 1;
- Capacity building projects: to enhance the monitoring and enforcement of wildlife trade controls, controlling illegal export and import of species parts and derivatives, forensic technology, permits and certificates, science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary quotas, electronic permitting systems for trade, wildlife supply chains, introduction from the sea issues, “non-detriment findings” etc. All these examples of projects can potentially be developed under the current biodiversity strategy for GEF 5.



Thank you

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