



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Poland**
Department for United Nations
Economic and Social Affairs

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DESONZ/4448-5/99

Dear Mr. El-Ashry,

In my capacity as GEF Political Focal Point I would like to endorse project proposal entitled „Poland - Geothermal and Environment Project (Podhale)”. The project will reduce air pollution caused by local coal - fired boilers, including carbon dioxide emissions. Thus the project will contribute to meeting the commitments of Poland under the Convention on Climate Change. Reducing other than carbon dioxide pollution will help to protect the fragile mountain ecosystem contributing also to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Reduction of greenhouse gases emission and nature protection are among the priorities of Poland's environmental policy. Therefore, the project enjoys full support from the Polish authorities.

At the same time I wish to turn your attention to the fact that the project has been presented to Poland's authorities at the latest stage thus not allowing to undertake the whole procedure for the endorsement of the project. According to that procedure project proposal requires recommendation by Poland's GEF Steering Committee which is verifying whether the project meets national environmental policy criteria. That procedure requires intensive consultation and the Steering Committee is often not in a position to submit such a recommendation at the very short notice.

I have been informing GEF Secretariat on various occasions on that procedure and I will be grateful if its requirements could be met in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Wojciech Ponikiewski
Director of the Department
GEF Political Focal Point

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