

Date: 19 May 2009
Ref: MC/AT
cc: LG/GdK/MND/ED

Dear Ms. Barbut,

Subject: GEF support to capacity building for UNCCD monitoring

Reference is made to a submission of a project document entitled "Enabling paradigm shift on monitoring and assessment within the UNCCD" which is submitted by UNEP/GEF. The project rationale was prepared in consultation with the UNCCD secretariat and addresses one of the important issues emerging from the 10-year Strategy of the UNCCD, as adopted by COP 8. As you know, Parties of the UNCCD are moving towards enhancing UNCCD implementation and its performance, using an indicator based approach leading to more transparency and credibility of the process and hence to a more credible accounting of global environmental benefits accrued by the implementation of the Convention.

While Parties are prepared to invest in a continuous and more systematic monitoring of UNCCD implementation, affected developing country Parties have requested the international community through the Executive Secretary of the Convention to extend capacity building for the establishment of monitoring systems at national, sub-regional or regional level. The proposed project aims at undertaking a scientifically rigorous and credible assessment of the performance of the implementation of The Strategy in 2010 through capacity building for monitoring and implementing agreed upon performance indicators used by UNCCD Parties. The approach adopted introduces a paradigm shift from how UNCCD reporting was done in the past and constitutes an excellent opportunity to enhance and develop synergies at national, sub-regional level as regards environmental monitoring pertinent to all Rio Conventions.

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The project constitutes therefore a mainstay for future UNCCD implementation and would be discussed at the forthcoming ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) as one of the building blocks towards a more credible and predictable UNCCD implementation, if endorsed by the GEF Council or its secretariat. I would like to lend my voice to the call for international support for UNCCD capacity building and would kindly ask you to consider this project for the July work programme of the GEF. Rest assured that the implementation of the project would enhance the portfolio of the Land Degradation Focal Area of the GEF and probably would pave the way for a concerted effort at international level to enhance monitoring of the UNCCD.

Best regards

Yours sincerely,



Luc Gnacadja
Executive Secretary

