



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.56/09/Rev.02

December 11, 2019

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56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
June 11 – 13, 2019  
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 14

**RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.56/09/Rev.01, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

Highlights reported include:

- (i) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in 14<sup>th</sup> CBD Conference of the Parties (COP), meetings and events; on ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
- (ii) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC negotiations including COP 24; updates on the implementation of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for 2018 to 2022; on ratification, and progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports; and an annex with GEF's responses to decisions from UNFCCC COP 24.
- (iii) UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 17) to UNCCD.
- (iv) Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol: Updates on ratifications, accessions, national reporting and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol.
- (v) Minamata Convention: Updates on signatures, GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 2, ratifications and on related meetings and events for the Minamata Convention.
- (vi) Summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: The Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Green Climate Fund.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol).
2. The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The document covers the period of November 2018 to April 2019.

## **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

3. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat took part in: (i) the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD; (ii) Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena Protocol; and (iii) Nagoya Protocol MOP 3, from November 13 to 29, 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
4. Parties issued guidance to the GEF at COP 14, welcoming the successful GEF-7 replenishment and the reflection of COP guidance in the GEF-7 strategy, and inviting the GEF to continue its support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Specific consolidated guidance was also provided on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. The GEF delegation participated actively in deliberations and high-level events, as presented in the below section.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

5. The number of Parties under the CBD remains unchanged at 196 since the last Council meeting. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.
6. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety remained at 171. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=1>.
7. The total number of ratifications, acceptance, approval or accession have increased to 116, since the last Council meeting, for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, including Tuvalu, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Serbia, Malaysia, Estonia, and Nepal as new Parties. Eritrea also deposited its instrument of ratification and is

expected to become Party in the due course. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya Protocol may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>.

8. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety added Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) to its membership of 43 Parties. Italy also deposited its instrument of ratification and is expected to become Party in the due course. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=3>.

### **National Reporting**

9. The Convention Secretariat has received 53 sixth national reports (online). The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

### **COP 14 and Outcomes**

10. COP 14 was held in November 13 to 29, 2018 in Sham El Sheikh, Egypt. The GEF CEO and Chairperson led the GEF delegation, and staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process.

11. At COP 14, Parties adopted the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet. In the Declaration, governments commit to working across sectors to mainstream biodiversity, by integrating biodiversity values in legislative and policy frameworks, including development and finance plans, by phasing out and reforming subsidies, by strengthening ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and by promoting circular economy, among other actions.

12. Parties also adopted a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which the Convention seeks to adopt in 2020. The framework is a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature.” Governments invited the UN General Assembly to convene a summit on biodiversity in 2020 to underscore the urgency of action to support a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

13. The following guidance and decisions of relevance to the GEF were issued by Parties:

- (a) Parties welcomed the successful conclusion of the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and noted that the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy and programming directions reflected the guidance adopted by the COP at its thirteenth meeting.
- (b) Parties invited the GEF to continue its support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner. Specific consolidated guidance was also provided to the GEF and focused on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

- (c) COP 14 welcomed the GEF's process to review and upgrade its environmental and social safeguards and the related systems of its agencies, as well as its guidance to advance gender in its new gender implementation strategy.
  - (d) COP 14 considered the sixth overall performance study of the GEF as a good basis for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as well as the related submissions received from Parties, and invited the GEF to take several actions to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.
14. Guidance received, along with GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 1 of Annex I to this document.
15. The GEF CEO participated in the opening of the African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity: "Land and Ecosystem Degradation and Restoration: Priorities for Increased Resilience in Africa"; as well as the opening of the COP 14 High-Level Segment Panel Discussion on "The Importance of Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet."
16. In addition, the GEF held five side events that attracted more than 500 people in total and covered a wide array of topics, such as:
- (a) GEF-7 Programming Directions and the GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy;
  - (b) Food systems, Land Use, Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program;
  - (c) Trends and Strategies to Tackle Illegal Wildlife Trade;
  - (d) Participation of Local Communities in the Wildlife Economy; and
  - (e) Biodiversity Mainstreaming Journeys of Costa Rica and South Africa.
17. The GEF delegation was also active in a wide array of panel discussions including, among others, the Business and Biodiversity Forum; Sustainable Infrastructure; Trans-frontier Conservation in Southern Africa; Access and Benefit Sharing for Sustainable Development; Mexico's Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol: Measures and Tools; Building Capacity beyond 2020; the Future of Protected Areas; the Sustainable Cities Impact Program; Satoyama Initiative Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes for Biodiversity and Livelihoods; and Gender and Biodiversity-Learning Tools.
18. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in the formal opening of the Ros Mohamed National Park visitor's center, which benefited from a GEF project that focused on improving the financial sustainability of Egypt's entire protected area system, implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



19. GEF Secretariat staff held bilateral discussions with more than 50 GEF stakeholders including GEF recipient countries to review GEF-7 project concepts and to discuss the GEF-7 program directions and the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.

20. GEF Secretariat staff participated in two discussions held by the Government of Egypt: (a) the Egyptian Initiative “A coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ecosystems degradation”; and (b) the “Action Plan for Land and ecosystem degradation and restoration: Priorities for increased resilience in Africa,” which was agreed as part of the African Ministerial Summit referenced above.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

21. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the Regional Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia and the Pacific from January 28-31, 2019, in Nagoya, Japan and took part in a panel that provided reflections and inputs to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework based on implementation experiences from the last decade.

## **UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

22. During the reporting period, the GEF participated in COP 24 from December 2 to 15, 2018. COP 24 took place in conjunction with the third part of the first session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1-3) and the fourteenth session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 14).

23. At COP 24, the GEF highlighted work to respond to COP 23 guidance and efforts to support the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as the outcome of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations and a summary of GEF-6 programming.

24. Parties provided guidance to the GEF, which welcomed the seventh replenishment of the GEF, while recognizing with concern the decrease in the allocation to the climate change focal area. Parties also acknowledged the increased integration of climate change priorities into other focal areas under GEF-7 and looked forward to the projected delivery of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

25. Parties welcomed pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and confirmed that the LDCF and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) shall serve the Paris Agreement. Parties requested the GEF to continue to support the operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and urged and requested the GEF to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports under the Paris Agreement. On policies, Parties acknowledged the updated co-financing policy and welcomed the process to develop improved fiduciary standards and the establishment of the private sector advisory group.

26. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat further reinforced its communication with the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) in LDCs and with GEF Agencies, through various outreach channels and consultations, to facilitate the implementation of the new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF. GEF Secretariat staff continued with consultations with LDCs that had projects in the LDCF pipeline in GEF-6. The consultations offer opportunities to: (i) seek more synergistic and harmonized programming with the GEF Trust Fund or other sources; and (ii) re-evaluate whether and how their existing pipeline proposal(s) remain viable in terms of alignment with the national plan for GEF-7.

27. Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the Wallonia Region of Belgium pledged a total of \$70.3 million to the LDCF at the 25<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council held in December 2018. Germany also reiterated the finalization their contribution payment before the end of 2019.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

28. As of April 1, 2019, there are 197 Parties to the Convention. On November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement entered into force. By April 1, 2019, 195 Parties have signed, and 185 Parties ratified the agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9444.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php).

### **National Reporting and Contributions**

29. The following is the total number of National Communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of April 1, 2019:

- (vii) Initial National Communications: **152**
- (viii) Second National Communications: **135**
- (ix) Third National Communications: **64**
- (x) Fourth National Communications: **5**
- (xi) Fifth National Communications: **1**
- (xii) Sixth National Communications: **1**

30. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website at: <https://unfccc.int/node/17005/>.

