

M.Sc. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez
CEO and Chairperson

August 8, 2024

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that the third selection round of project concepts for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) is ready to be opened. All eligible countries are invited to participate in the selection round, with resources to be allocated in a country-driven manner.

I am opening the third selection round as follows:

- **Third selection round** for Project Reparation Grant (PPG) requests will open on August 8, 2024, and close on September 30, 2024. Decisions will be notified by December 6, 2024. The GEF Secretariat may request Agencies to provide information on the expected CEO endorsement or Work Program inclusion date.

Selection round steps: The GBFF Project Cycle Policy¹, approved at the first GBFF Council on February 9, 2024, is streamlined from the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy (applicable to all other GEF family of funds including the GEF Trust Fund). Selection rounds are organized with the following steps leading to the approval of PPG requests, as described in the Policy on Allocation of Resources for the GBFF², which was also approved at the first GBFF Council:

- The Secretariat invites Agencies to submit PPG requests during a set timeframe.
- Agencies submit PPG requests on behalf and with the endorsement of eligible countries. The funding request embedded in a PPG request (all project costs including PPG, Project Financing and associated Agency fees) must be equal to, or smaller than, the country's maximum total dollar value of new funding request(s) at the time of submission. The [maximum total dollar value table](#) document has been posted on the GEF website, and also circulated to all GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and Agencies on February 16, 2024.
- The Secretariat reviews all eligible PPG requests submitted by the deadline based on the seven selection criteria set forth in the Policy on Allocation of Resources document. If a PPG does not meet the conditions for approval, the Secretariat may reject it or request additional information.
- The CEO approves all or a subset of the submitted PPG requests, based on the reviews, availability of resources, and three portfolio-level targets on (1) allocations to the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), (2) share of programming to support actions by indigenous peoples and local communities, and (3) programming through international finance institutions, as agreed in the Programming Directions³ and the Policy on Allocation of Resources documents. For the third selection round, PPG requests from LDCs and SIDS as well as

¹ GEF, 2024, [Global Biodiversity Framework Fund \(GBFF\) Project Cycle Policy](#), GEF/GBFF.01/04/Rev.02.

² GEF, 2024, [Policy on Allocation of Resources for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund \(GBFF\)](#), GEF/GBFF.01/03/Rev.03.

³ GEF, 2023, [Programming Directions for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), GEF/C.64/06/Rev.02.

- programming through international finance institutions will be prioritized, in light of the portfolio-level progress after the first and second selection rounds. Upon approval, the resources corresponding to full project cost are set aside and considered allocated for the purpose of the programming tranche.

Submission modality and templates: The PPG requests are to be submitted on the GEF Portal, which has been configured for the GBFF. The templates for the [PPG request](#) and the [letter of endorsement](#) have been made available as notified to the Agencies and OFPs, also accessible from the GEF website.

Work Program constitution and CEO endorsement: After the CEO approval of selected PPGs, the Agencies will submit the fully prepared projects following the GBFF Project Cycle Policy. Projects above \$5 million will be included in a Work Program that will be reviewed and discussed by the GBFF Council. The endorsement requests cleared by the Secretariat for inclusion in a Work Program and the Cover Note will be posted on the GEF website and circulated eight weeks in advance of a GBFF Council meeting to Council Members, STAP, and the CBD Secretariat for comments.

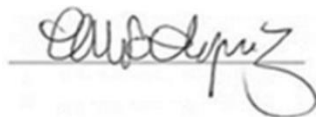
Fully prepared projects up to \$5 million cleared by the Secretariat can be endorsed by the CEO based on the delegated authority provided by the GBFF Council. These projects will be circulated to Council Members four weeks prior to CEO endorsement. List of approved projects up to \$5 million will be appended to the Work Program Cover Note posted for the GBFF Council. Projects ranging from \$2 million to \$5 million will be also circulated to STAP four weeks prior to CEO endorsement for comments.

Briefing sessions and additional information: The Secretariat has organized several virtual and in-person briefing sessions on the GBFF for the OPFs, National Focal Points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Agencies and stakeholders. The recording of some sessions can be accessed from this [link](#). The Secretariat plans to organize additional virtual briefing sessions in September, 2024. Recording of these additional sessions will be made available on the GEF website. The Secretariat also plans to organize an in-person session on the GBFF at the upcoming 16th Conference of the Parties to CBD.

If you have any questions, please reach out to myself, Claude Gascon (cgascon@thegef.org), Director of Strategy and Operations, and Chizuru Aoki (caoki@thegef.org), Manager of Conventions and Funds Division.

We look forward to working with you and mobilizing timely GBFF support to help countries address the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework priorities.

Sincerely yours,



Carlos Manuel Rodriguez
GEF CEO and Chairperson