

French Comments on Work Program GEF Council November 2008

24 PIF reviewed out of 37

PIF Biodiversity (12)

Favorable opinion: 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11

Favorable opinion subject to explanation or clarification: 2, 3, 4, 5

PIF under questions: 9, 12

PIF Climate Change (5)

Favorable opinion subject to explanation or clarification: 16, 17, 18, 21

PIF under questions: 23

PIF International Waters(3)

Favorable opinion: 24, 25

Favorable opinion subject to explanation or clarification: 27

PIF Multi-focal areas /corporate programs (5)

Favorable opinion: 32

Favorable opinion subject to explanation or clarification: 30, 31, 33, 34

Programmatic approaches in the November 2008 Work program (9)

Favorable opinion: 7

Favorable opinion subject to explanation or clarification: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

Biodiversity

1. Regional (Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname)

GEF Agency: UNEP

BS Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Caribbean Sub-Region Countries of Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname in the Context of a Regional Project

(GEF Project Grant: \$2.63 million)

The project's objective is to extend a regional project implementing National Biosafety Frameworks for Caribbean sub-region.

It develops a standard approach, already approved by the GEF to a new set of countries (Bahamas, Belize, Guyana and Suriname) now eligible. Accordingly, the project doesn't raise specific question or reserve.

Opinion: favorable

2. Regional (Congo DR, Congo)

UNDP

CBSP Catalyzing Sustainable Forest Management in the Lake Tele-Lake Tumba (LTLT) Transboundary Wetland Landscape

(GEF Project Grant: \$2.17 million)

This landscape is the world's largest swamp forest. That the reason why the objectives of the project are relevant.

Nevertheless, there is an important difference between the threats in DRC and in Congo.

The risk of degradation seems much more important in DRC than in Congo related to the human density in DRC.

The project should have to take into account this difference.

Favorable opinion subject the above consideration

3. Brazil

UNEP

Improving Brazilian Capacity to Conserve and Use Biodiversity through Information Management and Use

(GEF Project Grant: \$8.17 million)

The project aims to improve information management regarding biodiversity at the national level. It proposes to focus its attention in particular on the taxonomic capacities of Brazilian organizations.

The approach proposed is interesting but one can wonder about the time it will take for its measures to produce concrete results and help decision makers to mainstream biodiversity in their decisions.

Turning to the partners involved, the project should clearly work with international partners of Brazil supporting the country's efforts to protect its biodiversity and developing important knowledge based activities : international NGO for example.

The project should make more space also for the relevant organization at State level (and not only Federal level) working on biodiversity.

These organizations will be needed to feed the information system. They will be users also of the tools developed.

Opinion: Favorable with a request to address the above questions.

4. Cape Verde

UNDP

SPWA Consolidation of Cape Verde's Protected Areas System

(GEF Project Grant: \$3.29 million)

The project's objective is to foster and enlarge the creation of a Cape Verde's Protected Area System.

Opinion: Favorable, with the following questions and remarks to be taken into account during project preparation:

The project preparation should care to integrate both terrestrial protected areas and marine protected areas, particularly by developing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach.

Although the project is part of the GEF's West Africa Strategic Program, the integration of a regional vision or approach is not clear in the current project.

The cofinancing with the WWF's "Marine and Coastal Conservation Project" is welcomed, particularly as it is only one component of a larger multi-NGO program (WWF, FIBA, IUCN and Wetland International) toward the protection of coastal and marine areas conservation in West Africa.

This program is also working in close relation with the Sub-regional Commission on Fisheries in order to integrate marine protected areas with fisheries management at the regional level, which is also supposed to benefit from a large GEF assistance which is not recorded in the present PIF.

Synergies between this Cape Verde Projects and all regional programs should be developed in order to increase cost-effectiveness of Cape Verde's PA system development.

5. Congo DR

World Bank

CBSP Enforcement of Protected Areas Network

(GEF Project Grant: \$6.00 million)

The strengthening of the DRC's Protected Areas system is relevant taking into account the weakly governance system in DRC. The Protected Areas selected as pilot are the most treated in term of biodiversity (Maiko, Virunga, Garamba).

The FFEM is funding a project in the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi Biega landscape that should be strongly connected with the GEF project.

Favorable opinion subject the above consideration

6. Equatorial Guinea

UNDP

CBSP Sustainable Forest Management in Equatorial Guinea for the Conservation of Representative Ecosystems and Globally Significant Biodiversity

(GEF Project Grant: \$1.77 million)

In term of biodiversity, the objectives of the project are relevant but the difficulties with governance system in Equatorial Guinea need a special attention to the institutional framework supported by the project, with a special attention to the local community participation.

