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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** ORG 1/7/3
**DATE:** 7 June 2013
**CIRCULAR:** 13/34

**TO:** GEF Operational Focal Points (Pacific Island Countries Only)

**SUBJECT:** **GEF Council Documentation Available Online**

Dear GEF Operational Focal Points,

Please be advised that all relevant documentations required for the upcoming GEF Council meeting (17-20 June 2013) in Washington DC can now be accessed via http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/454.

You may wish to note the following information that will be tabled in Council:

**Global Scenario**

- The total GEF resources presented to Council for approval under the GEF Trust Fund amount to $371.27 million, which includes $339.72 million in GEF project/program grants and $31.54 million in Agency fees.

- Co-financing associated with the proposed work program amounts to $2 billion. Each dollar of GEF grant is matched on average by $6 in co-financing. Government contributions account for 45 percent of the entire co-financing, followed by contributions from the GEF Agencies and the private sector with each accounting for around 19 percent. The remainder comes from bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations and NGOs.

- This work program to be presented at the Council meeting addresses 20 of the 31 GEF focal area objectives set forth in the GEF-5 Programming Document.

- Forty five countries, including 19 LDCs and 22 SIDS, have drawn resources from their STAR allocations that would fund $273 million in biodiversity, climate change and land degradation related projects.

- With the approval of this work program, grant utilization of STAR allocated resources in the three focal areas under GEF-5 will reach 76 percent for biodiversity, 66 percent for climate change and 68 percent for land degradation.

**Pacific Implications**

- The Programme Framework Document (PFD) for the Ridge to Reef Programme[1] for 14 Pacific Island Countries is been submitted for approval. The Total budget reflected in the GEF website is USD 82,925,300 with co-financing of USD 333,047,000. You may access the following documents via URL provided below

  - Ridge to Reef Programme Framework Document: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/gef_prj_docs/GEFProjectDocuments/Multi%20Focal%20Area/Regional%20-%20(5395)%20-%20R2R%20Pacific%20Islands%20Ridge-to-Reef%20National%20Priorit/PFD%20PIMS%205217%20Pacific%20R2R%20Resubmission%2019April2013_rvABD%20final%20version%20v2.pdf.

  - Ridge to Reef Review Sheet: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/gef_prj_docs/GEFProjectDocuments/Multi%20Focal%20Area/Regional%20-%20(5395)%20-%20R2R-%20Pacific%20Islands%20Ridge-to-Reef%20National%20Priori/5395-2013-04-26-164921-GEFReviewSheetGEF5pfd.pdf

  - Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) Review on the Ridge to Reef PFD: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/gef_prj_docs/GEFProjectDocuments/Multi%20Focal%20Area/Regional%20-%20(5395)%20-%20R2R-%20Pacific%20Islands%20Ridge-to-Reef%20National%20Priori/5395-2013-05-15-170013-STAPReviewAgency.pdf

  - The total Agency fees divided among UNDP, FAO and UNEP is USD 7,463,280 throughout the lifespan of the Ridge to Reef Project. The use of these fees are guided by the GEF Rules and Guidelines for Agency Fees and Project Management Costs which you may access via http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.39.9_Fees%20and%20Project%20Management%20Costs,%20October%2020,%202010.pdf. Kindly refer to Paragraphs 19-21 for specific activities that your IAs may use their fees on to support both regional and national components of the Ridge to Reef.

Yours Sincerely

Kosi Latu
**Acting Director General**

[1] Full Title: Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities: An Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods.