



**DEPARTMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001 Tel: (27-12) 310 3911 Fax: (27-12) 322 2682
Fedsure Forum Building, North Tower, cor. Van der Walt and Pretorius Streets, Pretoria
www.environment.gov.za

Tel: 012 – 310 3828 Fax: 012 – 320 0025 E-mail: Zfakir@ozone.pwv.gov.za

Mr Maurice Biron
IFC/GEF SME Program
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC
20433

Fax No.: (202) 974 4349

Dear Mr Biron

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL: ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS FINANCE
PROGRAM (EBFP) FOR GEF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

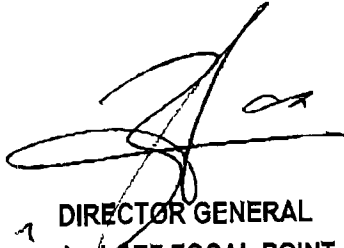
I hereby wish to inform you that South Africa in principle endorses the project proposal on Environmental Business Finance Program (EPBP) for GEF Council consideration.

We are quite pleased to learn that South Africa has been chosen as one of the countries that this project will be implemented in. We hope this program will benefit a number of SME's in the environmental sector. This is a good project and the lessons learnt from this project could be replicated in other areas throughout the country at a larger scale. However, we feel that the outcomes of the project should respond directly to our national priorities with regard to Small Medium Enterprises and Black Economic Empowerment.

In your letter you indicated that over the upcoming months you plan to visit our Department to fully explain the nature of the program and to seek guidance and support on the restructuring and implementation of an appropriate financing and technical assistance program for our country. We hope your visit to our country will provide more insight on the project.

We look forward to working with your organisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line across the middle.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
And GEF FOCAL POINT
DATE: 11/08/03