

## **1. Project Identifiers**

<b>Project Number:</b>	<i>[Implementing Agency Project Number not yet assigned]</i>
<b>Project Title:</b>	Add-on Project for “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project” (10 additional countries)
<b>Duration:</b>	24 months
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<b>Requesting Countries:</b>	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan
<b>Eligibility:</b>	<p>The original project and add-on were intended to support 120 countries that were Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and were Parties or signatories to the Cartagena Protocol, or committed themselves to ratification by the time that project activities were completed. However, COP 7 gave guidance to define the eligibility of countries that were not Parties to the Cartagena Protocol for GEF capacity building projects, and these new rules on eligibility are now followed. Eligibility for this project includes all developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol or who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity</li><li>• provides a written assurances that it intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on completion of the activities in their UNEP-GEF project.</li><li>• has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.</li><li>• has a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Operational Focal Point and the national focal point of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of that country in participating in the Project</li><li>• is not a beneficiary of any other ongoing GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs</li></ul>

This leads to a further 10 countries becoming eligible for support.

**GEF Focal Areas:** Biodiversity/Biosafety

**GEF Programming Framework:**

The project is a continuation of the earlier global project PMIS # 875 on “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project” and its first add-on for 20 countries, in order to provide funds for the remaining 10 countries that have requested assistance. It falls within the activities contained in the GEF Initial Strategy on Biosafety adopted by GEF Council in November 2000. The Initial Strategy committed GEF to support all eligible countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The original project was designed for a planning figure of 100 countries with a clear commitment to support any additional eligible countries. A further request for additional funds for 20 countries was submitted and approved at the GEF November Council through an Add-on project. This has brought the total number of countries currently financed to 120. This further request for additional funds for the last 10 eligible countries is, as for the previous add-on project, an extension of the original project design with the same norms and standards. The project also addresses the emerging priorities outlined by the GEF for under Strategic Priority III for “Capacity Building for the Implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”. Biosafety is also a crosscutting issue to OPs1-4 and OP13. As an Enabling Activity, this project is eligible for full financing.

**2. Summary:**

Legal and regulatory structures will be required in order to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. This project aims to assist all GEF eligible countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with the Initial Biosafety Strategy as endorsed by the 16<sup>th</sup> GEF council meeting held in Washington, DC on 1-3 November 2000, taking into account other bilateral and multilateral initiatives. More specifically the projects aims at assisting all eligible countries to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation through the convening of regional and sub-regional workshops. The implementation of the project will be guided by the “Indicative framework for capacity building under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”(UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/4) as well as the guidance of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Cartagena Protocol and relevant Conferences of the Parties for the Convention for Biological Diversity.

The commitment from GEF was to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, with an understanding that the original figure of 100 countries was a planning figure. A request for additional funds for 20 countries has already been submitted and approved at the GEF Council of November 2003 through an add-on project. This has brought the total number of countries currently financed to 120. This final add-on project

thus extends the support already provided for the first 120 countries to the last 10 eligible countries. This add-on project shares the aims and activities of the original project and, on the basis of the same standards and project structure, will assist GEF eligible countries to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation to fulfil the obligations coming from the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with the Initial GEF Biosafety Strategy.

### **3. Costs and Financing (Million US \$)**

This is an Enabling Activity project and is therefore considered fully incremental in the context of GEF funding. The add-on project budget summary for 10 countries is provided in Annex 3. The costs of the project have been calculated from the base of the original project costs for 100 countries and have been adjusted on a pro rata basis for 10 countries. The original budget covered the costs of all activities at the national level to be agreed within a specific sub-project, as well as the costs of sub-regional and regional workshops and other aids to sub-regional cooperation. All these costs, as well as the global level activities and support have been calculated back to a country basis and multiplied for 10 additional countries. Because of the very different starting point of each country that will introduce a National Biosafety Framework, the terms of this National Project Document will be negotiated directly with each country under a sub-project with the designated national authority.

A list of these potentially eligible countries is appended as Annex 2. It is believed that a maximum of 10 further countries are now interested in the project and this add-on project will offer a final chance for these countries to join and benefit from the support available. As in the original project, the funds for each country will not be made available to UNEP until such time as GEF Secretariat has accepted their letter on eligibility. This add-on project would also remove the need for further arrangements to be made for funding all other countries now that the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 has been reached.

<b>GEF:</b>	Project	<b>2,609,208</b>	:	<b>US\$</b>
	<b>Subtotal GEF</b>	<b>2,609,208</b>	:	<b>US\$</b>
		834,946		
	Governments :		:	
	in kind	750,000	:	US\$
	<b>Subtotal Co-financing</b>	<b>750,000</b>	:	<b>US\$</b>
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<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>3,359,208</b>	:	<b>US\$</b>
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**4. IA Contact:** Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif, Director Division Global Environment Facility, UNEP/GEF Co-ordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi, Tel:254-2-624166; Fax:254-2-624041; Email:Ahmed.Djoghlaif@unep.org

**Additional Information on Add-on Project (10 countries) to the UNEP-GEF Project on *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF)***

1. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) was adopted by the resumed first extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, on January 29, 2000. As of September 8, 2003, 56 countries and one regional economic integration organization had ratified the protocol, and after the ratification of the CPB by Palau on 13th June 2003, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entered into force on 11th September 2003.
2. In November 2000, the GEF Council approved the GEF Initial Strategy for Biosafety for assisting countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol. The main objectives of the strategy are to:
  - (a) Assist countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety through the establishment of national biosafety frameworks;
  - (b) Promote information sharing and collaboration, especially at the regional and sub-regional level; and
  - (b) Promote collaboration with other organizations to assist capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
3. One of the major activities under this strategy was the approval of the UNEP-GEF project on *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF) to assist up to 100 countries*, henceforward called the *NBF Development Project*. Using a country-driven process, the project is helping each participating country to set up a framework for management of living modified organisms at the national level, allowing them to meet the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol. The *NBF Development Project* is also promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience on issues of relevance to the national biosafety frameworks. This project is also providing financial support to eligible countries to implement surveys and inventories and start establishing national databases and some funding for start-up equipment for information sharing.
4. The original commitment from GEF was to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, with a clear understanding that the original figure of 100 countries was a planning figure. Therefore, at November 2003 Council, a further request for 20 additional countries was submitted and approved as mere continuation of the original project. This final add-on project shares the aims and activities of the original project and will assist GEF eligible countries to prepare national biosafety frameworks and promote regional and sub-regional cooperation to fulfil their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with the Initial GEF Biosafety Strategy. The overall objective of the *NBF Development Project* is to prepare countries for the entry into force of the Protocol.
5. The project aims at:
  - Assisting up to 100 eligible countries to prepare their national biosafety frameworks,

- Promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience on issues of relevance to the national biosafety frameworks, and this will be achieved through the following actions:

- (i) Strengthening national capacity in order to implement biosafety procedures and maximize the potential for the safe use of modern biotechnology;
- (ii) Applying biosafety procedures to enhance environmental management;
- (iii) Applying biosafety guidelines under the Protocol taking into account the work of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP);
- (iv) Harmonizing regional and sub-regional legal instruments to simplify the process of applying and conforming to regulations;
- (v) Raising public awareness of the issues involved in release of living modified organisms to promote informed debate and to ensure that where any use of modern biotechnology is permitted, it is done in an open and transparent way;
- (vi) Providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to be involved in the design and implementation of a national framework for biosafety;
- (vii) Carrying out an assessment of technological capacity, its effect on implementation of national biosafety frameworks and means to improve it.

6. The *NBF Development Project* started in June 2001 with 18 participating countries. By July 24<sup>th</sup> 2002, the limit of 100 countries participating, as originally estimated, had been attained by formal applications onto the project and their eventual acceptance by the GEF Secretariat as eligible for funding (See Annex I for list).
7. Countries became eligible for support, if they were eligible for GEF funding and fulfilled the following criteria:
  - Country is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity
  - Country is signatory to, or intends to accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety not later than the completion date of activities in their UNEP/GEF project.
  - Country has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.
  - Country is not a beneficiary of any other GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs
  - Country had a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Focal Point of that country in participating in the Project by 30th June 2003.
8. A date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003 was initially established by the Project Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> in a meeting in February 2003, as the deadline for countries to apply for joining the project. By that deadline, 21 countries, over and above the 100 countries budgetted for, in the original project, had formally applied to participate in the project.
9. A final deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 had been established as the final chance for entry of new countries to the project. However, a number of countries have shown

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<sup>1</sup> Steering Committee Membership includes representatives from the GEF Secretariat (Co-Chair), UNEP(Co-Chair), CBD Secretariat, UNDP, World Bank, UNIDO, ICGB, STAP and the ICCP Chairman.

interest in joining the project since that time. In accordance with the original strategy to extend support to all eligible countries seeking support, it was considered more cost effective to extend the opportunity to join an established project rather than prepare a set of separately funded projects. This request for additional funds relates to the additional number of 10 potentially eligible countries (see Annex 2).

