



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

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September 28, 2010

Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller  
GEF Agency Executing Coordinator  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Ms. Niamir-Fuller:

I am writing in response to the numerous requests we have recently received from UNEP for milestone extensions for the presentation of 12 Medium Size Projects in biosafety totaling \$10.8 million in GEF resources. The list includes the following projects: GEFID 3636 (Cambodia), 3651 (Cameroon), 3045 (Ghana), 3333 (Indonesia), 3730 (Iran), 3646 (Lesotho), 3040 (Liberia), 3649 (Mozambique), 3644 (Namibia), 3655 (Nigeria), 3631 (Panama), and 3211 (Tajikistan).

I have carefully reviewed the explanations and rationale UNEP is providing for the extensions for these overdue projects which range from two to 18 months past the submission due date. Part of the GEF4 reforms included a commitment to Council and our client countries that we would cut the project cycle by improving delivery times of FSPs and MSPs. The lagging performance that we see in this group of biosafety proposals reflects badly on this commitment, particularly for projects of such limited size and scope and where UNEP has a comparative advantage.

Hence, I am very concerned by the failure on the part of UNEP to deliver these projects in a timely manner. I expect all of these projects to be submitted to the GEFSEC no later than December 15, 2010 and those that are not submitted by that date will be automatically cancelled.

Sincerely,

cc: Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director; GEF Trustee