



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.57/09

November 19, 2019

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57<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
December 16 - 19, 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.57/09, *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). Covering the period from April to October 2019, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

2. Highlights reported include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in meetings and events; on ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation to the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2019, and several other UNFCCC-related meetings.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the UNCCD, including COP 14 decisions related to the GEF.
- (d) Stockholm Convention: Updates on COP 9 to the Stockholm Convention, on ratifications, accessions, national reporting and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention.
- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on signatures and ratifications.
- (f) Montreal Protocol: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in events.
- (g) International Waters: Report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in various meetings related to the International Waters Focal Area, including the Stockholm Water Week, the Convention on the Law of the Sea, and Annual Consultation Meeting of Large Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Partners.
- (h) 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.

3. An annex with the full list of GEF's responses to decisions from UNCBD COP 14, UNFCCC COP 24, UNCCD COP14 and Stockholm COP 9 is also included.

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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). The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, in particular with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. The document covers the period from April 2019 to October 2019.

## **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

3. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat attended the First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework from August 27 to 30, 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya, to advance preparations for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF). Adopted key conclusions of the meeting include the following:
  - (a) Non-paper on possible elements of the GBF;
  - (b) Preliminary list of meetings, consultations, and workshops for the development of GBF;
  - (c) Dates of and venue of the second and third meetings of the Open-ended Working Group, to be held in February 2020 in China and in July 2020 in Colombia;
  - (d) Detailed workplan to be prepared by Co-Chairs and the Executive Secretary and be presented at the informal briefs of the Co-Chairs on 24 November 2019 during the meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).
4. The GEF Secretariat staff attended the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group on The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that took place at the CBD Secretariat in Montreal, Canada from October 22 to 25, 2019. The meeting discussed in detail the draft post-2020 implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, with emphasis on the indicators to be measured to report on the objectives for the two parts of the plan: Areas for Implementation and Enabling Environment, as well as the Action Plan for Capacity-building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. A motion to merge the latter document with the Implementation Plan was discussed but not adopted. Finally, Parties discussed the Development of the Draft Biosafety Component of the GBF to assess how it might be integrated into the GBF. Two options were considered: (i)

as a component with its own target, or (ii) by embedding it under another target. This discussion will continue and form part of the overall development of the GBF.

5. The outcomes of the latest Conference of Parties to the CBD (COP 14, November 13 to 29, 2018, in Sham El Sheikh, Egypt) were reported to the 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council.<sup>1</sup> The guidance GEF received from COP 14, as well as the response of the GEF to date, are presented in Table 1 of Annex 1 of the present report.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

6. Since the last Council meeting, the number of Parties to the CBD and to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety remained unchanged at 196 and 171, respectively.

7. The total number of ratifications, acceptance, approval or accession has increased to 119 for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, with new ratifications by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, and Tonga.

8. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has now 44 Parties with the additions of Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and France.

9. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

### **National Reporting**

10. The Convention Secretariat has received 122 national reports. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

11. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the Regional Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean from May 14 to 17, 2019, in Montevideo, Uruguay and took part in a panel that provided reflections and inputs to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework based on GEF implementation experience from the last decade and the formulation of the GEF-7 Programming Directions.

12. The GEF Secretariat staff attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Trondheim Biodiversity conference held from July 2 to 5, 2019, with the working theme: "Making biodiversity matter. Knowledge and know-how for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework." GEF was a partner in the conference

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<sup>1</sup> GEF, 2019, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), Council Document GEF/C.56/09/Rev.01.

and in addition to contributing to the production of the co-chairs report, the GEF staff gave a presentation titled “GEF, Biodiversity Finance, and Resource Mobilization in a Rapidly Changing World” and participated in a parallel high-level meeting.

