



GEF/C.66/Inf.11  
January 31, 2024

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66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
February 5 – February 9, 2024  
Washington D.C., USA

**SUMMARY OF THE EXTENSIONS GRANTED  
UNDER THE CANCELLATION POLICY**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the most up to date summary of projects for which exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy<sup>1</sup> have been requested and granted by the CEO since the previous report was presented at the 64<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting in June 2023. It is presented to Council outside the usual circulation deadlines to capture the most recent data in advance of the 66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting.
2. The [Project Cancellation Policy](#) was approved by Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting in December 2018. The Policy includes provisions under which countries may formally request that the GEF CEO grant an exception to cancellation deadlines. These exceptions may only be granted in cases of extraordinary events or circumstances beyond the control of the parties (Agency, country), such as war, flood, earthquake or epidemic, or similar circumstances which prevent them from adhering to the business standards established in the Policy.
3. The Policy stipulates that the CEO communicate any exception decision to the Council for information and post the information on the GEF website.

## BACKGROUND

4. The Project Cancellation Policy was formulated to align incentives for timely project preparation and more specifically to dis-incentivize excessive delays between PIF approval and CEO-endorsement/approval of projects.
5. The COVID-19 crisis, however, impacted preparation of some projects from early 2020, in some cases causing delays in project preparation. As a result, in active consultation within the Partnership, the GEF Secretariat introduced a series of measures to increase flexibility and avoid the risk of cancellation. These actions have been developed to mitigate the impact and risks linked to COVID-19 and ensure efficient and effective design and implementation of GEF resources.
6. The first action was a blanket extension of six months of two important deadlines specified in the Cancellation Policy: (i) the 8 and 12-month deadline<sup>2</sup> for submission of CEO Approval/Endorsement requests; and (ii) the 12 and 18-month deadline<sup>3</sup> for final CEO Approval/Endorsement. This extension was provided for all stand-alone projects and child projects under Programs for which PIFs/PFDs were approved from the beginning of GEF-7 to June 3, 2020.
7. The second action was described in the Council document [‘The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership’](#) (GEF/C.59/11) for Council consideration at its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2020. That

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<sup>1</sup> OP/PL/02

<sup>2</sup> Depending on project type. 8-month deadline applicable to Medium-Sized Projects. 12-month deadline applicable to Full-Sized Projects.

<sup>3</sup> 12-month deadline applicable to Medium-Sized Projects. 18-month deadline applicable to Full-Sized Projects.

document reported on information received through surveys of Agencies, consultations with countries and discussions at the Fall 2020 Agency retreat. The document also summarized the measures Agencies and Countries had introduced to address the challenges encountered during the pandemic.

8. In this context, the Council approved an exceptional and time-bound authority for the GEF CEO to grant longer extensions to the Project Cancellation Policy, for a total of up to 24 months and for all projects types, effective from December 11, 2020 (approval date of the Summary of the Chair - [GEF/C.59/Summary](#)) through the final day of the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting (June 18, 2021)<sup>4</sup>.

9. As of the date of this report, the Secretariat received a total of 272 requests for extension. Of those, 46 were reported during the 60<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.60/Inf.10](#)), 32 were reported during the 61<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.61/Inf.12](#)), 115 were reported during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.62/Inf.10](#)), 14 were reported during the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF/C.63/Inf.13](#)) and 54 were reported during the 64<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting ([GEF.C.64/Inf.08](#)) .

10. During the period reported in this document (June 23, 2023 – January 31, 2024) 11 requests for extension, invoking the force majeure provision of the Project Cancellation Policy, due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been received by the Secretariat. Out of the 11 received requests, all have been granted by the GEF CEO under the provisions of the Policy and Council decisions referenced herein; as a result, no projects that requested extension have been automatically cancelled under the terms of the Policy. Out of the 11 requests for extension received, 4 projects have been endorsed or approved by the CEO since. Table 1 below provides the list of the 11 projects for which such exceptions have been received.

11. Agencies were notified by the Secretariat in October 2023 that, effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, blanket requests for extension based on COVID-19 would no longer be considered, except in exceptional cases, with 4 weeks advance notice prior to cancellation deadline.

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<sup>4</sup> GEF/C.59/Summary, para 86

**Table 1 - Projects that have requested extension from 23 June 2023 to 31 January 2024**

| GEF ID | Project Title  | Agency | Country      | Focal Area           | Type | New Deadline Date for actual CEO endorsement / approval |
|--------|--|--------|--------------|----------------------|------|---|
| 10837  | Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM in Zambia   | UNEP   | Zambia       | Chemicals and Waste  | FSP  | 12/18/2023 (CEO Endorsed)                               |
| 10846  | GEF GOLD+ Mali: Enhancing the formalization and mercury reduction in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Mali   | UNIDO  | Mali         | Chemicals and Waste  | FSP  | 12/18/2023 (CEO Endorsed)                               |
| 11043  | Nation child project under the GEF Africa Mini-grids Program_ Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)   | UNDP   | Congo DR     | Climate Change       | MSP  | 3/31/2024 (CEO approved)                                |
| 11011  | Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems | UNDP   | Global       | International Waters | FSP  | 6/22/2024   |
| 10997  | Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of Comoros  | UNDP   | Comoros      | Climate Change       | FSP  | 6/23/2024   |
| 10874  | Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in and around the Day Forest National Protected Area   | UNDP   | Djibouti     | Multi Focal Area     | FSP  | 2/23/2024 (CEO Endorsed)                                |
| 10996  | Developing National Capacity of Turkmenistan through Improving Regulatory Environment towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Building Sector                       | UNDP   | Turkmenistan | Climate Change       | FSP  | 2/23/2024   |

|       |  |      |           |                  |     |           |
|-------|--|------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----------|
| 10866 | Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change | CAF  | Argentina | Land Degradation | FSP | 3/22/2024 |
| 10913 | Protection of biodiversity and sustainable land-use in conservation landscapes in South Sulawesi, Gorontalo and East Nusa Tenggara   | UNEP | Indonesia | Multi Focal Area | FSP | 6/23/2024 |
| 10917 | Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia  | CAF  | Colombia  | Climate Change   | FSP | 4/22/2024 |
| 10998 | Innovative approach to protect ouadis through the promotion of non connected mini-grid solar energy in 3 municipalities (Mao, Kekedena and Nokou) of Kanem region-Chad                                   | UNEP | Chad      | Multi Focal Area | FSP | 6/30/2024 |