Favorable opinion subject the above consideration

7. Ethiopia

UNDP

**Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation in the Farming Systems of Ethiopia
(GEF Project Grant: \$3.86 million)**

Following the first GEF project dealing with agro-biodiversity in Ethiopia, the FFEM is funding a new project focused on home-garden products.

The GEF project will have to build strong links with the FFEM project which the objectives are similar.

It will be useful to define a practical framework to strengthen the links between these projects.

Favorable opinion subject the above consideration

8. Jamaica

UNDP

**Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System
(GEF Project Grant: \$2.77 million)**

The project's objective is to foster the Jamaica's Protected Area System and to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for long term biodiversity conservation.

Opinion: Favorable.

9. Mali

UNDP

**SPWA Expansion and Strengthening of Mali's PA system
(GEF Project Grant: \$1.77 million)**

The project concept is raising several concerns and the project overall sustainability remain unclear.

Opinion: reserved until the following questions and remarks are taken into account during project preparation:

The project is promoting the extension of the Malian PA system, while there is already some lack of capacity and resources to adequately manage the existing PAs. Project government contribution from the DNCN of 1,6 Million \$ to this project (toward the Bafing Faleme region) is surprising as other PA, which are supposed to be maintained by the DNCN, are critically lacking such kind of financial support.

The political will to clearly protect the Bafing Faleme area is not demonstrated. As a matter of fact, this area is not yet recognized as a Biosphere reserve, while the process was engaged for more than 3 years without any progress so far.

The project is not correctly assessing the threats on the area: the most important threat to the Bafing Faleme area is the cotton development and the conversions of increasing space to agricultural use. The project don't take into consideration the Malian cotton development strategy which identify this region, and in particular the western part of the Bafing Faleme complex, as the new pioneer front for cotton development. This probably explains why the process of recognition of this area as Biosphere reserve is in a stalemate for several years now.

The overall sustainability of the extension proposed is expected to be supported by eco-tourism development. The potential for increase of ecotourism is unrealistic to finance the huge space that the project is willing to protect, particularly considering the difficulty of access to this Bafing Faleme region. The overall business planning of this intervention should be a prerequisite instead of an activity of the project.

The project is also expecting a major cofinancing of 1 Million \$ from the private Mali Faune Aventures company. Previous contact whit this company raise some concerns in terms of credential in terms of professionalism and even the capacity to leverage the 1 million \$ committed. The preparation should thoroughly assess the capacity and financial surface of this company before to confirm GEF cofinancing.

To end, at the contrary to what is indicated in the PIF, the FFEM was never invited to cofinance this project and the 500.000 \$ Grant is not committed by the FFEM.

As a conclusion, **one prerequisite before to continue the instruction of this project** could be to suggest the government (DNCN) to use its new increased resources of 1,6 million \$ to demonstrate its strong political will to protect this region by:

- firstly, providing the necessary means to graduate (previously to this project) the recognition of this region as a Biosphere reserve;
- Secondly, finalizing the Mali's National Protected Area Strategy with a special attention in clarifying at top political level how the cotton development area will be delimited in order to avoid entering in the new Bafing-Faleme biosphere reserve.

10. Mozambique

UNDP

Sustainable Financing of the Protected Area System in Mozambique (GEF Project Grant: \$4.90 million)

The project aims at strengthening the system of Protected Areas in Mozambique with a view to ensure its financial sustainability.

France, who has developed a broad cooperation with Mozambique in the field of protected areas, welcomes this proposal and commands the good coordination that prevailed during the PIF preparation.

The PIF provides a clear vision of the articulation between this proposal and existing bilateral (AFD, FFEM, KFW, WWF...) and multilateral (World Bank/GEF) initiatives. Good complementarities can be highlighted, in particular when dealing with the conservation trust fund, whose preparation is currently financed by WWF, KFW and AFD.

Opinion: Favorable

11. Namibia

UNDP

Protected Landscape Conservation Areas Initiative (NAM-PLACE)

(GEF Project Grant: \$4.50 million)

The project proposes to develop a conservation network at the landscape level in Namibia, linking together protected areas, community conservancies and private lands.

France clearly supports this approach which will ensure the long term sustainability and the best impact of on-going ambitious conservation schemes developed by Namibia in its National Parks, conservancies...

The project should make sure nevertheless that it is well balanced in its approach.

Community conservancies are, for the majority of them, young structures and strong support will be needed to ensure they are fully involved and empowered in the co-management structures developed at the landscape level while it doesn't affect their respective development.

Opinion: favorable

12. Niger

UNDP

SPWA Integrating the Sustainable Management of Faunal Corridors into Niger's Protected Area System

(GEF Project Grant: \$1.77 million)

The project concept is raising several concerns and the project overall sustainability remain unclear.

