



# World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series

The Records of the Global Environment Facility

NUMBER 087  
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The World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series contains exhibits originally published on the Archives' external website beginning in 2002. When the Archives' website was transferred to a new platform in 2015, it was decided that older exhibits would be converted to pdf format and made available as a series on the World Bank's external database, [Documents & Reports](#).

These exhibits, authored by World Bank archivists, highlight key events, personalities, and publications in the history of the World Bank. They also bring attention to some of the more fascinating archival records contained in the Archives' holdings.

To view current exhibits, visit the [Exhibits](#) page on the Archives' website.

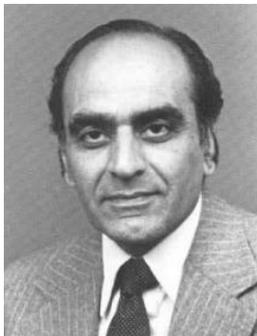


On December 12th, 2015, delegates from 196 countries signed a historic global climate change agreement in Paris, France. The Global Environment Facility, or GEF, along with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), were named the financial mechanisms of the Paris agreement. That the GEF was given this role was no surprise: the GEF has been engaged in similar activities for more than twenty years.

Established in October 1991 as a pilot program within the World Bank Group, the GEF was designed to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmental sustainable development by providing grants and concessional funding to support development projects with environmental benefits. In 1994, the GEF moved out of the World Bank and became a permanent and separate institution. However, the World Bank continued to serve as its Trustee and provide administrative services.



*Cover of GEF folder.*



*Moeen Qureshi*

Because of its continued affiliation with GEF, the World Bank has custody of GEF archival records. The World Bank Group Archives preserves these records and makes them available to researchers in line with approved policies. On our [Archives Holdings website](#), you can find a description of the [Records of the Global Environment Facility](#). This collection, or fonds, contains records relating to the activities of GEF, including project monitoring and assessment, policy and standards development, and corporate affairs and liaison.

The Global Environment Facility fonds contains only the records created or received by GEF after it began operations. Researchers interested in records that provide information on the creation of GEF and the Bank's role in its establishment can find this information in other sources. For example, the subject files of Moeen Qureshi in the [Moeen Qureshi files sub-fonds](#) of the [Individual Staff Members fonds](#). Qureshi served as World Bank Senior Vice President, Operations (SVPOP) in the years leading up to the creation of GEF and was active in its planning and negotiations. His records contain revealing correspondence, memoranda, and reports from 1989 to 1991 discussing these activities.



A particularly interesting example from Qureshi's records is presented below. By late 1989, the World Bank as well as France and other European countries determined that there was sufficient support for a meeting of potential donors for a new environment fund. A meeting was planned for March 15 and 16, 1990, in Paris. It was the Bank's responsibility to encourage attendance by representatives of 18 prospective donor countries. The records sampled below provide a view of the work that went into drafting the invitation that Bank President Barber Conable ultimately disseminated. The suggestions made by Qureshi and Cofinancing Vice President Koji Kashiwaya exhibit the type of sensitivity and thoroughness necessary for this type of communication.

The records of the Global Environment Facility are just one avenue towards learning about how development and the environment intersect. Visit our [Archives Holdings site](#) to search for other records related to the topic and then visit our [Access to Information page](#) to submit a request or to communicate with an archivist. Also, check out our new [World Bank Group Archives website](#) and find out about other resources available through the World Bank and the Archives.

THE WORLD BANK

<b>ROUTING SLIP</b>		Date 1/24/90	
<b>OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT</b>			
Name		Room No.	
Messrs. <u>Qureshi</u>			
Thalwitz			
	To Handle		Note and File
	Appropriate Disposition		Prepare Reply
	Approval		Per Our Conversation
	Information		Recommendation
<p>Remarks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This is a draft letter Mr. Conable is planning to send out next week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have any comments?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Marianne Haug</p>			
From			

THE WORLD BANK  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.

BARBER B. CONABLE  
President

DRAFT

January 24, 1990

Dear Mr. Minister:

During 1989, a number of proposals for an environmental fund to address issues of global concern were made. More specific proposals were made by certain Governments at the Development Committee and during the Bank/Fund Annual Meeting in September. Consultations with donors were undertaken on an informal basis in recent weeks in order to establish how they would wish to see these ideas pursued. It appears that there is broad agreement on the notion of providing additional concessional resources to support environmental actions with global implications, where the current funding arrangements do not provide borrowing countries with sufficient incentive to do so. During these consultations, five categories of global issues were identified: energy efficiency and conservation, transboundary pollution, tropical forestry, biodiversity, and technology transfer (as in the case of CFC substitution). There is, of course, a diversity of views among the donors on the relative priorities of these areas.

In order to discuss these issues further in a forum which brings together interested donors, as well as the representatives of UNDP and UNEP, since they are key actors in this area, we intend to hold a preliminary meeting on March 15-16, 1990 in Paris to which your Government is invited. I have asked Mr. Ernest Stern, Bank's Senior Vice President for Finance, to chair these discussions. A list of donors and agencies invited to this meeting is attached. Further details and a discussion paper will be sent to you shortly.