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

### **Summary of Key Activities**

13. During the reporting period, continued progress was made on support for climate change activities with the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) with robust programming with the June 2019 Work Programs and support for various Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs). The GEF Secretariat also participated in, and organized, a number of dialogues and engagements to facilitate partnerships and to enhance coordination with the GCF. Key activities are summarized below.
14. UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference: The GEF Secretariat personnel participated in the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference, held from June 17 to 27, 2019, which comprised the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA).
15. Agenda items relevant for the GEF included provision of financial and technical support, matters relating to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), development and transfer of technologies under the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer and matters relating to capacity-building under the Convention, which included enhancing institutional arrangements and the review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.
16. On matters related to LDCs, the SBI welcomed the approval of eleven LDCF projects for \$100.6 million in the December 2018 Work Program and noted with appreciation the additional pledges announced. On the SBI agenda item related to provision of financial and technical support, Parties were not able to reach a conclusion and thus agreed to continue considerations under this item at the next SBI session in December.
17. During the SBI opening plenary, the GEF made an oral intervention, highlighting the progress to date on support for National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT).
18. The GEF personnel participated in mandated events and other engagements, including two workshops under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, namely the Workshop on Methods and Approaches for Assessing Adaptation, Adaptation Co-benefits, and Resilience, and the Workshop on Improved Soil Carbon, Soil Health and Soil Fertility under Grassland and Cropland as well as Integrated Systems, including Water Management.

19. In addition, the GEF personnel took part in the Technical Expert Meeting on Adaptation and presented its experience on the panel on adaptation planning for focusing action and increasing adaptation finance.

20. LDCF Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session: The GEF, the Government of Germany, and the LDC Group co-hosted a ministerial dialogue titled Investing in Climate Change Adaptation Action through the LDCF – Dialogue and Pledging Session, on September 24, 2019 in New York. The event was opened by the LDC Chair, the GEF CEO, and a senior representative of Germany. Ministers from LDCs shared their perspectives on how to catalyze adaptation action, and experiences with, and expectations for, the LDCF. The Governments of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden pledged a combined total of \$160 million of new contributions for the LDCF. The United Kingdom committed to exploring new and additional support to the LDCF, and the Government of Canada also made a commitment of \$7.5 million to the LDCF at the 2019 G7 Summit. A press release was issued following the event.<sup>2</sup>

21. Coordinated Engagement with GCF: The GEF Secretariat and the GCF Secretariat continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement. The GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Coordinator led discussions and joint engagements on shared topics of relevance, including the Great Green Wall initiative and blended finance. The two secretariats also organized joint technical consultations on coordinated engagement on October 16, 2019. Further details are provided in the section on collaboration with GCF.

22. Country consultations: 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 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the Strategic Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the GEF-7 strategy.

23. The guidance GEF received from COP 24, as well as the response of the GEF to date, are presented in Table 2 of Annex 1 of this report.

24. The GEF report to the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP 25), approved by the GEF Council through decision by mail, was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on August 29, 2019. The GEF submitted the addendum to the COP report on the status of resources approved by the GEF Secretariat for the preparation of NCs and BURs from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on October 9, 2019. The reports are available online.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> GEF, 2019, [Governments Commit to Shared Climate Action through Least Developed Countries Fund](#), Press Release.

<sup>3</sup> GEF, 2019, [Report of the GEF to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the COP to the UNFCCC](#).

## **Ratifications and Accessions**

25. As of November 5, 2019, there are 197 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 187 ratified, the Paris 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**

26. The following is the total number of National Communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of November 5, 2019:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **140**
- (c) Third National Communications: **69**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **6**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **1**
- (f) Sixth National Communications: **1**

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

28. A total of 51 first BURs, 28 second BURs and seven third BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of November 5, 2019. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

## **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

29. The GEF delegation, led by the CEO, participated in the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit and UN General Assembly in New York, USA, from September 21 to 25, 2019. The GEF covered several action tracks including energy efficiency, adaptation and resilience, food systems and circular economy. The GEF CEO also took part in high-level engagements for the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) to kick off the year of action. The GEF also co-hosted a Ministerial Dialogue and a Pledging Session, summarized above.