Opinion: mitigated, with the following questions and remarks to be taken into account during project preparation:

The project is promoting a huge extension of the Niger PA system, in fact more than doubling the % of protected area (from 6,6 % to 15,3 %, and even 23,2 % if adding the faunal corridor), while at the same time the PIF identify that the pre-existing PA system is

not adequately managed, staffed and sustainable financed. As a matter of fact, this project is thus promoting the increase of paper parks in the country.

The project is making the assumption, that the main cause of the degradation of Niger biodiversity is mainly the insufficient extent of the Niger territory under protection (currently 6, 6 %) which is justifying the project to support Protected Area extension.

This assumption is not convincing at this stage:

As far as we know, Niger is no more hosting large groups of migrating mammals and antelopes in particular. Most of them are in so endangered status that only small groups are remaining and, as said in the PIF, these small groups are havening in remote mountainous area or away from transhumance routes.

If biodiversity is decreasing even inside PA, and if sometimes some antelopes are found outside PA, it is mainly because they are not in security within the existing protected areas which are, as the PIF is also clearly diagnosing it, not sufficiently managed, staffed, and financed:

- “The number of field-level rangers for patrolling is clearly insufficient and those who are active are poorly trained and poorly equipped”;
- “...insufficient and ineffective surveillance and enforcement has not deterred poaching within PAs”;
- “Enforcement of hunting legislation is weak and insufficient to ensure that [...] hunting is not taking place in locations where it is banned (PAs in particular).”

As a conclusion, the extension of surface of Niger territory under protection status is of course important on the long term, but it is not the immediate priority: instead of what the project is proposing, all efforts should be focused on increasing the effective management, enforcement, staffing and financing of the existing PAs, in order to provide safe haven to the remaining wildlife which is sometime in near extinction state.

In the Tadres, recent monitoring campaigns are showing that there are almost no more antelopes. The situation in Air Ténéré is so complex for political reasons that enforcement of protection and safety of wildlife remains complicated. Again the development of a 10 million ha faunal corridor seem a biological unrealistic and a misuse of GEF resources in the current situation.

On another hand, while the PIF is recognizing that “Currently, adjacent communities see little benefit in the existence of reserves” the project is providing no convincing solutions to provide alternative livelihood to the local transhumant communities. Providing “strategic water points” and developing a “landscape-wide management plan [...] in a participatory fashion” is not a convincing solution to provide alternative livelihood to the traditional users of the 20,9 millions ha of area that the project is willing to convert to protection status, either as protected area or faunal corridor. The project should allocate much more attention and support to the development of alternative livelihood instead of counting on cofinancing and assistance from food security measures and humanitarian assistance.

To end, the overall sustainability of the project is absolutely not convincing. Investments in new PAs are supposed to be secured by “government commitment to taking over operational and staff costs [...] to ensure the sustainability of this intervention”.

According to the current lack of resources from the government to secure the operation, staffing and maintenance of existing PA, this assumption is not realistic.

On the other hand, the perspective of ecotourism development to contribute to PAs management will not be sufficient in the long term to secure the financial sustainability of the overall Niger PAs system.

The PIF states that in 2007, only 8000 tourists enter to visit the country. Even if this amount was doubled, all of them going to the northern PAs (instead of moving to the W, as the majority is already doing currently) and the willingness to pay was reaching 50 USD per tourist (which is absolutely not realistic), the income generated would only reach 800.000 USD/year, which will provide less than 0,05 USD/year/ha of new protected areas, which is absolutely insufficient to sustainable manage and maintain the new PAs. Revenues from sustainable hunting remain to be proven; idem cofinancing from the private sector.

15. Sudan

UNDP Launching Protected Area Network Management and Building Capacity in Post-conflict Southern Sudan

(GEF Project Grant: \$3.82 million) Opinion: no comment

Climate change

16. China

UNDP

Promoting Energy Efficient Room Air Conditioners (PEERAC) Project (GEF Project Grant: \$6.26 million)

The project proposes to promote Energy Efficient Room Air Conditioners in China.

Electricity consumption by aircon is a rising issue in China due to the stress it puts on already thin-stretched electricity production, the poor efficiency of the equipments involved and the subsequent carbon emissions it causes.

In this line, France supports the project objective and activities proposed.

Looking at the detail of the proposal, we consider nevertheless that some important partners are nevertheless missing.

To have a full impact, the project must involved or reach out towards the ministry of construction, the commission for construction at the provincial level, the university and professionals (developers, architects...) involved in the design of buildings.

The project should also make the link with the necessary energy efficiency measures in terms of building design. Otherwise, the poor energy efficiency of building will off-sett any progress of efficiency with the aircon equipments.