31. A total of 45 first Biennial Update Reports (BURs), 25 second BURs and four third BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of April 1, 2019. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/national-communications-and-biennial-update-reports-non-annex-i-parties/biennial-update-report-submissions-from-non-annex-i-parties>.

## **COP 24 and Outcomes**

32. COP 24 was held from December 3 to 14, 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The GEF CEO led the GEF delegation, and staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process.

33. Among its major outcomes, the COP produced a package to operationalize the Paris Agreement by adopting the Katowice Climate Package, thereby completing tasks associated with the Paris Agreement Work Programme. The Katowice Climate Package included key decisions on mitigation, adaptation including adaptation communication, technology, and the global stocktake. On transparency, Parties decided on the modalities, procedures, and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support. On finance, Parties deliberated on the identification of information to be provided for ex-ante finance transparency, and a new collective quantified goal on finance.

34. The GEF received guidance from COP 24, which, along with GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 2 of Annex I to this document. Key decisions are summarized below:

- (xiii) Parties welcomed the seventh replenishment of the GEF, recognized with concern the decrease in allocation to the climate change focal area, and acknowledged the increased integration of climate change priorities into other focal areas and the impact programs in the GEF-7, as well as the increased focus on innovation and enhanced synergies;
- (xiv) Parties highlighted the importance of enhancing country ownership in the impact programs and requested the GEF to ensure its policies and procedures for consideration and review of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner and to continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as effectiveness, efficiency and engagement of the GEF partnership, and to consider participation of additional national and regional entities as appropriate;
- (xv) Parties acknowledged the updated policy on co-financing and welcomed the GEF Council's decision to begin the process of developing improved fiduciary standards, including anti-money-laundering and counterterrorism finance policy;
- (xvi) Parties welcomed the inclusion of support for the CBIT in GEF-7 and requested the GEF to continue to fund a diversity of countries and regions;
- (xvii) Parties invited the GEF to enhance information in its reports on the collaboration between the climate technology and finance centers and the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (xviii) Parties welcomed the establishments of the private sector advisory group and encouraged a balanced composition in terms of gender and geographical coverage;

35. The GEF will, in its report to COP 25, elaborate on the steps taken to address the guidance provided.
36. During the COP, the GEF gave an intervention on GEF support for mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, capacity building and enabling activities to date during the Stocktake on Pre-2020 Implementation and Ambition event, as well as an update on National Communications and BURs. The GEF delegation also participated in contact groups and other sessions as requested to provide briefings to Parties and to respond to questions on GEF activities, its support to Parties and its responses to COP guidance.
37. The GEF CEO participated in the Third High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance, where she spoke of the need for urgent transformation and the successful GEF-7 replenishment.
38. Two official GEF side events were organized during the COP: “Transformational changes required for a 1.5°C world”; and “Adaptation: Moving from Today’s Lessons to Tomorrow’s Transformation.” The GEF also co-organized several events with CEO engagement, including with the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) on “Accelerating Action and Global Support on Adaptation” and with the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) on “Taking Nature-based Solutions to Scale for Resilience.”
39. The GEF and GCF co-hosted a side event on “Strengthening Collaboration for Supporting Countries in Implementing the Paris Agreement,” co-chaired by the GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director ad interim. The CEO and the delegation also participated in the second Annual Dialogue with Climate Finance Delivery Channels, organized by the GCF at the margins of the COP. This event was intended to provide a forum for the exchange of views and for the exploration of new areas of cooperation among providers of climate finance.
40. Furthermore, the GEF Partnership Pavilion hosted a series of events, briefings, launches and receptions co-organized with many of the GEF’s implementing agencies and other partners.
41. Events coverage and news articles related to GEF participation in COP 24 are available on the GEF website: <http://www.thegef.org/events/gef-unfccc-cop24>

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

42. The GEF Secretariat participated in the following meetings and provided updates on the GEF replenishment, programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building among other topics:
- (xix) 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (virtual participation), March 21-22, 2019, Bonn, Germany;
  - (xx) Joint GEF-GCF National Dialogue, February 12-14, 2019, Vientiane, Lao PDR;

- (xxi) 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technology Executive Committee, March 25-27, 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark;
- (xxii) 13<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board Meeting of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) on March 27, 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## **UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

43. The seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 17) to UNCCD convened from January 28-30, 2019 in Georgetown, Guyana. The GEF Secretariat personnel participated actively in the deliberations.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

44. As of October 31, 2018, the UNCCD was ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union.

### **CRIC 17 and Outcomes**

45. CRIC 17 to UNCCD convened from January 28-30, 2019 in Georgetown, Guyana. Approximately 200 participants attended the session. The CRIC was preceded by a Training Fair on January 25-26, 2019, with about 120 participants.

46. CRIC 17 marked the first review meeting to take place since the adoption of the new UNCCD Strategic Framework (2018-2030). A significant part of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the Secretariat's analysis of reports submitted by parties and other entities, and harnessing delegates' views and perspectives with respect to the monitoring and reporting process for the five Strategic Objectives of the UNCCD.

47. Parties to the CRIC engaged in three interactive dialogues exploring progress in implementing voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, sharing initial experiences in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) adopted at COP 13 in 2017, and discussing emerging innovative financing opportunities to combat land degradation.

48. Parties expressed appreciation during the interactive dialogue for GEF's support in the context of specific land degradation project funding, the coherence between the country enabling activities, the Global Support Program, the LDN Target Setting Program and other projects financed by set-aside resources. The GEF-financed tool called "Trends.Earth," which is a project to develop a Land Degradation Monitoring Project Toolbox, implemented by Conservation International/Vital Signs, raised the scientific profile of the work done under UNCCD.

49. The CRIC adopted three draft documents containing conclusions and recommendations from the meeting to be forwarded to COP 14, to be held in September 2019, of which the following are of relevance for the GEF:

- (xxiii) Welcomes the continuous support from the GEF for UNCCD implementation and notes the increase in the allocation of land degradation focal area during GEF-7;
- (xxiv) Highlights emerging innovative financing opportunities to combat land degradation: GEF, LDN Fund, and the GCF;
- (xxv) Requests the UNCCD Secretariat to support countries on all aspects of data-harmonization, verification, making available high spatial resolution datasets, develop an interactive and geospatial data management platform that runs together with “Trends.Earth” and Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS);
- (xxvi) Requests the Global Mechanism to strengthen its links with the GEF for facilitating (i) the process of countries accessing GEF-7 resources for UNCCD implementation, and (ii) the allocation of resources related to the enabling activities under the GEF to support countries’ obligations to the Convention;
- (xxvii) Requests the secretariat and inviting all financial and technical partners to ensure that the financial resources for the continuation of the GEF’s Global Support Programme, and in particular the next umbrella programme will reach countries in a timely manner;
- (xxviii) Requests the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to work with partners to promote coherence and joint Rio convention work on reporting, considering lessons learned by each and the costs and benefits of action and inaction; and
- (xxix) Requests financing partners such as the GEF to further support countries activities towards achievement of LDN targets including developing LDN Transformative Projects and Programs (TPPs) and facilitating and mobilization of adequate financial resources from various sources.

50. Parties also welcomed with appreciation the efforts of the GEF and the GCF for inclusion of gender aspects in projects and programs related to desertification, land degradation and drought. They emphasized the need for capacity-building in this regard, particularly for the development to gender indicators and monitoring frameworks for gender mainstreaming into land related national policies and plans.

51. Decisions of relevance to the GEF received at COP 13 in 2017, along with GEF’s responses to date, is contained in Table 3 of Annex I to this document.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

52. At the margins of the CRIC, the GEF Secretariat representatives had meetings with representatives of the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to discuss the roll-out of

the GEF-7 programming, including the Sustainable Dryland Landscapes Impact Program, which is closely related to the implementation of LDN targets.

53. The GEF delegation met with the UNCCD focal point of India to discuss a high-level UNCCD COP 14 initiative on LDN implementation, called the New Delhi Initiative. The initiative will connect LDN implementation with land restoration, multiple environmental benefits, job creation, livelihoods and increased incomes for smallholders. India will host the UNCCD COP 14 in New Delhi from September 2–13, 2019.

## **STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

54. The GEF Secretariat and the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Convention Secretariat were engaged in various consultations for the conclusion of the GEF-6 programming, and roll-out of the GEF-7 programming.

55. The GEF Secretariat submitted the Executive Summary of its report to the 9<sup>th</sup> COP to the Stockholm Convention on October 23, 2018. The full report was submitted, after Council approval by mail, on April 24, 2019. The report is available online:

<https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-9th-meeting-conference-parties-stockholm-convention-pops>

56. COP 9 to the Stockholm Convention, COP 14 to the Basel Convention, and COP 9 to the Rotterdam Convention was held back to back from April 29 to May 10, 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of the meetings was "Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste." The GEF delegation participated actively in the COPs and supported the negotiation process.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

57. During the reporting period, no additional countries have ratified the Stockholm Convention. The number of Parties to 182. Thirty-one new national reports were submitted by Parties to the Convention. The GEF responses to COP 8 decisions are also presented in Table 4 of Annex I to this document. The status of ratifications is available at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### **National Implementation Plans**

58. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavor to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of November

2018, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and the NIP Updates are as follows:

<i><b>NIP Phase</b></i>	<i><b>Number of Parties that have submitted</b></i>	<i><b>Change since last report</b></i>
Initial NIP	170	2
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	80	7
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	70	4
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	36	6
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	20	7
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	3	-

59. The NIPs submitted online can be retrieved from the Stockholm Convention website: <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Overview/tabid/565/Default.aspx>.

### **COP 9 and Outcomes**

60. COP 9 to the Stockholm Convention took place from April 29 to May 10, 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland, along with COP 14 to the Basel Convention and COP 9 to the Rotterdam Convention. GEF staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process.

61. Decisions and guidance of relevance to the GEF will be presented in the next Council document, as they fall under the next reporting period.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

62. During the reporting period, the GEF secretariat participated in the four regional preparatory meetings for the 2019 BRS COPs:

- (a) Asia-Pacific: March 4-6, 2019 in Suzhou, China; organized with support from the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Asia and the Pacific;
- (b) Africa: March 18-20, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya; organized with support from the SCRC Kenya;
- (c) Central and Eastern Europe: March 26-28, 2019 in Brno, Czech Republic; organized with support from the SCRC Czech Republic;
- (d) Latin America and the Caribbean: March 27-29, 2019 in Montevideo, Uruguay; organized with support from the BCRC/SCRC Uruguay.



## **MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

63. The GEF secretariat participated in COP 2 to the Minamata Convention, held November 19-23, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.
64. Among the decisions, the COP adopted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.
65. During the reporting period, six additional countries ratified the Minamata Convention.

### **Signatures and Ratifications**

66. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was opened for signature and ratification in October 2013. As of April 1, 2019, the Convention has 128 signatures, and 108 countries have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

### **COP 2 and Outcomes**

67. The COP adopted the MOU between the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as noted in paragraph 83 of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the work of its second meeting<sup>1</sup>. The MOU contains sections on: definitions; purpose; guidance from the COP; conformity with guidance from the COP; reporting; monitoring and evaluation; cooperation between secretariats; reciprocal representation; amendments; interpretation; entry into effect; and termination.
68. The legal counsels of the Convention and the GEF agree that the MOU can enter effect on the adoption by the GEF Council.
69. The MOU is presented in document GEF/C.56/11 for the approval of the Council.
70. The COP considered the review of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention. The COP decided to request the Convention Secretariat to compile information to be provided by the GEF, the Specific International Programme, parties and other relevant

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the work of its second meeting, UNEP/MC/COP.2/19

sources as identified by Article 13(11) as being necessary for the review and present it with a synthesis to COP3 for consideration. COP 2 did not provide additional guidance to the GEF.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

71. The Executive Secretary ad interim of the Minamata Convention attended the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in December 2018. The Executive Secretary addressed the GEF Council during the session on the relations with Conventions and informed the council about the outcomes of COP 2 and adoption of the MOU.

### **Special Programme to Support Institutional Strengthening**

72. The Special Programme supports institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). It provides complementary resources to the GEF.

73. The Special Programme, which was established by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), is in its third round of applications. As part of the terms of references for the Special Programme board, the GEF is invited as an expert observer to specifically advise the board on complementarity with the GEF funding and to prevent duplication of GEF resources and projects.

74. The GEF Secretariat participated in the fourth Executive Board meeting of the Special Programme, held on January 29-31, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretariat of the Special Programme presented the 24 projects following the review of the internal task team in which GEF participates.

75. Following its discussion, the Executive Board approved 18 projects amounting to \$4.704 million. The approved projects were selected taking into account the project's merits, regional balance and priority to countries with least capacity, and taking into account the special needs of LDCs and small island developing States (SIDS).

### **SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**

76. There were no meetings of the Specific International Program during the reporting period.

### **MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

77. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the Montreal Protocol during the reporting period.

## **ADAPTATION FUND**

78. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. In November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco, the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12) decided to renew the interim institutional arrangement for an additional three years, from May 30, 2017 to May 30, 2020.

79. At the Katowice Climate Change Conference in December 2018, through decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, it was decided that the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement under the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) with respect to all Paris Agreement matters, effective January 1, 2019.

80. Parties also decided that once the share of proceeds becomes available under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the Adaptation Fund shall no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, Parties decided that the Adaptation Fund shall continue to receive the share of proceeds, if available, from activities under Articles 6, 12 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

81. The CMP also decided to request the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB): to consider the rules of procedure of the AFB, the arrangements of the Adaptation Fund with respect to the Paris Agreement and any other matter so as to ensure the Adaptation Fund serves the Paris Agreement smoothly [...] and to make recommendations to the CMP at its fifteenth session with a view to the recommendations being forwarded to the CMA for consideration at its second session.

82. In addition, through decision 9/CMA.1 related to guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the CMA decided to encourage the GCF, the GEF, the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Center and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building [...] to continue channeling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communications and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communication.

83. At its thirty-third meeting in March 2019, the AFB considered the request made by the CMP through decision 1/CMP.14, and decided to request the AFB Secretariat to prepare for inclusion of in the draft addendum to the report of the Board to CMP 15, possible AFB's consideration and recommendations on the tasks mandated by decision 1/CMP.14, and submit them to the AFB for consideration at its meeting in October 2019. The AFB also decided to request the secretariat, in preparation of the AFB's consideration and recommendations, to consult with the UNFCCC Secretariat, the interim trustee (the World Bank) and the GEF Secretariat on relevant matters. The AFB Secretariat has begun the consultation with the GEF Secretariat on these matters.

84. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for an intersessional review cycle and for the thirty-third meeting of the AFB during the reporting period. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of April 1, 2019, the AFB has approved 84 concrete projects amounting to \$564 million in total. As of December 31, 2018, funds available to support funding decisions were \$273.5 million.

85. The GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. In addition, both secretariats have exchanged ideas on opportunities of gender-related collaboration such as holding joint gender trainings and jointly participating in a gender-related events.

86. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the AFB Secretariat have coordinated closely to review and provide comments on any issues that may arise in connection with the ongoing process of the second phase of the World Bank's Trust Fund reform. The reform process is reviewing issues and opportunities for reform relating to the wide range of Trust Funds at the World Bank, including Financial Intermediary Funds, while respecting the governance and operational requirements for funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF.

