

GEF EVALUATION OFFICE

Country Portfolio Evaluation Country Environmental Legal Framework

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Purpose

In all Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE) conducted by the Office a contextual analysis is conducted to provide the context in which the GEF projects have been developed and implemented and if applicable, describe how GEF projects influenced the development of the national environmental policy and legal framework in a country. This analysis is contained in a technical document annexed to the CPE report, the Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELf).

The CELf is based on information of a country's environmental legislation and environmental policies (plans, strategies and others) as well as of the international agreements/conventions signed by the country. This information is presented and analyzed through time, since the start of GEF activities to date. In those countries where the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) has been conducted, relevant information on the environmental legal framework may already be available.

Process

The preparation of the CELf usually follows the general steps here below:

- (1) Becoming familiar with the GEF mandate, policies and strategies globally and the evolution of GEF support and activities in the country;
- (2) Becoming familiar with the questions on relevance included in the country-specific TORs for the CPE;
- (3) Conducting a literature review using relevant sources of information regarding the evolution of the legal system, major environmental laws and regulations in the country;
- (4) Analyzing how the GEF support and activities evolved through time and how does it fit in and/or it eventually influenced the formation of the environmental legal framework in the country. This analysis is eased by the country's NCSA report, if available, and is to be conducted - once the information collected is synthesized - in a timeline diagram, which allows to more fully eliciting an historical perspective.

More specifically, the CELf document describes the major laws and regulations within the GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change/energy, international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants, and ozone if applicable) since the beginning of GEF activities in the country to date. A CELf timeline diagram helps visualizing the evolution of these major laws

and regulations with reference to the approval and completion of the GEF projects and activities in the country. The diagram also correlates GEF projects and activities with the country's signature and ratification of relevant international agreements/conventions, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, Stockholm Convention, and other relevant international and regional treaties (and soft international law, e.g. Agenda 21). A description of the operational framework within which the government prepares, implements and enforces these policies, laws and regulations is also included.

CELF Timeline Diagram

The purpose of the CELF Diagram is to visualize the context in which the GEF projects have been developed and implemented, and allow an assessment of the eventual contribution of the GEF through time analysis. For example, a GEF-funded enabling activity to formulate the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) is followed by government approval, or a GEF-funded enabling activity in biosafety is followed by the promulgation of the national biosafety law.

The horizontal axis of the diagram contains the main dates in which the rest of the information will be put, while the vertical axis of the diagram includes the short name of key country laws, policies, strategies and action plans, as well as the main GEF projects and activities. How to best situate information in the diagram would mainly depend on the amount of information which is important to display. The use of different colors and forms or separation of information per focal area may assist in adding clarity to the diagram.

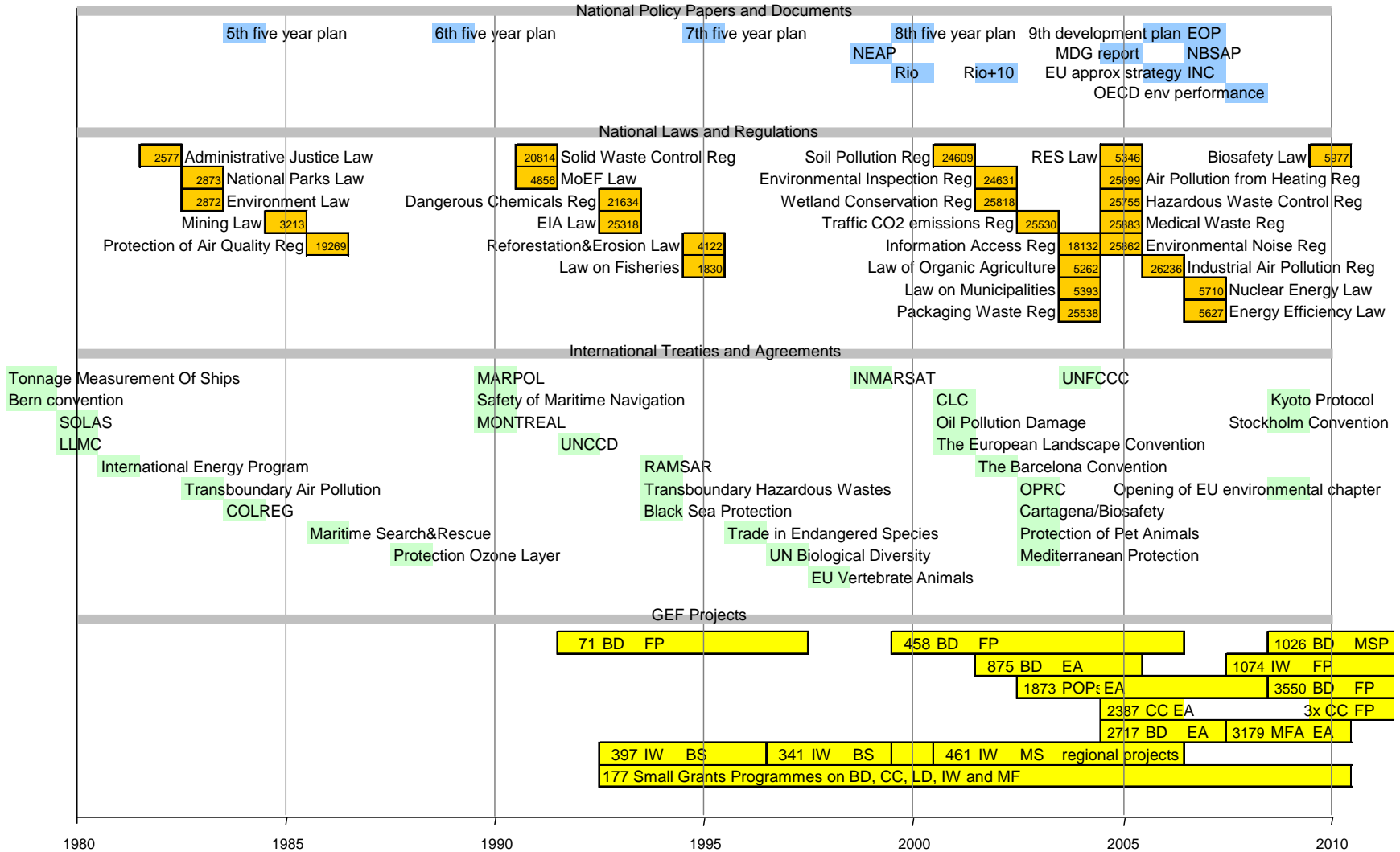
Excessive crowding of information to display is to be avoided while developing the diagram.

Suggestions on how to avoid this include:

- Developing a diagram with multi-annual instead of annual time intervals;
- Inserting in the diagram only the most significant GEF projects and activities, instead of the whole portfolio;
- Inserting only the laws, policies, plans and strategies that deal with the same issues of GEF projects under analysis.

Examples of clear CELF diagrams are presented in the next page.

Timeline - Turkey CPE (this example was prepared with Excel)



OECS Cluster CPE (this example uses Visio Drawing, a Microsoft Program)