Opinion: Favorable with a request to address the above questions.

17. India

World Bank

Financing Energy Efficiency at Small and Medium Enterprises - under the Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency (GEF Project Grant: \$11.30 million)

The project objective is to facilitate energy efficiency investment in the SME sector.

Around 10 sub sectors ("clusters") are targeted amongst intensive energy consumers such as the forging, the foundries, and the lime and bricks kilns sectors.

More than 500 units are considered for which the project will provide funding, guarantee, technical assistance.

The project will be implemented with the Indian Bureau of EE (the "BEE") and various local banks such as the Small Industries Bank of India (SIDBI) in line with a previous experience of the Bank program (Developing financial intermediation mechanisms in China, India and Brazil).

It is expected a financial investment flow of 50 USD millions and a contribution of the GoI of 7, 5 USD millions (6 millions in cash). The CO2 reduced is evaluated at 6 millions tones.

The sectoral approach is interesting to identify quickly the potential of reduction and establish the necessary benchmarks. The linkage with the financing institutions from the beginning is also very necessary to facilitate the financing and the support to the SME to invest.

However, the role of the GoI is not clear in the document (what will be the GoI contribution?) nor the evaluation of GEF contribution.

A justification on the basis of the previous completed project could have been useful and informative especially in the case of this new project of which the cost is in upper trench.

Opinion: Favorable owing to some additional clarification and justification.

18. Indonesia

UNIDO

**CF: Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Industries through System Optimization and Energy Management Standards
(GEF Project Grant: \$2.18 million)**

The project aims at disseminating good practices amongst the key industries (500 targeted industries in the mining, , paper, chemical and petrochemical, and textile and other energy consuming sectors) emitting GES through the development of energy management systems and energy efficiency standards.

The project includes (i) promotion of ISO energy standards, (ii) capacity building on optimal energy processes, (iii) guidance for investments and soft financing, (iv) demonstration projects and dissemination of the lessons learnt.

The project complements several bilateral projects on the same subject (Netherlands, Japan, Denmark) and one regional project with UNDP (Application of EE Products standard and Labeling in Asian countries).

UNIDO is building this project on the results of a precedent and similar project realized in China (2004). At the end of the project, the saved energy is evaluated at 102 GWh representing around 75 000 tones of CO₂.

The project is interesting in the sense that it promotes the use of energy standards, the energy management amongst the big industrial consumers. However, the quantity of CO₂ reduced and energy savings (75 000 tones and 102 GWh) seem rather small. Another question is the prior endorsement by the companies themselves of such a program. The lessons learnt on China would be very useful and informative.

Owing to this, our opinion is favorable.

21. Thailand

UNIDO

**Industrial Energy Efficiency
(GEF Project Grant: \$3.62 million)**

The project proposes to promote energy efficiency in industries in Thailand.

Among the activities considered, the financial mechanisms that will support the industrial partners are crucial to ensure the sustainability of the approach and its wide impact. Accordingly, the project should pay special attention to the development of such mechanisms.

When it comes to the choice biomass boilers for demonstration project, the rationale leading to that choice should be elaborated (resources in terms of biomass in Thailand, current use, potential impact on biodiversity...).

Opinion: favorable with a request to address the above questions.

23. Vietnam

UNEP

Phasing Out Incandescent Lamps through Lighting Market Transformation (GEF Project Grant: \$3.03 million)

Vietnam has a recent but fast growing CFL industry (5 millions units in 2003 vs. 70 millions in 2007). Around 40% are low quality hampering the image and the development of the energy saving lamps (ESL).

The projects aims at (i) improving the quality and the size of the production of ESL at the levels of lamp industries (ii) improving the quality controls by the GoV (testing, comparison to regional and international standards), (iii) develop awareness regarding ESL through promotion and campaign and (iv) developing national policy and strategy to phase out 75 % of IL (incandescent lamp).

This would lead to the division by 2 or 3 the electricity consumption due to the lighting (1.2 million of CO2 per year).

The project complements an on-going GEF / UNDP project (VEELP – Vietnam EE in Public lighting).

The GoV is expected to contribute up to 2, 5 USD millions while the Private sector contribution is estimated to 3 millions.

The project shows a challenging target with the removal of 75% of IL from the Vietnamese market in 4 years.

The way how to reach the target is not consolidated at this stage and would need the full support of the GoV.

Opinion favorable subject to clear answers before commitment:

How will the support be provided by the GoV?

What is the degree of implication of the industries?

International waters

24. Regional (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Cape Verde)

UNEP/UNDP

Implementing Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS

(GEF Project Grant: \$9.65 million)

It is interesting to link in this project a broad panel of country that is facing different experiences and practices.

The project will have to pay a particular attention to the networking aiming at ensure the dialogue between countries.

Favorable opinion subject the above consideration

25. Regional (Jordan, Palestinian Authority)

World Bank

Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program

(GEF Project Grant: \$3.50 million)

France is strongly involved in the Red Sea- Dead Sea Project with a total amount of 3 millions euros (AFD 2 millions euros – FFEM 1 million euros).

This additional GEF contribution to the project allowed launching the studies and focusing them to environmental issues.

Favorable opinion

27. Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, St. Lucia, Suriname)

IADB/UNEP - Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW)

(GEF Project Grant: \$20.00 million)

The project's objective is sound and timely.

Opinion: Favorable, with the following questions and remarks to be taken into Account during project preparation:

The project preparation should clarify how GEF grants will be used and if they are not used to improve IDB's discount on soft loans.

The project lack some proper activity and component to monitor the impacts of improved investments in waste water management on water quality and national biodiversity in particular (coral reef for example).

If this activity is not appropriately designed, it will be impossible to demonstrate the impact of the CReW and the verification of its justification.

The outcome indicators proposed are reduced BOD levels and coliform concentration (plus several indicators in annex 5), while the justification of the project is on the overall conservation of the natural capital of the Caribbean.

For example, the PIF state p5:” *Discharge of untreated wastewater has other impacts as well. The CARSEA study found that sewage was one of the main factors that had caused some 80 percent of living coral in the Caribbean to be lost over the past twenty years. Damage by untreated wastewater to the marine environment including living coral can bring about severe economic consequences for people in the Caribbean. The CARSEA study found that “the Caribbean is the region in the world most dependent on tourism for jobs and income,” while “fishing is also a significant source of both income and subsistence.”*

The monitoring system framework doesn’t provide appropriate tools for monitoring project impact on marine biodiversity and socio-economic status (jobs, etc.).

Project preparation need to address this issue.

Multi-focal area/corporate programs

30. Regional (Cameroon, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic)

World Bank

CBSP Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD Issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin

(GEF Project Grant: \$13.00 million)

The objectives of the project are relevant. They will allow strengthening the institutional capacities of Congo Basin countries to assess how sustainable forest management could be taken into account in carbon market.

The project is fully articulated with two FFEM contributions.

The project Cascade aims at enhancing national expertise to generate African carbon credits in LULUCF and bio-energy activities.

This project is implemented by UNEP with a technical assistance of CIRAD and ONF.

The project Forafama aims at assesses the potential of sustainable forest management in forest concessions in term of reducing deforestation and degradation.

It will be useful to define a practical framework to strengthen the links between these projects.

Favorable opinion

31. Regional (Chile, Peru)

UNDP

Towards Ecosystem Management of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem

(GEF Project Grant: \$6.93 million)

The project proposes to develop a management of the Humboldt Current at ecosystem level.

This positioning is relevant to ensure that all issues involved in terms of the conservation of the natural resources of this area are addressed. Nevertheless, the difficulty is to ensure that the project covers all bases reasonably and sensibly with its limited resources.

In this regard, the project focus on marine protected areas appears unbalanced and not addressing fully the fishing pressure which is one of the main threat.

More activities on fishing management should be developed.

In parallel, the project should elaborate on the concrete measures it proposes to ensure the financial sustainability of the 5 new Marine protected areas it proposes to create.

Opinion: Favorable with a request to address the above questions.

32. Argentina

UNDP/UNEP - Establishment of Incentives for the Conservation of Ecosystem Services of Global Significance (GEF Project Grant: \$2.91 million)

The project proposes to develop payment for ecosystem services (PES) in Argentina.

There are few large scale experiences of operational PES scheme worldwide. The proposal can be considered accordingly as pioneer work with the related risks. But, the development of

such schemes is crucial to ensure the up-scaling of conservation approaches and their sustainability.

France brings its full support to this initiative.

Opinion: Favorable

33. Brazil

**FAO - SFM Strengthening National Policy and Knowledge Frameworks in Support of Sustainable Management of Brazil's Forest Resources
(GEF Project Grant: \$8.85 million)**

The project proposes to strengthen the information and knowledge management relating to forest management with a view to help decision makers.

The general objectives are similar to those of the UNEP Brazilian information system project presented in the work program.

The same questions apply: involvement of international partners? Involvement of the State level? Time needed for the measures to have some real impact?

Opinion: Favorable with a request to address the above questions.

34. Cambodia

**UNDP - SFM Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management and the Development of Bio-energy Markets to Promote Environmental Sustainability and to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Cambodia
(GEF Project Grant: \$2.36 million)**

The project proposes to promote forest management at the landscape level with a view to address the wood-fuel production issue in Cambodia.