87. The AFB Secretariat also attended the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council as an observer.

88. The respective communications units of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchange updates and ideas periodically about potential communications areas or projects for collaboration. The GEF Secretariat communications team also provided an introduction to the Adaptation Fund team during COP 24 to a group of journalists from the InterNews Earth Journalism Network that covers COP through a climate change fellowship program to enhance quality and quantity of climate reporting. The Adaptation Fund team met with the journalists and shared information on its own work in their respective countries, the value of the conference and importance of adaptation.

89. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), which had supported the AFB Secretariat in disseminating the terms of reference for the recruitment of the Chair of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Fund, through its network of professionals, supported the launch of the TERG's work. This included meetings between the newly appointed Chair and the Director of the GEF IEO, as well as with IEO staff.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

### Green Climate Fund

90. The GEF and the GCF Secretariats continued to engage in efforts to enhance collaboration during the reporting period. Regular GCF/GEF operational teleconferences were organized to update each other on programming and policy developments, and to advance discussions on the coordinated engagement pilot.

91. The GCF and GEF Secretariats continued joint efforts to roll out the coordinated engagement pilot at the country level, where interested countries would seek to explore planning and programming of GEF and GCF resources to enhance synergies and maximize benefits and impacts.

92. Following the Informal Ministerial Dialogue held in June 2018 during the GEF Assembly, the two secretariats wrote jointly to countries that expressed interest in participating in the coordinated engagement pilot, requesting them to initiate a bilateral dialogue to explore potential next steps. These included: Albania, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Micronesia, Namibia, Togo, and Tonga. Additional countries have also expressed informal interest.

93. Preliminary discussions on joint programming were held with a number of countries at the margins of COP 24 in December 2018. These countries are expected to develop their country programming and planning document in 2019, in collaboration with the GCF and GEF Secretariats. Both secretariats are working with countries to identify suitable joint programming possibilities, taking into consideration the different project cycles, agencies, and national focal points for the two funds.

94. A joint GEF-GCF National Dialogue was also held in Lao PDR in February 12-14, 2019. The two funds presented their policies, project cycle and approach to programming at the dialogue, attended by 150 people and chaired all three days by the Vice Minister. Several positive institutional coordination measures were agreed, including the establishment of a GEF/GCF Committee to jointly discuss proposals for both funds and country programming needs, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) GEF/GCF Coordination Mechanism, and other technical level dialogues.

95. The two Secretariats continued to exchange information on proposals submitted for the Work Program as well as on the NAP preparations and implementation, to minimize overlapping support and to enhance coordination. Projects presented for the June 2019 LDCF/SCCF work program consideration reflect outcomes of such consultations. For example, the LDCF project in Lao PDR will, among other objectives, mainstream resilience in the forestry sector to complement GCF mitigation support. The baseline is REDD+ readiness funding by the GCF, which would establish relevant inter-ministerial climate change coordination mechanisms that the LDCF project would built upon. The LDCF project in turn will mainstream resilience into

large GCF investments planned for climate change mitigation in the northern provinces, targeting a landscape approach to bring interventions to scale.

96. The two Secretariats collaborated on a number of events at the UNFCCC COP 24 in December 2018, including the following:

- (a) The GEF and GCF co-hosted a side event on “Strengthening Collaboration for Supporting Countries in Implementing the Paris Agreement” on December 12, 2018. The event offered an opportunity for stakeholders that expressed interest in the pilot initiative to share their views on opportunities and challenges in national efforts for Paris Agreement implementation, and how they can be addressed through enhanced linkages and synergies between the GEF and the GCF. It was co-chaired by the GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director ad interim.
- (b) The GEF CEO and the delegation participated in the second Annual Dialogue with Climate Finance Delivery Channels, organized by the GCF on December 13, 2018 at the margins of the COP. This event was intended to provide a forum for the exchange of views and for the exploration of new areas of cooperation between providers of climate finance.

97. The GCF Secretariat personnel attended the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and 25<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council meetings in December 2018 as an observer.

98. A representative of the GEF Secretariat participated in the First Consultation Meeting for the First Replenishment of the GCF, held in Oslo, Norway on April 4-5, 2019.

99. The GEF CEO and new GCF Executive Director held a bilateral meeting to discuss cooperation at the margins of the 2019 World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2019. The two heads agreed to further strengthen cooperation at the secretariat level and through coordinated engagement pilot.

100. Upon request from the GEF Secretariat, the GCF Secretariat personnel reviewed expressions of interest under the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program as an external expert of the review committee in March 2019.

### **UN Forum on Forests**

101. The GEF continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in the reporting period, contributing to the implementation of its tasks, notably those related to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) in the perspective of the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Forum on Forest (UNFF 14) held in May 2019. In particular, the GEF participated in the CPF retreat on December 10-11, 2018 in Rome, Italy.

102. During the reporting period, the GEF continued to develop with UNEP and CIFOR the CPF Joint Initiative: “Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes”, aiming at scaling up finance

and leverage additional donor funding and private investment for sustainable forest management and deforestation-free agriculture.

### **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

103. GEF staff participated in meetings of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held from April 22 to May 3, 2019 in New York. As part of these meetings, the GEF, along with the GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme, organized a side event on Indigenous Peoples as Stewards of the Global Environment. This event highlighted how support for indigenous peoples and local communities' (IPLC) groups is an effective strategy to protect the global environment. The event featured presentations from GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme Indigenous Peoples Fellows and the work of the GEF GOLD program in Guyana as well as reflections from the GCF on their lessons learned thus far.

104. GEF staff also participated in a "Thematic discussion on Conservation," which was a follow-up to an International Experts Group Meeting on "Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". In these discussions, the GEF acknowledged the difficulties posed by the requirements and timelines of large multilateral and bilateral donors relative to capacities and processes of IPLC organizations. The GEF also recognized the need for greater recognition and diffusion of positive models where working with and supporting IPLCs promotes the achievement of international commitments of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Sustainable Development Goals.

### **SAMOA Pathway**

105. From December 2018 into early 2019, GEF staff continued to participate in meetings of the UN Inter-Agency Consultative Group for SIDS. Building on its support for the SAMOA Pathway process and in response to a request from the UN for inputs that would inform the 2019 Secretary-General's Report on Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Mauritius Strategy of Implementation for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, the GEF was among the agencies that provided information in early 2019 on funding for SIDS.

**ANNEX I: DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES TO THE CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, AND MINAMATA CONVENTION AND GEF RESPONSES**

**Table 1: Decision Adopted by CBD COP 14 (Decision 14/23) and GEF Responses**

<b>CBD COP 14 Decision</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
<i>Welcomes</i> the successful conclusion of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and <i>expresses its appreciation</i> for the continuing financial support from Parties and Governments for carrying out the tasks under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in its remaining years, and for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its first two years;	No response needed.
<i>Notes</i> that the biodiversity programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Trust Fund reflect the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, which includes the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism and the four-year framework of programme priorities (July 2018 to June 2022), as well as further guidance; <sup>2</sup>	No response needed.
<i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility's process to review and upgrade its environmental and social safeguards and the related systems of its agencies, as well as its guidance to advance gender in its new gender implementation strategy, noting that the results will be applicable to all projects funded by the Facility, and <i>invites</i> the Facility to inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms in this important process;	The process to review and update the GEF's policy on environmental and social safeguards considered the Voluntary Guidelines on Safeguards in Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms in its development. The updated policy, approved by the GEF Council at its 55 <sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2018, is substantially consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines. The Secretariat is currently facilitating a process to review Agencies' compliance with the minimum standards contained in the updated policy.
<i>Notes</i> the ongoing review and updating against criteria of best practice of the Global Environment Facility's policy on safeguards and rules of engagement with indigenous peoples;	The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018 (GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01). The updated policy is aligned with international best practice, including with respect to engagement with indigenous peoples and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

<sup>2</sup> See decision XIII/21.



CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 consistent with the GEF-7 Programming Directions and the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in line with the consolidated guidance provided in decision XIII/21, to continue to provide all eligible Parties with support for capacity-building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) On issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies;</li> <li>(b) On the use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, on the basis of experiences and lessons learned during the Project on Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and using resources under the biodiversity focal area;</li> </ul>	The GEF continues to support country driven projects that aim to build capacity in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy including the ABS Clearing House taking into account the current use of the Portal housed at the CBD Secretariat.
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue making funds available to assist eligible Parties in implementing the Cartagena Protocol, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;</li> <li>(b) To support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol;</li> <li>(c) To support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the</li> </ul>	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy, including the fourth national reports.

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
achievement of compliance with the Protocol;	
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and other relevant funding agencies to provide funds for regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<i>Expresses its appreciation</i> for the financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility for a number of eligible Parties to support the preparation of their interim national reports on the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, and notes the importance of timely availability of financial resources to support the preparation and submission of national reports by the reporting deadline;	No response needed.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements, and to make funds available to this end;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<p><i>Considers</i> the sixth overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility, conducted by the Facility's Independent Evaluation Office and completed in December 2017, as a good basis for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as well as the related submissions received from Parties, and <i>invites</i> the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take the following action in order to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:</p> <p>(a) Continue to improve the design, management, and performance of the sixth-replenishment Integrated Approach Pilots, the seventh-replenishment impact programmes, other programmatic approaches, and multi-focal area projects</p>	<p>(a) As part of its ongoing support to the implementation of the GEF-6 IAP and the formulation and development of the GEF-7 IPs, and other programmatic approaches, the GEF is committed to improving all elements of design, management and implementation performance.</p> <p>(b) The GEF continues to make GEF-eligible countries aware of the processes and procedures that fall under the responsibility of the Conflict Resolution Commissioner.</p> <p>(c) The GEF remains committed to ensure sustainability of all its projects and</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>in addressing drivers of environmental degradation;</p> <p>(b) Promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism;</p> <p>(c) Further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;</p> <p>(d) Continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;</p> <p>(e) Include the following information in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:</p> <p>(i) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy;</p> <p>(ii) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies;</p>	<p>programs, and in particular GEF's support to sustainable financing of protected area systems, which remains a priority investment area in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>(d) The GEF continues to improve the efficiency and accountability of the GEF partnership using existing accounting and management mechanisms.</p> <p>(e) The GEF will include the following elements in the next report to the COP: a) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy; and, b) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Executive Secretary to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>Since the COP, the GEF has been actively engaged with the CBD on the transition to the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and GEF aims to continue this collaboration.</p>

**Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 24 and CMA 1, SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions, and GEF Response to Date**

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<b>COP 24 DECISIONS</b>	
<b>Decision 1/CP.24, Preparations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement</b>	
Paragraph 8: <i>Welcomed with appreciation</i> the pledges and announcements of Parties, including pledges to the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund, and of international financial institutions, which provide further clarity to and predictability of climate finance flows to 2020.	The GEF appreciates voluntary contributions pledged to the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund to support climate adaptation.
<b>Decision 4/CP.24, Report of the Standing Committee on Finance</b>	
Paragraph 14: <i>Requested</i> the Standing Committee on Finance, in preparing on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, for consideration by the Conference of Parties, starting at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020), and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, starting at its third session (November 2020), to collaborate, as appropriate, with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the subsidiary and constituted bodies, multilateral and bilateral channels, and observer organizations.	The GEF continues to work closely with the Standing Committee on Finance.
<b>Decision 6/CP.24, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility</b>	
Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomed</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and its addendum, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to guidance from the Conference of the Parties.	No response needed.
Paragraph 2:	No response needed.

<sup>3</sup> COP 24 decisions are available on the UNFCCC website: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-24>

<sup>4</sup> CMA 1 Decisions are available on the UNFCCC website: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-1-3>

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<i>Also welcomed</i> the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (July 2018 to June 2022).	
<p>Paragraph 3:  <i>Recognized with concern</i> the decrease in allocation to the climate change focal area, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, compared with the sixth replenishment.</p>	<p>Through a reinforced focus and enhanced efficiency using synergistic programming, the GEF expects to deliver 1.5 billion metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> eq in greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions in GEF-7. This GHG reduction volume is double the GEF-6 corporate target, despite a 36 percent decrease in overall funding for this focal area in GEF-7 compared to GEF-6. The GEF-6 target for GHG emission reduction benefits has been exceeded by 189 percent. The GEF-7 target will be achieved through both focal area investments and Impact Programs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4:  <i>Urged</i> all Parties that have not made pledges for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to do so as soon as possible.</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5:  <i>Acknowledged</i> the increased integration of climate change priorities into other focal areas and the impact programmes in the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, as well as the increased focus on innovation and enhanced synergies with other focal areas.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to focus on innovation, synergies, and integration of climate change priorities, and will provide an update in its report.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6:  <i>Highlighted</i> the importance of enhancing country ownership in the impact programmes of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.</p>	<p>The importance of enhancing country ownership is recognized by the GEF. On November 15, 2018, correspondence was sent to all GEF Operational Focal Points inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) to participate in the GEF-7 Impact Programs. Each EOI required endorsement by the GEF Operational Focal Point, confirming the country's interest in participating in the Impact Program as well as the amount of STAR resources the country intended to allocate to the specific Impact Program.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7:  <i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review</p>	<p>The GEF continues to follow its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.</p>

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner.	
<p>Paragraph 8:  <i>Looked forward</i> to the projected delivery of greenhouse gas emission reductions in the seventh replenishment period, which is twice the amount planned for the sixth replenishment;</p>	<p>The GEF is monitoring the progress towards achieving the target of delivering 1.5 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2eq</sub> in GHG emission reductions during GEF-7 and continues to report on the progress made through the GEF Corporate Scorecard presented at each GEF Council.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:  <i>Acknowledged</i> the updated policy on co-financing of the Global Environment Facility, which sets out an ambition for the overall portfolio of the Global Environment Facility to reach an increased ratio of co-financing to its project financing.</p>	<p>The GEF is monitoring the progress in the implementation of the updated policy on co-financing. Relevant information is included in annual report to the COP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10:  <i>Recognizes</i> that the Global Environment Facility does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programmes.</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11:  <i>Welcomes</i> the inclusion of support for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, which enhances predictability of funding for the Initiative.</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12:  <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to manage the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to fund a diversity of countries and regions, taking into account each country's capacity, in line with priorities of support as contained in the programming directions of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.</p>	<p>In line with the Paris Agreement and its decision, all developing country Parties have access to the CBIT, upon request. Per the Council Approved CBIT Programming Directions, "the CBIT will seek to fund a diversity of countries and regions, taking into account each country's capacity. Proposals will be prioritized based on demonstrated responsiveness to Paris Agreement transparency requirements under Article 13. Proposals will also be prioritized for those countries that are in most need of capacity-building assistance for transparency-related activities, in particular small island</p>

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p>developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs).”<sup>5</sup></p> <p>As of April 15, 2019, the GEF has supported CBIT projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa: 14 projects with \$18.5 million</li> <li>• Asia: 7 projects with \$7.4 million</li> <li>• Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 7 projects with \$8.9 million</li> <li>• Latin America and the Caribbean: 14 projects with \$19.2 million</li> <li>• Global: 4 projects with \$7.2 million</li> </ul>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to enhance the information in its reports to the Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of the collaboration between the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer's climate technology and finance centres and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide information to the Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of collaboration between the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer's climate technology and finance centres and the CTCN in its annual report to the COP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement, of the Global Environment Facility Partnership, and to consider the participation of additional national and regional entities, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The GEF Council has taken note of the GEF-7 policy recommendation requesting the Secretariat continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement of the GEF Partnership. The GEF Secretariat will report on its findings at the 57<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in the Fall of 2019, which will be included in its report to COP.<sup>6</sup></p>
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Welcomes</i> the establishment of the private sector advisory group.</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>

<sup>5</sup> GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.50/06.