10. However, the original eligibility criteria from GEF of September 2001 have now been superseded as a result of the guidance of the COP 7. Therefore, any countries that submits a letter of endorsement for the project, after COP7/MOP1 will need to adhere to the new criteria. By that time, three countries, namely Azerbaijan Brazil and Tuvalu had already submitted endorsement letters and these letters are considered valid.
11. The new criteria have been established jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GEF Secretariat and rule that a country that is generally eligible for GEF funding is eligible for this project if it:
  - is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity
  - provides a written assurances that it intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on completion of the activities in their UNEP-GEF project.
  - has not received assistance previously from the UNEP-GEF Pilot Project on Biosafety.
  - has a formal expression of interest made by the GEF Operational Focal Point and the national focal point of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of that country in participating in the Project
  - is not a beneficiary of any other ongoing GEF project to support the development and/or implementation of NBFs
12. The eligibility letter sent out to countries by the Secretariats of the GEF and of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including a model letter of assurance that a country intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on completion of the activities in their UNEP-GEF project is provided as Annex 4.
13. The original project design had an indicative GEF budget for the support of 100 countries of 26.092 M US\$ but stated that “If the number of eligible countries seeking GEF assistance exceeds 100, additional financial resources will be required”. The project budget was based on funding for 100 national level projects and activities at sub-regional, regional and global level. The basis for the original calculation has been maintained in the additional request for covering 20 more countries, submitted and approved at the November 2003 GEF Council, and is maintained in this request for additional funds for 10 more countries (See Annex 3 - Budget for 10 countries).
14. This is an Enabling Activity project and is therefore considered fully incremental in the context of GEF funding. The costs of the project, calculated from the base of the original project costs for 100 countries, have been adjusted on a pro rata basis for 10 countries. The original budget covered the costs of all activities at the national level to be agreed within a specific sub-project as well as the costs of sub-regional and regional workshops and other aids to sub-regional cooperation. All these costs, as well

as the global level activities and support have been calculated back to a country basis and multiplied for 10 additional countries. The funding requested from GEF for 10 additional countries is 2,609,208 US \$, based on the full range of activities and support being provided by the project team over the life of the project.

15. Although the project is a fully costed Enabling Activity, a significant level of co-financing (47.3%) has been already agreed within the 100 countries project of 12.34 MUS\$ Co-financing against 26.09 M US\$ of GEF Funding. Considering this level of co-financing, additional co-financing has been provided for this budget request by an additional contribution of 750,000 US \$ from countries providing cash and in-kind services to their national projects.
16. In developing the initial project, it was recognized that support for the preparation of national biosafety frameworks was central to the implementation of the Protocol, and that GEF assistance can facilitate developing countries to meet the obligations of the Cartagena Protocol. Nevertheless, it was agreed that GEF could not determine how many developing countries would require assistance and there was an initial agreement on supporting the costs of only 100 countries to prepare NBFs. The strategy went on to provide for additional resources to be made available should more than 100 countries meet the eligibility criteria.
17. This stage has already been reached and the GEF Council is requested to provide additional support to allow 10 countries to benefit from the *NBF Development Project*. A mid-term review of the *NBF Development Project* has now been completed and provides ample support for the continuation of the project and its extension to cover additional countries (see *NBF Development Project Mid-term Review*). The review states that the project has been very successful in meeting its major objectives and believes that the original project design has proven its worth. This provides a greater level of confidence and results base for the GEF Council to make decisions on provision of additional funds for the 12 additional countries.
18. The greater importance and heightened relevance of this add-on project request is brought about by the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 11th September 2003. It is therefore proposed that support be provided to eligible recipient countries that have signed or agreed to ratify the Protocol within the project's life in order to meet their needs with respect to capacity building and training in order to put in place the national structures to meet the challenge of the CPB.
19. In order to make the most effective and efficient use of GEF resources, and to take full advantage of the work already done by the *UNEP- GEF project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks*, this new project is designed as an add-on project to the work already being provided through this GEF project. Regional Coordinators from the UNEP project would discuss with eligible recipient countries their participation in the project and available funds would be made available through the same mechanisms as the original project. Likewise, all other activities would be run in concert with the work being carried out under the project.
20. The project activities for the 120 countries were revised in the light of conclusions of mid term review after submission of request for changes to activities to Steering

Committee in January 2004. This did not lead to any change in budget or foreseen activities.