The principles involved (inter-sectoral coordination, landscape approach) are well adapted to the Cambodian situation in terms of forest managements. Such an approach is also currently supported by the French cooperation (AFD/FGEF) in the Cardamoms landscape in partnership with Conservation International, the Forest Administration, FFI and the Ministry of Environment. Their implementation nevertheless remains a challenge since the pressure on natural resources is ever increasing in Cambodia and specifically in the area foreseen by the project due to an steady increase of the population, hydro-electric and mining schemes in forest protected area. Based on the last point, the approach developed needs to involve not only the ministries in charge of agriculture and environment but also the ministry in charge of mine and energy.

The project should also have a strong demonstration base and in this regards we would urge for the project to have stronger links and build strength with the on-going activities in the Cardamoms landscape (Aural and Samkos Sanctuaries, Central Cardamoms Protected Forest). Finally, the project should take into consideration the on going development of REDD proposals in Cambodia since they might bring an interesting extra financial support to the project.

Opinion: Favorable with a request to address the above questions.

Programmatic approaches in the November 2008 work program

Biodiversity:

1. Strategic Program for West Africa (Biodiversity) (SPWA-BD) STAP Comments

France welcomes this timely but challenging program for West Africa.

It is important for the program nevertheless to address the following issues:

- secure the consistency of the program with regional biodiversity conservation priorities. It is not clear with the current program design, if the program will be able to tackle trans-border or trans-national biodiversity issues;
- secure coordination of the GEF program with other biodiversity conservation initiatives, particularly from other multi and bilateral donors in the region.

France wishes to indicate that it supports, via the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs(MAEE) and the French GEF (FFEM), an IUCN West African initiative to foster the assessment of Protected area management effectiveness.

One of the component of this regional initiative has succeeded in establishing a regional master in the 2IE university in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) which aim at training West African student in Protected Area Management.

There are obvious potential synergies between this project and the GEF strategic program so that France recommends contacts are made quickly between MAE/FFEM and WB/GEF teams to look into it.

In the broader sense, it would be good that the project preparation develop a coordination matrix gathering an overview of the main other interventions in biodiversity conservation in West Africa supported by multi and bilateral donors in West Africa, in order to characterize area of possible coordination/collaborations.

2. Biosafety Program (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

See below the French comments on this program at the 2008 April GEF Council:

1.Regional: (Antigua And Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts And Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago) - BS Regional Project for Implementing National Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-region - under the GEF Biosafety Program(GEF Grant : \$ 3.34 m) UNEP – 3,8 M \$/ 7,5 M \$. GEF Agency UNEP

The project concept is good, but consistency with previous OME evaluation of the GEF Initial strategy on Biosafety, as well as the project overall sustainability remain unclear.

Opinion: favorable, but with the following questions and remarks to be taken into account:

Consistency with previous OME evaluation of the GEF Initial Strategy on Biosafety (cf. “Strategy for Financing Biosafety” – GEF council meeting, December 5-8, 2006).

The proposed project provides a good rationale of components and activities, but little is built on previous evaluation. It would be good to explain why this new project is not putting some focus on the following recommendation of the GEF OME:

- future support should be better customized to the respective country conditions;
- consider providing longer term training for building and sustaining specialist capacity in risk assessment and risk management;
- emphasize awareness-raising, public consultation and information sharing (to the public and not only to the specialist only);

Sustainability.

The project provide little information on how the maintenance of the equipments needed and the salary of all the specialists to be engaged in the biosafety management scheme at the regional level will be financed after the end of the project.

Climate Change:

3. Strategic Program for West Africa (Climate Change) (SPWA-CC)

(GEF Project Grant: \$ 46 million)

GEF Lead agency : UNIDO

The program aims at promoting a regional impetus in the fields of RE and EE throughout opened, pooling, results based orientated and coordinated approaches to overcome the present situation of fragmented initiatives that are promoted by the various donors and institutions.

The overall objective is to meet the gap between demand and supply of energy, and develop long term strategy and policy in RE and EE.

The program will be under the supervision of a steering committee and implemented by a coordination mechanism which will receive support from UNIDO.

The program has been endorsed by 18 countries in West Africa + Burundi. 27 projects in 18 countries have been identified at the concept level but the modalities of their implementation are not defined at this stage except the GEF agency responsibility identification for each project.

The project has the ambition to stimulate and to coordinate a regional impetus in the fields of RE and EE declined in various sectors (energy, biomass, buildings, transport, etc).

It represents a tentative of downscaling the GEF work program at the level of a region which shares common issues and faces similar difficulties.

The GEF would like to facilitate the dialogue, the synergy between the various actors and the different programs.

The coordination would be given to UNIDO. This initiative fits in CEDEAO and UEMOA programs but no details are given regarding its endorsement by those organizations.