30. Furthermore, 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:

- (a) Third Technical Workshop on Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Implementation, in Rome, Italy, May 21 to 23, 2019;
- (b) Abu Dhabi Preparatory Meeting for the UN Climate Action Summit, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, June 30 to July 1, 2019;

- (c) 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LDC Expert Group, in Nairobi, Kenya, August 29 to 30, 2019;
- (d) 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) in Bonn, Germany, October 3 to 5, 2019;
- (e) SCF Forum on Climate Finance and Sustainable Cities, in Beirut, Lebanon, October 10 to 14, 2019;

## **UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

31. The fourteenth session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 14) convened from September 2 to 13, 2019 in New Delhi, India. The COP adopted over 30 decisions on several topics including how to implement four thematic policy frameworks adopted at the previous COP, addressing drought; gender; sand and dust storms; and desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) as a driver for migration. Parties welcomed GEF's report and positively acknowledged the completion of the GEF-7 replenishment including the overall increase in the Land Degradation (LD) focal area financing, the strong reflection of land degradation neutrality (LDN) in the Impact Programs, and enhanced integrated approach in the entire programming portfolio. COP outcomes are described further in the section below. The GEF CEO attended the High-level Segment and GEF Secretariat staff participated actively in the COP discussions.

32. The newly appointed UNCCD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, participated in the 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting. He highlighted the synergies between the three Rio Conventions and the importance of land as an integrator with high relevance for people's livelihoods. On the margins of the GEF Council, the amended Memorandum of Understanding between the GEF and the UNCCD COP was signed by the GEF CEO and the Executive Secretary on behalf of their respective governing bodies. The GEF Secretariat had meetings with the Executive Secretary and the Global Mechanism to discuss GEF-7 programming and preparations for COP 14.

33. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide guidance to GEF OFPs and Agencies on the GEF-7 LD focal area strategy, LD-related Impact Programs and Enabling Activity support through country and constituency level outreach and engagement throughout the reporting period.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

34. As of October 22, 2019, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union. The details can be found here: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/about-convention/status-ratification>

### **National Reporting**

35. The Convention Secretariat has received 141 out of 196 reports by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework, of which 138 provided data suitable for

preliminary analyses. 48 reports (or 88 percent of the expected reports) were from Africa; 36 (or 65 percent) from Asia; 27 (or 82 percent) from Latin America and the Caribbean; 9 (or 75 percent) from Northern Mediterranean countries; and 12 (or 80 percent) from Central and Eastern European countries, as well as 8 (or 29 percent) from Parties that do not belong to a regional implementation annex. The list of submissions received can be found at:

<https://prais.unccd.int/>

## **COP 14 and Outcomes**

36. COP 14 to UNCCD convened from September 2 to 13, 2019 in New Delhi, India with over 8,000 participants, including more than 100 Ministers and high-level officials. The GEF CEO attended the High-level Segment and GEF Secretariat staff participated actively in the official segments and side events.

37. Key initiatives launched at COP 14 included a road map for scaling up the Africa-led Great Green Wall Initiative to restore 100 million hectares of land and create 10 million green jobs by 2030; the new UNCCD interactive Drought Toolbox that aims to strengthen countries' preparedness and resilience; and an international coalition on sand and dust storms aimed at mitigating their transboundary impacts on human health, the environment, and key economic sectors.

38. The COP adopted over 30 decisions on several topics including how to implement four thematic policy frameworks adopted at the previous COP, addressing drought; gender; sand and dust storms; and DLDD as a driver for migration. The COP also agreed to include land tenure as a new thematic area under the Convention. Furthermore, Parties agreed to establish an intergovernmental working group to explore effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD, subject to the availability of resources.

39. The GEF Secretariat submitted its report to COP 14 on August 7, 2019, upon Council approval by mail. The report is available online.<sup>4</sup>

40. The COP adopted decision 9/COP.14 on Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, with the following action points:

- (a) *Welcomes* the signature and the entry into effect of the new memorandum of understanding concluded with the Global Environment Facility Council;
- (b) *Also welcomes* the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and acknowledges the increase in the focal area allocation, focus on land-based actions through Impact Programs, and opportunities to enhance synergies;
- (c) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Global Environment Facility Land Degradation Focal Area resources

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<sup>4</sup> GEF, 2019, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#).

to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;

- (d) *Requests* the Global Mechanism to continue its collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;
- (e) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting Parties to meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and encourages the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate financial resources in a timely manner;
- (f) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention;
- (g) *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (h) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.

41. Decisions on the collaboration with the GEF made at COP 14, along with GEF's responses to date, are contained in Table 3 of Annex I to this document.