<sup>6</sup> GEF, 2018, [Strengthening the GEF Partnership](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/08.

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
Paragraph 16: <i>Encourages</i> a balanced composition of the private sector advisory group in terms of gender and geographical coverage.	Gender and geographical coverage have been key considerations of the private sector advisory group.
Paragraph 17: <i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility Council's decision to begin the process of developing improved fiduciary standards, including anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism finance policy and requests the Global Environment Facility to include updates on this work in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session (December 2019).	The GEF will include updates on this work in its report to COP 25.
Paragraph 18: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to review and, if necessary, update or adopt policies for preventing sexual harassment and the abuse of authority with the aim of protecting the staff of the Global Environment Facility secretariat as well as its partner organizations against unwanted sexual advances, preventing inappropriate behaviour and abuse of power and providing guidelines for reporting incidents.	This guidance is noted.
Paragraph 21: <i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.	The GEF's report, covering the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2019, upon approval by the GEF Council.
<b>Decision 8/CP.24, National adaptation plans</b>	
Paragraph 9: <i>Notes</i> that funding has been made available for developing country Parties under the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and that other channels of bilateral, multilateral and domestic support have also contributed significantly to enabling developing countries to advance their work in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans;	No response needed.
Paragraph 11:	No response needed.



UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<i>Welcomes</i> the approval by the Least Developed Countries Fund of 11 proposals, as at 30 September 2018, from the least developed countries for funding for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans amounting to USD 55 million.	
<b>Decision 12/CP.24, Review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network</b>	
<i>Invited</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to consider implementing the relevant recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 <sup>7</sup> above when implementing their further activities relevant to the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;	The GEF has been and will continue implementing the relevant recommendations.
<b>Decision 13/CP.24, Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism</b>	
<i>Took note</i> of the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, constituted bodies under the Convention and other relevant organizations;	No response required.
<b>Decision 14/CP.24, Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention</b>	
Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomed</i> the information provided by the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund on their actions in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism in their annual reports to the Conference of the Parties in response to decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 9.	No response required.
Paragraph 2: <i>Acknowledged</i> the ongoing coordination between the national designated entities for technology development and transfer and the national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund as well as the Global Environment Facility focal points, and <i>encouraged</i> enhanced coordination in this area.	Appreciate the acknowledgement of coordination.

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 1: Notes the management response of the United Nations Environment Programme on the relevant findings and recommendations of the independent review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in response to decision 14/CP.23, paragraph 7.

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 5:  <i>Welcomed</i> the support provided for technology development and transfer by the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund through projects and programmes, including for projects resulting from technology needs assessments.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support technology development and transfer in GEF-7. Supporting innovation and technology transfer is a strategic objective under the respective strategies of the Climate Change Mitigation, as well as the Climate Change Adaptation Focal Areas.</p> <p>Resources from the GEF play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster the development and transfer of technology and innovation.</p> <p>The GEF will continue to support technology needs assessments for LDCs and SIDS through the global set aside under the Climate Change Mitigation Focal area.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6:  <i>Invites</i> developing country Parties to seek support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network to develop and submit technology-related projects, including those resulting from technology needs assessments and from the technical assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for implementation, in accordance with their respective policies and processes.</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to receive country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the technology needs assessments and Climate Technology Centre and Network technical assistance.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7:  <i>Also invited</i> the Climate Technology Centre and Network to consult with the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility to identify ways to enhance information-sharing among national designated entities, national designated authorities and Global Environment Facility focal points.</p>	<p>This is guidance to the Climate Technology Centre and Network. The GEF will respond to invitations to consult with the Climate Technology Centre and Network to discuss the identification of means to enhance information-sharing among national designated authorities and Global Environment Facility focal points.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:  Requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its fifty-third session (November 2020), to take stock of progress in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism with a view to recommending a draft decision on this matter, including on the</p>	<p>This decision is for Subsidiary Body for Implementation.</p>

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
consideration of a conclusion on this matter, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020).	
<b>Decision 15/CP.24, Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building</b>	
<p>Paragraph 2:  <i>Invited</i> Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations in the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2018 and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, technology needs assessments, and other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance developing countries' abilities to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action. The GEF is also a member of the NDC Partnership to this effect.</p>
<b>Decision 16/CP.24, Least developed countries work programme</b>	
<p>Paragraph 4:  <i>Noted</i> that support for the work programme should come from a variety of sources, including the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral sources within their respective mandates, and the private sector, as appropriate.</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<b>CMA.1 DECISIONS</b>	
<b>Decision 3/CMA.1, Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement</b>	
<p>Paragraph 7:  <i>Confirmed</i> that the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<b>Decision 4/CMA.1, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21</b>	
<p>Paragraph 1:  <i>Reaffirms</i> and <i>underscores</i> that, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including to continue to enhance the capacity of developing country Parties in preparing, communicating and accounting for their nationally determined contributions.</p> <p>Paragraph 2:</p>	<p>The GEF continues to make resources available for the preparation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs). In addition, through its CBIT support, the GEF is supporting countries to build capacity to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which includes account for their NDCs.</p>

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<i>Encourages</i> the relevant operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and constituted bodies under the Convention serving the Paris Agreement to continue to provide, within their mandates, support for capacity-building as referred to in paragraph 1 above.	
<b>Decision 9/CMA.1, Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement</b>	
Paragraph 20: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in line with its existing mandate, to consider channeling support to developing country Parties for the preparation and submission of their adaptation communications, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, and/or a national communication;	This decision is noted.
Paragraph 21: <i>Encouraged</i> the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, in line with their existing mandates and governing instruments, to continue channeling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communication;	The GEF, through the LDCF and SCCF, continues to support eligible countries to implement priorities identified in their national adaptation plans and actions.
<b>Decision 11/CMA.1, Matters referred to in paragraphs 41, 42 and 45 of decision 1/CP.21</b>	
<i>Took note</i> of the resources available through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for strengthening developing country Parties' institutional capacity for programming their priority climate actions and for tracking and reporting climate finance.	No response needed.
Paragraph 28: <i>Invited</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, in line with their mandates, to seek to ensure that the provision of financial support to developing country Parties is balanced between adaptation and mitigation activities.	The GEF supports adaptation through the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, and mitigation through the GEF Trust Fund. Efforts are being made to program available resources effectively.

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<b>Decision 18/CMA.1, Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement</b>	
<p>Paragraph 8:  <i>Urged and requested</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, throughout its replenishment cycles, to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports.</p>	<p>This guidance is noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:  <i>Encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, in particular for addressing the challenges in the application process, including by potentially providing an avenue for Parties to apply for funding for more than one report through the same application in each replenishment period.</p>	<p>Currently, some Parties have accessed resources for two biennial update reports as one project. The GEF stands ready to assess the feasibility of this request when there is further clarity on the reporting requirement under Article 13.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10:  <i>Urged</i> the Global Environment Facility and its implementing and executing agencies and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility Council to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, including through better streamlining of the processes related to applications, implementation plans and signing of grant agreements.</p>	<p>The GEF is in the process of assessing possible options.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11:  <i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency as a priority reporting-related need.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support the operation of the CBIT in GEF-7 as a priority reporting-related need through set-aside resources that do not draw on country allocations.</p>
<b>JOINT SBSTA 49 AND SBI 49 CONCLUSIONS<sup>8</sup></b>	
<p><b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b>  Paragraph 23:  The SBSTA and the SBI also invited the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to contribute to the</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from UNFCCC.</p>

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2018/8, available here: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-49#eq-13>

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>3</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>4</sup> / SBI 49 and SBSTA 49 Conclusions	GEF's Response
work of the Koronivia road map and attend the workshops under the Koronivia road map.	

**Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 13 and GEF Response to Date**

<b>UNCCD COP 13 Decision</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
Welcomes the continued support for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3.	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Invites the Global Environment Facility donors to use the findings and lessons learnt, contained in the report on programming and priorities in the affected regions, to inform the programming directions for the focal area in the Seventh Replenishment phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7).	Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.
Encourages developed country Parties and other Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility with the aim of achieving robust Seventh Replenishment, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area.	Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-7, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3.	The GEF support for the Convention in the context of Sustainable Development Goals and target 15.3 was addressed in the context of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.
Also invites the Global Environment Facility, during GEF-7, to continue providing technical and financial support for capacity-building, reporting and voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation.	The GEF support for capacity-building, reporting, and voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and implementation was addressed in the context of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. GEF will continue to provide support, with enhanced level of finance.
Further invites donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the Global Environment Facility and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions during the GEF-7 replenishment process.	Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations by increasing the proportional share allocated to the Land Degradation focal area.
Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral	The GEF will continue to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNCCD COP 13 Decision	GEF's Response
environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	This was addressed in the context of the completed GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties.	The GEF is preparing a report on the implementation of the decision to be submitted to COP 14.
Adopts the attached new Memorandum of Understanding [between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility on Enhanced Collaboration].	Noted.
Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties.	GEF Secretariat and UNCCD Secretariat have made appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties. The GEF Council, during its 54 <sup>th</sup> meeting, authorized the GEF CEO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Council.
Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to implement the attached Memorandum of Understanding.	The GEF stands committed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.



**Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP 8 Decision SC 8/16 and GEF's Response**

The GEF responses to COP 8 decisions, as included in GEF report to Stockholm COP 9, is presented in Table 4 below.

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
<p>1. <i>Requests</i> the principal entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Convention, to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2018–2022 the following priority areas:</p>	
<p>(a) Development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to persistent organic pollutants;</p>	<p>Under the Industrial Program in GEF-7 in the chemicals and wastes focal area the following areas of work will specifically address development, deployment of products, technologies, etc. to replace persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and strive towards widespread use green chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable chemistry/eco-design/strategies encompassing the entire life-cycle of chemicals</li> <li>• Elimination of the use of mercury and POPs in products, including brominated flame retardants and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), as well as the use of mercury in products (as specified in Part 1 of Annex A of the Minamata Convention) by phasing out manufacturing of the pure chemicals and introduction of alternatives in the products with a preference to non-toxic chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Agricultural Program will address this guidance as follows: "This program will address the agricultural POPs and agricultural chemicals that contain mercury or its compounds. Where the chemicals are in use, investments will be made to introduce alternatives with a preference given to non-chemical means.</p> <p>The program will target the reduction of endosulfan, lindane, and highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) that enter the global food supply chain, as well as address end of life, waste, and obsolete POPs and mercury-based agricultural chemicals and management and safe disposal of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals."</p>

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
(b) Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention;	The Agricultural Program in the GEF-7 chemicals and wastes focal area specifically addresses this guidance on dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) as follows: "This program will also address restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the Party in question."
(c) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025;	The Industrial Program includes the following: "Elimination of the use of PCBs in equipment by 2025" which responds to this guidance.
(d) Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028;	The Industrial Program includes the following: "Environmentally sound waste management/disposal of mercury/mercury containing waste or POPs including liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 percent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A of the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028" that responds to this guidance.
(e) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;	<p>The Industrial Program includes the following: "Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to minimize, and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced POPs (UPOPs) and mercury from major source categories included in both the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions including, but not limited to, cement manufacturing, coal fired power plants, various metallurgical processes, waste incineration."</p> <p>The Agricultural Program will deal with safe handling of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals.</p> <p>Both programs directly respond to the introduction of BAT/BEP which minimizes the release of UPOPs from industrial and agricultural processes.</p>
(f) Development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to	The Industrial Program has been designed as follows: "This program is intended to eliminate or significantly reduce chemicals listed under:

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
<p>persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stockholm Convention on POPs;</li> <li>• The Minamata Convention on Mercury;</li> <li>• The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM);</li> <li>• The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.</li> </ul> <p>The Industrial Program supports projects and programs that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemicals and wastes at the end of life;</li> <li>• Chemicals that are used or emitted from or in processes and products.</li> </ul> <p>In support of the above, this program will fund facilitation of enabling environments and strengthening of national legislation and regulatory capacity for meeting obligations with regard to POPs, mercury, and other chemicals listed in the chemicals and wastes conventions, including the removal of barriers to market access of manufacturing of products containing GEF relevant chemicals, introduction of alternatives and reduction of production of the pure chemical using sustainable/green chemistry approaches and that promotes a shift to a circular economy and that supports de-toxifying products and material supply chains."</p>
<p>(g) Review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development</p>	<p>The Enabling Activities (EA) Program includes the following: "This program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support EAs under the Stockholm Convention, including the preparation of national implementation plans (NIPs) and NIP Updates;</li> <li>• Support EAs under the Minamata Convention, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and artisanal and small-scale gold mining national action plans (ASGM NAPs);</li> </ul>

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global monitoring of chemicals related to effectiveness evaluation under the chemical Conventions.”</li> </ul>
<p>2. <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the focal area of chemicals and waste and if appropriate its work on integrated programming as a means of harnessing opportunities for synergy in implementing the Stockholm Convention and contributing to the global efforts to attain the chemicals-and-waste-related Sustainable Development Goals with adequate and sustainable financial resources, taking into account the national priorities of developing countries;</p>	<p>In GEF-6, the portfolio of projects supported synergies across the chemicals Conventions as well as across focal areas. During GEF-6, two programs, 31 full-sized projects (FSPs), and eight medium-sized projects (MSPs) were supported to implement the Stockholm Convention.</p> <p>Among these, seven projects including one of the programs implement both the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention in sectors of relevance for both Conventions such as waste management. There were also nine projects including one program and two child projects from the Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) that were multifocal area and included the climate change, land degradation and international waters focal area.</p> <p>In GEF-7, the chemicals and wastes focal area will support the Sustainable Cities Impact Program (IP) and the Food, Land Use and Restoration IP that are included in the GEF-7 programming strategy. The focal area will help to minimize the inclusion of chemicals covered by the Stockholm Convention in new cities and will support phase out and management of Convention relevant chemicals and their waste in existing infrastructure, products, and materials. The focal area will also, where appropriate, support the phase out of Convention relevant chemicals for the global food supply through integration with the Food, Land Use and Restoration IP.</p>
<p>3. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional agencies from developing countries;</p>	<p>Since the changes to the project cycle in GEF-5, Parties can directly access resources for EAs through the direct access modality. There are also 18 accredited GEF agencies including agencies from developing countries.</p> <p>In GEF-6, nine of the 18 GEF agencies supported Parties to implement their obligations under the Stockholm Convention. Of the nine, three were regional development banks, African Development</p>

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
	<p>Bank (AfDB), West African Development Bank (BOAD), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and one was a national development bank, the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA).</p> <p>The addition of regional and national development banks in the GEF partnership has improved access to diverse capabilities as concluded in the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation Report of the GEF by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). While for the most part the expansion of the GEF agencies has been positive, the overall performance study done for GEF-6 (OPS 6) report also notes that the increase has led to greater competition among agencies and increases the transaction cost to Governments who need to engage with a larger cohort of agencies.<sup>9</sup></p>
<p>4. Encourages the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including through public private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access and do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries seeking access to Global Environment Facility funds;</p>	<p>The GEF Council, at its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2018, approved an updated Policy on Co-Financing.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>The Policy reiterates that “[co-financing is required for all GEF-financed FSPs, MSPs and programs [, and] encouraged for all EAs,” while providing for exceptions in response to emergencies or unforeseen circumstances.</p> <p>Reflecting the GEF’s track record of mobilizing increasing levels of co-financing, the policy raises the level of ambition for the GEF portfolio to “reach a ratio of co-financing to GEF project financing of at least 7:1, and for the portfolio of projects and programs approved in upper-middle income countries (UMIC) and high-income countries (HIC) that are not small island developing States (SIDS) or least developed countries (LDCs) to reach a ratio of investment mobilized to GEF financing of at least 5:1.” The policy affirms, however, that “the Secretariat does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types, or sources of co-financing or investment</p>

<sup>9</sup> GEF IEO, 2017, [OPS 6 Report: The GEF in the Changing Environmental Finance Landscape](#).