The fees charged by UNIDO are not specified.

The role of bilateral agencies is not defined.

Favorable opinion subject to clarification. In any case, the program needs to be structured and defined before implementation. The monitoring should be put in place in an easily accessible and readable manner by stakeholders and observers...

4. Framework for Promoting Low Greenhouse Gas Emission in Buildings

(GEF Project Grant: 19 + 53 \$ million)

GEF Lead agency: UNDP

UNDP has been involved in 20 projects dealing with EE in buildings including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, etc.

The overall objective of this programmatic program is (i) to confirm the leadership of UNDP in this field and (ii) to give global approval for a new set of projects (21) to be implemented during GEF-4 (6 – 19 USDm) and the future GEF-5 (15 – 53 USDm).

The new countries concerned are South Africa, Algeria, Syria, Pakistan, Thailand, Rwanda, Burundi and others.

The partners, the co-financing and the modalities of implementation are unknown.

The document gives a clear summary of the common barriers and solutions met in the field of EE. It is generally a long process to put in place the adequate framework and the modalities of

implementation are fundamental to go beyond the concept and the institutional framework and to go into action.

The presentation of the experience of UNDP in this respect would be of foremost interest to understand the feasibility of the new top down approach proposed by UNDP.

Favorable opinion subject addressing above questions.

**5. Reducing Industry's Carbon Footprint in Southeast Asia through Compliance with a Management System for Energy (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia)
(GEF Project Grant: 15, 8 \$ million)**

GEF Lead agency: UNIDO

A new ISO energy management standard is to be published by 2010 (ISO 50 000) with a view to increase energy use efficiency in industry.

The program will consist of training of core experts, support of EE in industry (systems optimization) and adoption of energy management standards.

The training will use the experience of the Georgia Institute of Technology (USA). UNIDO will work with regional organizations as ASEAN. (Committee on standards and quality).

The 2 projects commented above are part of this global program. The comments remain valid that is to say:

(i) Degree of implication of the industries in the program and the government (co-financing, steering committee)?

(ii) Experience and lessons learnt from previous project (ex: China)?

(iii) Sustainability of the program (who is in charge of the management?).

Subject to clear answer, favorable opinion.

6. Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency in India (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

See below the French comments on the April 2008 GEF Council WP (only one project presented):

12. India - IND Chillers Energy Efficiency Project - under the Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency (GEF Grant: \$ 6.30 m). GEF Agency WB

The projects aims at accelerating the process of the replacement over 3 years of 440 old and energy inefficient CFC chillers by the mobilisation of a comprehensive mechanism made of incentives (GEF-MLF and CDM), technical assistance and demonstrative projects. The financial mechanism is planned to be run as a revolving fund. The total cost of the project is 99.5 millions \$.

Comments: The participation of the GoI does not appear clearly in this project. It could have been included in the global mechanism some fiscal incentives (for example).

Opinion: favorable opinion subject to clarifying GoI significant participation

Multi-Focal Areas:

7. Congo Basin Strategic Program (CBSP) STAP Comments

The tree main components of this Strategic Program are relevant to reduce the threats that affect Congo Basin countries.

Most of the identified project under this program is closely links with different FFEM and AFD projects working in Congo Basin countries.

For this raison, it is needed a close cooperation between GEF project and others stakeholders through institutional frameworks involved in environmental protection of Congo Basin.

What will be the next steps for approval the Program and the projects?

Favorable opinion

8. Sustainable Forest Management (endorsed by Council in November 2007)

Why does the SFM program refer **only to Brazil**, Cambodia and Ecuador projects approved by the November 2007 GEF Council and not to the following projects approved during this same November 2007 GEF Council with Indonesia and Tanzania and the SFM Carbon benefits project ?

NB See below the French comments on November 2007 GEF Council WP within the item SFM:

31. Brazil. UNDP. SFM Catalyzing the Contribution of Indigenous Lands to the Conservation of Brazil's Forest Ecosystems

(GEF Grant: \$6.00 million)

The project aims at strengthen and extend the protection actions of natural resources in the indigenous lands in Amazonian basin. For that, the project will capitalize the positive experiences, network the actions and work out recommendations for the future.

Opinion: favourable

Face to the current treats on the forest ecosystems in Brazil, it is relevant to support the actions of strengthening the protection of the indigenous lands in Amazonian basin in order to guarantee a protection and a sustainable management of these forest ecosystems.

34. Tanzania. UNDP. SFM Extending the Coastal Forest Protected Area Sub-system (GEF Grant: \$3.55 million)

The project aims at extending the coastal Forest Protected Area Subsystem in Tanzania.