21. The final add-on project removes the need for a consideration of alternative arrangements to be made after the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 had been reached. A commitment has already been made by UNEP to support all these 10 countries, even where the projects are likely to finish their national projects after the proposed end date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 that has been established for the UNEP-GEF NBF Development Project for 120 countries.



## Annex 1

### List of 120 countries currently participating in the “UNEP-GEF Project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks”

Africa	Asia - Pacific	Central and Eastern Europe	Latin America and Caribbean
1. Algeria	1. Bangladesh	1. Albania	1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Angola	2. Bhutan	2. Armenia	2. Argentina
3. Benin	3. Cambodia	3. Belarus	3. Bahamas
4. Botswana	4. Cook Islands	4. Croatia	4. Barbados
5. Burkina Faso	5. Fiji	5. Czech Republic	5. Belize
6. Burundi	6. Indonesia	6. Estonia	6. Chile
7. Cape Verde	7. Iran, Islamic Republic of	7. Georgia	7. Costa Rica
8. Central African Republic	8. Jordan	8. Latvia	8. Dominica
9. Comoros	9. Kazakhstan	9. Lithuania	9. Dominican Republic
10. Congo	10. Kiribati	10. Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of	10. Ecuador
11. Congo, Democratic Republic of	11. Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	11. Malta	11. El Salvador
12. Côte d'Ivoire	12. Korea, Republic of	12. Republic of Moldova	12. Grenada
13. Djibouti	13. Kyrgyzstan	13. Romania	13. Guatemala
14. Eritrea	14. Lao PDR	14. Serbia and Montenegro	14. Guyana
15. Gabon	15. Lebanon	15. Slovakia	15. Haiti
16. Gambia	16. Maldives	16. Slovenia	16. Honduras
17. Ghana	17. Marshall Islands, Republic of	17. Turkey	17. Jamaica
18. Guinea	18. Micronesia, Federated States of	18. Ukraine	18. Nicaragua
19. Guinea Bissau	19. Mongolia		19. Panama
20. Ethiopia	20. Myanmar		20. Paraguay
21. Lesotho	21. Nauru		21. Peru
22. Liberia	22. Nepal		22. St. Kitts and Nevis
23. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	23. Niue		23. St. Lucia
24. Madagascar	24. Palau		24. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
25. Mali	25. Papua New Guinea		25. Suriname
26. Morocco	26. Philippines		26. Trinidad and Tobago
27. Mozambique	27. Samoa		27. Uruguay
28. Niger	28. Solomon Islands		28. Venezuela
29. Nigeria	29. Sri Lanka		
30. Rwanda	30. Syrian Arab Republic		
31. Senegal	31. Tajikistan		
32. Seychelles	32. Tonga		
33. Sierra Leone	33. Vanuatu		
34. South Africa	34. Viet Nam		
35. Sudan	35. Yemen		
36. Swaziland			
37. Tanzania, United Republic of			
38. Togo			
39. Zimbabwe			

## **Annex 2**

List of 10 additional countries considered eligible for support under this additional request for “UNEP-GEF Project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks”

- |                              |                             |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Azerbaijan                | 4. Chad                     | 7. Thailand     |
| 2. Brazil                    | 5. Equatorial Guinea        | 8. Turkmenistan |
| 3. Bosnia and<br>Herzegovina | 6. Sao Tome and<br>Principe | 9. Tuvalu       |
|                              |                             | 10. Uzbekistan  |

## Annex 3

### Additional Budget Request for 10 countries

#### 1 Promotion of regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience

	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>budget for 100 countries</b>	<b>Budget per country</b>	<b>No. of additional countries</b>	<b>Total GEF</b>
1.1	Regional Workshops	385,000	3,850	10	38,500
1.2	Sub-regional Workshops (participants' travel, subsistence, meeting facility and equipment)	450,000	4,500	10	45,000
1.3	Management of regional and sub-regional Activities	300,000	3,000	10	30,000
<b>1</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,135,000</b>	<b>11,350</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>113,500</b>