42. During the COP, the GEF Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, GEF's land degradation financing over the last two years, and GEF's responses to COP 13 decisions.

43. The GEF Secretariat also participated in the contact groups and country meetings to respond to questions, and to provide information on GEF financing and its support to Countries.

44. The GEF CEO participated in the High-level Ministerial Segment, including the Ministerial Roundtable on Rural and Urban Communities - Failing or Flourishing Together, and high-level events on The Great Green Wall of Africa: Delivering Results at the Forefront of the Climate Change Fight and on Nature-Based Solutions. The GEF Day in the Rio Conventions Pavilion with the theme "Transformation in Practice" featured a keynote speech by the GEF CEO on land-based transformation.

45. The GEF also co-hosted with the GCA a high-level "Follow the Sun" event on September 10, 2019 to launch the GCA report titled *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, with engagement by the GEF CEO, UNCCD Executive Secretary, UNEP Executive Director, and various partners from India.

46. Two official GEF side events were organized during the COP: (1) GEF-7 and LDN Implementation Support: Turning Plans into Action, and (2) Financing and Setting up Enabling Activities for UNCCD under GEF-7. The GEF Secretariat also participated in approximately 20 side events organized by GEF eligible countries, GEF Agencies and other partners.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

47. The GEF CEO and the UNCCD Executive Secretary took part in high level engagements during the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit and the General Assembly week, including an event titled from Green Walls to Green Wallets: The Importance of Financing Nature-Based Solutions on 23 September 2019. The GEF Secretariat personnel also participated in the launch of the Great Green Wall documentary.

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

#### **Summary of Key Activities**

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

49. 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.<sup>5</sup>

50. COP 9 to the Stockholm Convention, COP 14 to the Basel Convention, and COP 9 to the Rotterdam Convention were 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**

51. During the reporting period, the number of Parties to the Convention has reached 183, thanks to the additional ratification of Uzbekistan. The status of ratifications is available at: <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

#### **National Reporting**

52. During the reporting period, 39 new national reports were submitted by Parties to the Convention. 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

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<sup>5</sup> GEF, 2019, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#).

Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention's entry 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 2019, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and the NIP Updates are as follows:

<b><i>NIP Phase</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i></b>	<b><i>Change since last report</i></b>
Initial NIP	171	1
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	89	9
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	79	9
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	45	9
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	26	6
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	8	5

53. 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**

54. 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.

55. The GEF received guidance from the COP. It is presented together with the GEF Secretariat's responses in Table 4, Annex 1 of this document.

56. During the COP, dicofol and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts, and PFOA-related compounds were listed under the Stockholm Convention and as such the GEF will be required to provide funding to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to address these chemicals.

57. At the 14<sup>th</sup> COP of the Basel Convention, Parties agreed to amend a number of annexes to add control measures for the transboundary trade in plastic waste, while the 9<sup>th</sup> COP of the Rotterdam Convention adopted a compliance mechanism.

### **MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

58. During the reporting period, seven countries became Party to the Minamata Convention: Colombia, Comoros, Congo (The Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Montenegro, South Africa, and Tuvalu.

59. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention had 128 signatures and 114 Parties, as of October 28, 2019. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website:

<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

60. The GEF Secretariat submitted the report of the GEF on its support to the implementation of the Convention to the 3<sup>rd</sup> COP to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on September 6, 2019, after Council approval by mail. The report and the executive summary are available online.<sup>6, 7</sup>

#### **SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**

61. The GEF Secretariat hosted the third meeting of the Governing Board of the Specific International Program in Washington, DC from September 18 to 20, 2019. This Board considered the second round of proposals for funding.

62. These 20 projects were screened by both the GEF Secretariat and the Secretariat of Special Program. Of the 20 proposals, ten projects were approved for funding with a total value of approximately two million dollars. The successful proposals were from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Moldova, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Zambia.

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

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

#### **INTERNATIONAL WATERS FOCAL AREA**

64. This report includes information on activities related to the International Waters focal area that have taken place since the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF council meeting, covering the period from November 2018 to October 2019.