Opinion: favourable with the following remarks to be taken into account

Due to the concentration of the population on the coast of Tanzania, coastal forests are ecosystems submitted to a particularly important human pressure. In this regard, and since the project wants to enlarge protected areas on this area which is largely populated, the full and sincere involvement of the local communities will be a key point of the project success:

- modern co-management policies should be put in place in the different protected areas;
- realistic income generating activities should be put in place to compensate the restriction of use of the natural resources imposed on the communities by the extended protected areas ; these activities should go beyond the usual few pilot activities developed by projects and rely on economical business orientated sound approaches.

One of the priority landscapes of the project: Lindi-Rondo, is concerned by another project which ends at the end of this year: the Mnazy Bay project. It was supported by UNDP/GEF and FGEF and dealt with the development of the Mnazy Bay marine and terrestrial protected area. 30 000 people live inside the terrestrial limits of the Park and the project had huge difficulties to correctly involve these communities. Some villages even turned at some stage against the project. An ex-post evaluation of the project is scheduled (UNDP/GEF in December 07 and FGEF beginning of 2008).

Its conclusion regarding the involvement of local communities and the development of alternative income generating activities should be taken fully on board by the new project.

35. Global. UNEP/World Bank. SFM Carbon Benefits Project (CBP): Modeling, Measurement and Monitoring (GEF Grant: \$5.00 million)

The project aims at strengthen and develop methodologies as regards quantification of carbon sequestration. Its need to assess the baselines and the methodologies in line with national authorities.

Opinion: favourable

Face to the weakness of project sequestration submitted to Climate Change Convention, the methodological work proposed by the project is relevant.

It needed to work closely with States, firms and local communities within the opportunities offered as regards carbon sequestration.

A particular effort should be made by the project to support actions developed in Africa where the number of carbon sequestration projects submitted to convention is particularly weak.

36. Regional (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei). IFAD. SFM Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in South-East Asia

(GEF Grant: \$4.51 million)

The project aims at ensuring the protection and the conservation of the peatland forests in Southeast Asia. The actions implemented by the project aims at strengthen the capacities of management for local stakeholders, in particular local communities, to reduce degradation of these ecosystems and put in place management plan.

Opinion: favorable with the following remark

In terms of biodiversity protection the project is relevant. However, it is needed to secure the strong involvement of local authorities in the project and, in particular, of their willingness to preserve these ecosystems.

37. Indonesia. UNDP. SFM Strengthening Community Based Forest and Watershed Management (SCBFWM)

(GEF Grant: \$7.00 million)

The project aims at supporting the involvement of local communities in forest ecosystem management of 6 watersheds. The project will work out on implementation of watershed management strategies of these basins with involvement of local communities and national institutions.

Opinion: favourable

The program has to reduce deforestation and land degradation on the selected watersheds. Its need to secure a strong involvement of the State in the project at national, regional and local levels.

9. PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems Program (endorsed by Council in April 2008)

Why does the LDDE program refer only to “Silk Road Ecosystem Restoration Project” (China) approved by the 2008 April GEF Council and not to the following projects approved during this same 2008 April GEF Council with China, Philippines and Tunisia?

NB: See below the French comments on the April 2008 GEF Council WP within the item “Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems”:

36. China - PRC-GEF An IEM Approach to the Conservation of Biodiversity in Dryland Ecosystems - under the PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystem Program (GEF Grant: \$ 4.55 m). IFAD

Land degradation in China results of anthropic pressure and economic development. The project aims at reducing this two constrains with actions focused on the involvement of local population.

Opinion: favorable

40. Philippines - Mindanao Rural Development Program Phase II – Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation Component (GEF Grant: \$ 6.49 m). WB

The project aims at improving the incomes of the local populations with a better access to the market for agricultural and fishery products whose production does not affect the natural resources.

Opinion: favorable

41. Tunisia - MENARID Support to Sustainable Land Management in the Siliana Governorate (GEF Grant: \$ 5.00 m). IFAD

The drought and socio-economic development strongly affect the land degradation in Tunisia, especially in agricultural area as Siliana Governorate. The objectives of the project are relevant. They should promote agricultural practices taking into account the local conditions and sustainable development.

Opinion: favorable

10. Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Partnership Program (endorsed by Council in November 2007)

NB: See below the French comments on November 2007 Council WP :

40. India. World Bank. Country Partnership Program: Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management Partnership (GEF Grant: \$27.28 million)

The program aims at promoting a sustainable management of land and biodiversity in India. The program focuses its interventions on three main sectors: investments, capacity building and institutional strengthening. Two local projects are analyzed.

Opinion: favourable with the following remark

The objectives of the program are relevant. Nevertheless, it would be necessary to have some more information on the methodology for selection of the local projects.