<sup>10</sup> GEF, 2018, [Updated Co-Financing Policy](#), FI/PL/01.

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
	<p>mobilized in its review of individual projects and programs.”</p> <p>The implementation of the policy is supported by GEF guidelines.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>Early experience of the implementation of the policy and guidelines<sup>12</sup> is presented in a Council document. The document demonstrates that GEF projects and programs continue to mobilize varying levels of co-financing, and that the GEF remains responsive to the variable co-financing opportunities and constraints of different countries, implementing agencies, and GEF focal areas.</p> <p>Recognizing that the policy introduces new concepts and a higher level of ambition, the Council has requested that the Secretariat monitor its implementation and report on progress, results, and lessons learned at the 59<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in the fall of 2020.</p>
<p>5. Takes note of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda for its fifty-first meeting;</p>	<p>No Action Required.</p>
<p>6. Notes the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries</p>	<p>At its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting, the GEF Council considered options to manage a projected shortfall of resources for GEF-6 as a result of currency fluctuations of the US dollar relative to the other GEF donor currencies.</p> <p>The projected shortfall for the chemicals and wastes focal area was 16 percent as put forward in the Update of GEF-6 Resource Availability.<sup>13</sup> This</p>

<sup>11</sup> GEF, 2018, [Guidelines for implementation of the Co-financing policy](#), Policy: FI/GN/01.

<sup>12</sup> GEF, 2018, [Early experience of the implementation of the Co-financing Policy Guidelines](#), Council Document GEF/C.55/Inf.06.

<sup>13</sup> GEF, 2016, [Update on GEF 6 Resource Availability](#), Council Document GEF/C.51/04.

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
<p>aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;</p>	<p>translates to an indicative allocation of \$467 million.</p> <p>By the end of GEF-6, \$465 million was utilized for programming to support the chemicals and wastes focal area. Within the context of the overall final GEF-6 envelope that was programmed, this amount for the chemicals and wastes focal area was consistent with the balance among the focal areas agreed in the replenishment.</p>
<p>7. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;</p>	<p>Participants in GEF-7 replenishment explored measures to manage currency risks, including: (a) establishing a foreign exchange (FX) hedging program within an overarching risk management framework; and (b) employing a second operating currency, such as EUR. With approximately 96 percent of cumulative funding allocations expected to be disbursed in US dollars, the benefits of employing a second operating currency would be limited.</p> <p>Participants discussed the hedging option in detail, including a proposed FX risk management framework, hedging costs, and collateral requirements. Participants had divergent views on hedging and agreed therefore to defer the decision to a later date, as summarized in the GEF-6 Funding Retrospective.<sup>14</sup></p>
<p>8. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;</p>	<p>The reviews of all GEF projects follows GEF policy and procedures, and review results are sent to the GEF agency and country proponents for feedback and information to ensure transparency and efficiency.</p>
<p>9. Takes note of the following non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address relevant priorities of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade:</p>	
<p>(a) Environmentally sound management of waste consisting of, containing or</p>	<p>The GEF's programming already addresses and funds the environmentally sound management of waste containing or contaminated with POPs</p>

<sup>14</sup> GEF, 2018, [GEF-6 Funding Retrospective](#), Assembly Document GEF/A.6/06.

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;	including PCB containing equipment and waste, medical waste, waste pesticides including containers etc.
(b) Minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;	<p>The GEF's programming already addresses the minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from UPOPs including minimization of open burning of electronic waste, municipal and hazardous waste, and incineration of medical and plastic waste.</p> <p>In GEF-6, 44 percent of GEF resources were utilized for programming for the reduction and elimination of 439 gTEQ/yr of emissions of UPOPs.</p>
(c) Development or strengthening of national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations regarding persistent organic pollutants listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as persistent organic pollutant wastes as covered by the Basel Convention;	GEF programming for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions helps to strengthen the environmentally sound management of POPs and mercury, which strengthens the national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations under Stockholm and Minamata Conventions. This programming usually extends to Rotterdam and Basel Conventions if the legislation includes waste management and trans-shipment of wastes and the chemicals themselves.
10. Requests the Secretariat:	
(a) To prepare, on the basis of the document developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of decision SC-6/20, a complete set of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention by consolidating the guidance set out in decision SC-7/21 and paragraphs 1–8 of the present decision;	The GEF Secretariat has been consulted on this list and stands ready to continue to provide feedback with a view to helping the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat fully develop the consolidated guidance.
(b) To make the complete set of guidance available on the Convention website;	Not for GEF action
(c) To update the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;	Not for GEF action
11. Welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention;	The GEF Council appreciates the acknowledgment of the report and will report at COP 9 to the Stockholm Convention.
12. Welcomes the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism;	Not for GEF action



Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
13. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to decision SC-7/20, draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;	Not for GEF action
14. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2018–2022;	Not for GEF action
15. Requests the Global Environment Facility, during the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to consider the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the non-exhaustive list referred to in paragraph 9 above;	The needs assessment has been considered in providing funding scenarios for the GEF-7 replenishment. The chemicals and wastes focal area has an indicative allocation of \$599 million for GEF-7.
16. Takes note of the low level of responses to the online questionnaire, prepared by the Secretariat in response to paragraph 6 of decision SC-7/18, directed to developed country Parties, other Parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, asking them to provide further information about how they could provide support for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;	Not for GEF action
17. Urges developed country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report	Not for GEF action

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;	
18. Invites other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action
19. Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such contributions;	Not for GEF action
20. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 17–19 above, a report on the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and means of mobilizing and channeling such additional resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;	Not for GEF action
21. Also requests the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries	Not for GEF action

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
<p>with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-7/18 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations made by Parties in their assessment of the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the methodology used in preparing it for consideration and possible adoption at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p>	
<p>22. Further requests the Secretariat to transmit to the Global Environment Facility for its consideration the consolidated guidance referred to in paragraph 10 above, the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 12 above and the report on the assessment of funding needs over the period 2018–2022 referred to in paragraph 14 above and invites the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its next regular report to the Conference of the Parties, how the above guidance and reports have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Facility;</p>	<p>The GEF-7 chemicals and wastes programming directions, paragraphs 219 to 246 of the GEF Programming Directions contained in the report on GEF-7 replenishment,<sup>15</sup> describes in detail the elements for programming priority and programming areas that are extracted from the COP guidance.</p>
<p>23. Welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter-secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.</p>

<sup>15</sup> GEF, 2018, [Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Assembly Document GEF/A.6/05/Rev.01.

Stockholm COP 8 decision	GEF's response
<p>24. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat stands ready to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare a report on the implementation of the MOU between the COP and the Council of the GEF regarding cooperation between the two Secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by COP 9.</p>