#### 2 Preparation of National Biosafety Frameworks for 10 countries

	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Budget for 100 countries</b>	<b>Budget per country</b>	<b>No. of additional countries</b>	<b>Additional GEF request</b>
2.1	Strengthen national capacity for decision-making/implementation of biosafety procedures	9,800,000	98,000	10	980,000
2.2	Meeting national obligations for the CBD, and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	3,500,000	35,000	10	350,000
2.3	Identify existing technological and legal capacity, its effects and means for improvement	3,500,000	35,000	10	350,000
2.4	Ensure and enhance stakeholders' involvement in the decision making process	2,500,000	25,000	10	250,000
2.5	Assist harmonisation of national and sub-regional legal instruments on biosafety	2,000,000	20,000	10	200,000
<b>2</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21,300,000</b>	<b>213,000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,130,000</b>

#### 3 Project Management

	<b>Project Management Tasks</b>	<b>Budget for 100 countries</b>	<b>Budget per country</b>	<b>No. of additional countries</b>	<b>Additional GEF request</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,657,083</b>	<b>36,571</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>365,708</b>

#### Totals

<b>ALL</b>	<b>Budget Totals</b>	<b>Budget for 100 countries</b>	<b>Budget per country</b>	<b>No. of additional countries</b>	<b>Additional GEF request</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,092,083</b>	<b>260,921</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,609,208</b>

## Annex 4

Global  
Environmental  
Facility

Convention on  
Biological  
Diversity

September 13, 2004

Dear Madam/Sir:

Re: Requests for Financial Assistance from the GEF in Accordance with  
Paragraph 21(b) of Decision VII/20 of the Conference of the Parties  
to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Reference is made to paragraph 21(b) of decision VII/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which provides the following eligibility criteria for funding by the Global Environment Facility of certain activities related to the Cartagena Protocol:

“All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States amongst them, and countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance of the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.”

In order to facilitate the implementation of this decision, the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Environment Facility have agreed that the following process should be followed by Parties to the Convention that are not yet Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and that wish to request funding from the GEF for the activities described in paragraph 21(b) of decision VII/20:

1. In order for a developing county or a country with an economy in transition that is a Party to the convention but not to the Cartagena Protocol to be eligible for financing from the financial mechanism for activities described in paragraph 21 (b) of decision VII/20, the Party must confirm in writing its political commitment to become a Party to the Protocol upon completion of the activities to be funded.
2. Such written confirmation should be in the form of a letter from the Minister responsible for biosafety issues within the Government addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A copy of the letter should also be sent to the CEO/Chairman of the GEF.

3. A copy of the letter submitted to the Executive Secretary should be attached to the project proposal submitted to an Implementing Agency of the GEF for funding.
4. The project proposal should be endorsed by both the national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the national operational focal point of the Global Environment Facility. If a country has not yet designated a national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the project proposal should be endorsed by the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
5. Countries that have received funding from the Global Environment Facility for activities referred to in paragraph 21 (b) of decision VII/20 will, on an annual basis, inform the Executive Secretary of the Convention of actions being taken towards becoming Parties to the Protocol.
6. The Executive Secretary will annually compile the national information that he receives and will distribute the compiled information to the Parties to the CBD and to the GEF Council.

A sample written confirmation of political commitment to become a Party to the Protocol is attached to the present letter.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Leonard Good  
Chief Executive Officer/Chairman  
Global Environment Facility

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity

Attachment: Sample letter

cc: National Focal Points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the  
Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity  
GEF Focal Points, Implementing Agencies, STAP and Trustees

## SAMPLE LETTER

Date:

Mr Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
393 St. Jacques, Suite 300  
Montreal, Quebec  
Canada H2Y 1N9

Dear Executive Secretary,

### **Re: Political Commitment to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

I wish to refer to decision VII/20, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting, which requires that any developing country or country with an economy in transition that is a Party to the Convention but not yet a Party to the Cartagena Protocol provide written assurance of political commitment to become a Party to the Protocol in order to access funding from the Global Environment Facility for biosafety project activities referred to in paragraph 21(b) of the decision.

In this regard, I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of (country name) to confirm that (country name) intends to become a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by the time of completion of such activities that are financed by the GEF.

The Government of (country name) will inform annually the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the actions it has taken towards becoming a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Such information will be submitted to the Executive Secretary before the end of each calendar year.

Signed by Minister  
(Minister responsible for biosafety issues)

cc: Leonard Good, CEO/Chairman, GEF