



Ministerio del Medio Ambiente
Despacho Ministra
República de Colombia

Bogotá D.C.,

Mrs.
KARIN SHEPARDSON
Global Environment Coordinator
Latin American and Caribbean Region
The World Bank
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Washington, DC 20433 USA
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Dear Mrs. Shepardson:

The Ministry of the Environment, on behalf of the government of Colombia and acting as the GEF National Focal Point, support the implementation of the project '*Integrated National Adaptation Program to Global Climate Change on Colombia's High Mountain Ecosystems, Caribbean islands, and Human Health*' (INAP), considering that its objective and expected results are consistent with national priorities identified in Colombia's Environmental Policy. We therefore endorse this project as a GEF supporting enabling activity for vulnerability and adaptation assessment, in accordance with decisions 5/CP.7 and 6/CP.7 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the particular emphasis promoted on country-driven stage II adaptation activities since the adoption of the Marrakesh Accords.

The development objective of the INAP project is to support Colombia's efforts to define adaptation measures and policy options to meet the expected impacts from climate change. This will be achieved through: a) improvements to the knowledge base (documenting trends and impacts); b) assessing the expected consequences of GCC on strategic ecosystems; and c) identifying and assessing measures and policy options to adapt to the effects of climate change. Consequently, it is important to highlight that in view of its objective, the project should not be understood as the GEF enabling activity aimed at supporting the preparation of Colombia's Second and subsequent National Communications (NC) to the UNFCCC.

In this sense, we would like to point out the following:

- Article 4 and Article 12 of the Convention state that each Non-Annex I Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties (a) a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties; b) a general description of steps taken or envisaged towards formulating, implementing, publishing and regularly updating national and, where appropriate, regional programs containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, and (c) any other



information it considers to be relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication.

- In conformity with Decision -/CP.8¹ containing the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I, these guidelines shall, among others, (a) assist non-Annex I Parties in meeting their **reporting** requirements under the Convention, (b) encourage the **presentation of information** in a consistent, transparent and comparable, as well as flexible manner, taking into account specific national circumstances and (c) serve as policy guidance to the operating entity of the financial mechanism for the timely provision of financial support needed by developing country Parties in order to meet the **agreed full costs** of complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, as referred to in decisions 11/CP.2, 2/CP.4, 2/CP.7 and 6/CP.7. Therefore, the enabling activities for the preparation of a country's NC are intended to allow for the reporting of information on key findings of vulnerability and adaptation assessments.
- This arrangement is also confirmed by the COP in its decision -/CP.8 providing additional guidance to the GEF as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention². Paragraph 1(a), numeral (i) of the referred decision establishes that the "Global Environment Facility....should, on matters relating to [NCs], provide financial resources at an appropriate level to cover the requirements of the guidelines....for the preparation of [NCs], as well as capacity-building activities related to the preparation of National Communications pursuant to decision 2/CP.7, and in particular paragraphs 1(c), 3, 4 and 5 of decision 6/CP.7".

In turn, the provisions of both decision 2/CP.7 and 6/CP.7 evidence that the preparation of NCs and the execution of vulnerability and adaptation assessments are separate areas for action. On the one hand, the framework for capacity building contained in the Annex to decision 2/CP.7 presents a scope of needs and areas for capacity building³ and manifestly lists 'national communications' and 'vulnerability and adaptation assessments' as distinct activities. On the other, paragraph 1 of decision 6/CP.7 resolves that the GEF should finance those activities identified in paragraph 7 of decision 5/CP.7 on adaptation, which specifically include 'supporting enabling activities for vulnerability and adaptation assessment'.

In light of the above-mentioned UNFCCC stipulations, the enabling activity allowing for the implementation of the INAP project constitutes a GEF supporting enabling activity for vulnerability and adaptation assessment. Nevertheless, the INAP's final results will be reported as part of the information to be included in Colombia's future NCs given their importance and in accordance with the recently adopted guidelines for NC preparation. Given the 4 year-expected duration of the INAP project, one of the objectives in the enabling activity for Colombia's NC2 will be presenting a progress report on the ongoing activities related to INAP. The project for Colombia's NC2 will be duly presented for financial support to the GEF, following the recently approved guidelines by the COP8.

¹COP8 decisions are currently unnumbered due to their recent adoption. At present, this particular decision can be found in document FCCC/SBI/2002/L.26/Add.1

²This decision can be found in document FCCC/SBI/2002/L.20

³Capacity building, according to paragraph 14 of the aforesaid Framework of the Marrakesh Accords, 'should assist developing countries to build, develop, strengthen, enhance and improve their capabilities to achieve the objective of the Convention through the implementation of the provisions of the Convention', among which Article 4 and 12 commitments.



Libertad y Orden

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We trust that, in conformity with the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties for the UNFCCC and in line with the recently adopted Beijing Declaration, the GEF will facilitate new and additional resources for the execution of the project under examination.

Cordially,

CECILIA RODRIGUEZ GONZALEZ-RUBIO
Minister

GPN/GCT/mpcastillo/mrodriguez