I urge your Government's participation in these discussions since the Bank needs broad-based guidance in shaping its own strategy. Would you please let Mr. Stern know the composition of your Government's delegation, which we assume in some cases may include representatives of more than one ministry. I look forward to the start of these discussions and to your continued support of the World Bank Group in this area of vital concern.

Sincerely,

Mr.  
Ministry of  
...

Attachment  
cc: ED

MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING  
Paris, March 15-16, 1990

Governments Invited

Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany, Federal Republic  
Italy  
Japan  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Saudi Arabia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States

Agencies Invited

UNDP  
UNEP

THE WORLD BANK

January 25, 1990

Mr. Kashiwaya:  
Mr. Vergin

Could you please let me have  
your reactions.

MOEEN A. QURESHI  
Senior Vice President, Operations

THE WORLD BANK

<b>ROUTING SLIP</b>		Date 1/24/90
<b>OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT</b>		
Name		Room No.
Messrs. Qureshi		
Thalwitz		
<input type="checkbox"/>	To Handle	<input type="checkbox"/> Note and File
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Disposition	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Per Our Conversation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation
<p>Remarks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This is a draft letter Mr. Conable is planning to send out next week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have any comments?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Marianne Haug</p>		
From		

THE WORLD BANK  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.

FRANK B. CONABLE

Several donors have also  
contributed technical assistance  
front funds which have  
reported and will continue  
to support important  
DRAFT environmental initiatives  
January 24, 1990 is a number  
of borrowing  
countries.

Dear Mr. Minister:

During 1989, a number of proposals for an environmental fund to address issues of global concern were made. More specific proposals were made by certain Governments at the Development Committee and during the Bank/Fund Annual Meeting in September. Consultations with donors were undertaken on an informal basis in recent weeks in order to establish how they would wish to see these ideas pursued. It appears that there is broad agreement on the notion of providing additional concessional resources to support environmental actions with global implications, where the current funding arrangements do not provide borrowing countries with sufficient incentive to do so. During these consultations, five categories of global issues were identified: energy efficiency and conservation, transboundary pollution, tropical forestry, biodiversity, and technology transfer (as in the case of CFC substitution). There is, of course, a diversity of views among the donors on the relative priorities of these areas.

In order to <sup>also</sup> discuss these issues further in a forum which brings together interested donors, as well as the representatives of UNDP and UNEP, since they are key actors in this area, we intend to hold a preliminary meeting on March 15-16, 1990 in Paris to which your Government is invited. I have asked Mr. Ernest Stern, Bank's Senior Vice President for Finance, to chair these discussions. A list of donors and agencies invited to this meeting is attached. Further details and a discussion paper will be sent to you shortly.

I urge your Government's participation in these discussions since the Bank needs broad-based guidance in shaping its own strategy. Would you please let Mr. Stern know the composition of your Government's delegation, which we assume in some cases may include representatives of more than one ministry. I look forward to the start of these discussions and to your continued support of the World Bank Group in this area of vital concern.

Sincerely,

global

Mr.  
Ministry of  
...

Attachment  
cc: ED

MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING  
Paris, March 15-16, 1990

Governments Invited

Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany, Federal Republic  
Italy  
Japan  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Saudi Arabia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States

Agencies Invited

UNDP  
UNEP

The World Bank  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.

DEEN A. QURESHI  
Senior Vice President, Operations

January 26, 1990

Ms. Haug:

Marianne:

Draft Letter on Global Environmental Fund

I suggest a couple of changes. The insert is designed to take into cognizance the contribution of grant funds by several donors who have already contributed or pledged grant funds for technical assistance:

1) Replace the fourth sentence of the first paragraph, which reads: "It appears that ....." with "It appears that there is broad agreement on the notion of providing additional concessional resources to support environmental actions with global implications. While several donors' contributions of technical assistance grant funds have supported, and will continue to support, important local environmental initiatives in the recipient countries, this does not provide these countries with sufficient incentive to address environmental issues with international implications."

2) Please insert "also" in the 3rd line of the 2nd paragraph, i.e. "....since they are also key actors in .....".

*Mullen*

cc: Mr. Kashiwaya

900128/006

THE WORLD BANK / IFC / MIGA

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 1990

TO: Mr. Moeen A. Qureshi, OPNSV

FROM: Koji Kashiwaya, CFSVP

(S)

EXTENSION: 70795

SUBJECT: Draft President's Letter on Global Environmental Fund

1. I think that a sentence should be inserted that refers to the contribution of grant funds by several donors in support of technical assistance for environmental projects. Otherwise, this letter may cause unnecessary negative reactions by donors who have already contributed or pledged grant funds for technical assistance.

2. I suggest the following amendment to the draft. Replace the fourth sentence of the first paragraph, which reads "It appears that ....." with "It appears that there is broad agreement on the notion of providing additional concessional resources to support environmental actions with global implications. While several donors' contributions of technical assistance grant funds have supported, and will continue to support, important local environmental issues of the borrowers, this does not provide borrowing countries with sufficient incentive to address global environmental issues."

*print corrections* → *with international implications*

*Learn from Pham ... "do" ...*

cc: Messrs. Vergin, Bock, Taylor

*Thank him 7/12 20 paragraph*