65. The GEF is an important institution in catalyzing cooperation in international waters and supports countries to jointly manage their transboundary surface and groundwater basins, as well as their coastal and marine systems, to enable the sharing of benefits from their utilization.

66. Regarding surface water resources, only approximately 40 percent of the 276 transboundary rivers and lake basins across the world are governed by agreements, with most

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<sup>6</sup> GEF, 2019, [Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its Third Meeting](#). UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/02.

<sup>7</sup> GEF, 2019, [Executive Summary of the Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its Third Meeting](#). UNEP/MC/COP.3/9/Add.1.

existing agreements often not involving all the states that form part of the watercourse in question.

67. On the marine side, the GEF is supporting activities in 24 of the world's 66 Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), while continuing to play a key role across Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

68. The GEF continues to advance the sound management of shared freshwater resources and to date has financed work in 47 transboundary river basins. Similarly, within the context of sustainable use of aquifers and lakes, the GEF and its partners continue to call for countries to step-up action on improved governance and sustainable management. To date, the GEF has financed work in 15 transboundary lakes and 13 transboundary aquifers.

### **Meetings and Consultations**

69. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference from November 26 to 28, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The overarching theme of the conference was the Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over 16,000 participants registered for the event, which saw more than 70 countries' Heads of States and Governments delivering statements on their respective national initiatives contributing towards sustainable blue economies. Common for these initiatives is the need to harness the potential of oceans, seas, lakes and rivers; and leveraging the latest innovations, scientific advances and best practices to build prosperity while conserving a healthy marine environment for future generations. Co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Canada, with the Government of Portugal as a partner, the Conference was the first global meeting focusing on ensuring a sustainable blue economy. The GEF delivered opening remarks on a panel discussion on the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) – Community Based Blue Economy for Sustainable Development as well as participated in the panel discussions titled LME approach: an essential management and partnership tool for realizing blue economy opportunities.

70. The GEF through its IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN support is hosting regional and thematic meetings to enhance collaboration between the GEF-funded projects and those outside the GEF portfolio and as one means to fill the gap of the lack of a comprehensive global framework spanning freshwater and the oceans. The GEF Secretariat participated in two of these regional gatherings: (i) the second annual Asia-Pacific Regional Network meeting organized from February 18 to 21, 2019 in Hanoi, Viet Nam by GEF LME:LEARN, the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the IOC of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific; and (ii) an Africa regional meeting of both the freshwater and LME portfolio of projects in Africa co-hosted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the SADC-Groundwater Management Institute from May 28 to 31, 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana. The main objectives of these meetings were to enhance partnerships across freshwater and marine projects, with regional economic commissions, development partners and often the private sector, as well as provide opportunities for capacity building on recurring themes for which project managers and/or government partners have voiced a need.

They include economic evaluation, marine spatial planning, water funds, sustainable finance, lessons on sustainability of regional transboundary organizations and on assessing water-food-energy-ecosystems dimensions in scenario development.

71. The GEF attended as an observer the Second and Third session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). During the IGC-2, held from March 25 to April 5, 2019 in New York, participants deliberated on the basis of the IGC President's Aid to Negotiations, which contained options structured according to the elements of a package agreed in 2011 on: Marine Genetic Resources; Area-Based Management Tools including Marine Protected Areas; Environmental Impact Assessments; and Capacity Building and Marine Technology Transfer. During IGC-3, held from August 19 to 30, 2019, participants deliberated on the basis of a draft negotiation document presented by the IGC President. The GEF will continue to follow the BBNJ process, including during the intersessional period leading up to the final IGC-4 scheduled for the first half of 2020.

72. The GEF Secretariat participated in the World Water Week from August 25 to 30, 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden. The World Water Week is the leading annual event bringing policy makers, practitioners, academics and civil society together to address the planet's water issues. The theme of this year's event was "Water for Society: Including All." Sessions highlighted the urgency to reverse the dangerous trends on global warming and environmental degradation and an immediate need for shifting into a higher gear to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda. They emphasized the interlinkage of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and humanity's greatest challenges in the age of the Anthropocene and underscored that only by realizing these linkages sustainable solutions to climate change, poverty, conflicts, food insecurity, disaster risks, the rapid loss of species, or any other major threat can be effective. The GEF was present via a booth together with GEF IW:LEARN and participated in and/or co-organized sessions including on the role of river basin organizations in conflict, options for sustainable hydropower, awareness on the looming groundwater crisis, water security and resilience, sustainable finance for transboundary cooperation. The GEF also co-organized an innovative high-level panel on Source-to-Sea aspects linking the freshwater and ocean community.

73. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Annual Consultation Meeting of Large Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Partners (LME-21) from September 18 to 20, 2019 in Cartagena, Colombia. The over-arching goal of the Annual Consultation Meeting is to provide a global forum for GEF-funded projects and other marine and coastal practitioners, leaders, private sector, international and national organizations and institutions, aimed at sharing experiences and lessons and forging alliances and collaboration for ecosystem-based ocean governance and management, in pursuance of SDGs, in particular the SDG 14. The LME-21 meeting provided a unique opportunity for projects from across the globe to meet and share experiences on coastal resilience, pollution, fisheries, coastal degradation etc., towards successful implementation of the LME Strategic Action Programs (SAPs). Implementing the ministerial

endorsed SAPs will be instrumental for countries to deliver on SDG 14 and other associated SDGs, while developing their sustainable blue economies.

74. The GEF Secretariat staff attended the Third Budapest Water Summit held from October 15 to 17, 2019, in Budapest, Hungary. The summit gathered 2,300 people from 118 countries, including more than 30 ministerial delegations, leaders of international organizations, and water industry experts across private sector and academia. The main theme was the prevention of the global water crisis, and where prevention is no longer possible, the facilitation of adaptation to effects. The GEF held a series of coordination meetings with partners from the region, including with the permanent secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. Taking place halfway between the 2018 and the 2021 World Water Forum, the summit was an important milestone to focus the attention of the world's political, economic, financial and scientific decision-makers on sustainable national and transboundary water management.

75. The GEF participated in the sixth Our Ocean Conference hosted by the Government of Norway, in Oslo, from October 23 to 24, 2019. The conference brought together 500 political, business, financial and civil society leaders from around the world, plus 100 youth representatives from 100 countries. It focused on the theme of the state of the sea and measures to ensure healthy, clean and productive seas, and the following sub themes: marine protected areas and other area-based management measures, climate change, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, sustainable blue economy and maritime security. The conference generated 370 pledges for a clean, healthy and productive ocean. With Ministers, young entrepreneurs and CEOs from the private sector, the GEF CEO participated in a panel titled Facing the challenges part I: Taking action on climate change. She reflected on actions to increase ecosystem resilience and utilize existing mitigation opportunities in the ocean.

#### **ADAPTATION FUND**

76. 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 12th 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.

77. 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. 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.

78. In accordance with decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, once the share of proceeds becomes available under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement exclusively and no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol.

79. 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.

80. 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.

81. Regarding the eligibility for membership on the AFB, decision 1/CMP.14 the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) had requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to consider, at its fiftieth session, the issue of the eligibility of parties to the Paris Agreement for membership on the Board and to forward a recommendation to the CMP for consideration at its fifteenth session, in December 2019. The SBI had considered the matter as requested but had been unable to reach agreement at its fiftieth session and would resume discussions at its fifty-first session, in December 2019.

82. The AFB held an additional meeting (B.33.b) in June 2019 to further discuss the matters related to the mandate contained in paragraph 6 of decision 1/CMP.14. At its additional meeting, the AFB made decisions related to: the institutional arrangement (Memorandum of Understanding, MoU) with GEF for secretariat services to the AFB; the terms and conditions of the trustee services to be provided by the World Bank as interim trustee; the rules of procedure of the AFB; implications of the Adaptation Fund receiving the share of proceeds from activities under Articles 6, 12 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol when the Fund serves the Paris Agreement; and any other matter so as to ensure the Fund serves the Paris Agreement. In line with such decisions, the AFB secretariat has prepared documents related to this matter, in consultation with the UNFCCC Secretariat, the interim trustee (the World Bank) and the GEF Secretariat and under the guidance of the Task Force established under AFB decision B.33/52, for presentation to the AFB at its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting in October 2019. These documents included, *inter alia*, the draft amendment of the MoU prepared by the AFB secretariat in consultation with the secretariat with the GEF and the secretariat of the UNFCCC, under the guidance of the Task Force. The AFB's consideration and recommendation on the tasks contained in paragraph 6 of decision 1/CMP.14 will be presented to the CMP/CMA for consideration and decisions in December

2019 through the addendum to the report of the AFB to CMP. The amended MoU will be presented to the GEF Council at its 57<sup>th</sup> session for its consideration and approval.

83. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for an intersessional review cycle and for the thirty-fourth meeting of the AFB during the reporting period. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of October 1, 2019, the AFB has approved 94 concrete projects amounting to \$653.8 million in total. As of June 30, 2019, funds available to support funding decisions were \$265.1 million. In July 2019, following the intersessional decision-making process, the AFB made new funding decisions, amounting to \$93.1 million.

84. 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. Both secretariats participated on the first session of webinar series on gender and climate finance organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat in October 2019 with a view to raising awareness of available financial and technical support for gender integration; funding policies that facilitate the implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and action; and the gender gap in access to and benefit from climate finance.

85. 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.

86. The AFB Secretariat also attended the 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council as an observer.

87. The respective communications units of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchange updates and ideas periodically about potential communications areas or projects for collaboration. These might include potential collaboration on events at UNFCCC COP25.

88. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) supported the AFB Secretariat in launching the work of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Fund (AF-TERG). The newly hired Coordinator of the AF-TERG Secretariat moved to that position laterally from the GEF IEO in May 2019.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

### Green Climate Fund

89. The GEF and the GCF Secretariats continued to engage in efforts to enhance collaboration during the reporting period, particularly through the coordinated engagement pilot to explore planning and programming of GEF and GCF resources to enhance synergies and maximize benefits and impacts. Regular operational teleconferences were organized to update each other on programming and policy developments, and to advance discussions on the coordinated engagement pilot.

90. The GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director, who came on board in April 2019, held bilateral discussions on various occasions, including at the margins of the World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2019 and during the UNCCD COP 14 in September 2019 to discuss collaboration on key initiatives, such as the Great Green Wall.

91. The GEF and the GCF Secretariat personnel held a technical consultation session on October 16, 2019, hosted at the GEF Secretariat. The consultation had the following objectives: (i) to present and discuss the respective strategy and programming directions of the GEF and GCF to build mutual understanding; (ii) to explore opportunities for collaboration and sharing of lessons learned on a select number of proposed flagship initiatives; and (iii) to discuss a way forward to coordinated engagement. Another session focusing on the Amazon was held on October 17, 2019.

92. The session was attended by GCF and GEF senior staff, covering all sectors and focal areas, enabling the two secretariats to establish direct points of contact between technical leads. Discussions were held on specific modalities of collaboration, facilitating exchange of information on current and prospective coordinated support to countries and potential joint programming of funds. Potential areas of collaboration covered included: Great Green Wall, electric mobility, and sustainable cities. Specific follow-up steps in these potential areas of collaboration and joint national dialogues/country engagements were agreed. The GCF and GEF Secretariats also planned to have a joint pavilion and outreach efforts at the UNFCCC COP 25 in December 2019.

93. Concrete examples of coordinated engagement and joint programming of funds to date include a project in Lao PDR, focusing on mainstreaming resilience in the forestry sector, where a LDCF investment would build on the GCF REDD+ readiness funding intervention and prospective project under design stage for Mauritius, where GCF readiness funds would be used to complement GEF funding supporting the uptake of electric transportation, to assess the possibility of further scale up of the GEF project with GCF resources. Additional joint programming initiatives are being evaluated for a GEF regional program on clean energy access in Africa and for a GEF global program to support clean technology entrepreneurship.

94. Furthermore, during the reporting period, GEF Secretariat personnel engaged with the GCF on the following consultations:

- (a) GCF Global Programming Conference, in Songdo, Republic of Korea, August 18 to 23, 2019, where the GEF staff co-hosted a joint event with the GCF on coordinated engagement approaches, and successful experiences were presented from Lao PDR and Mauritius. GEF personnel also participated on panels on the Great Green Wall Initiative, co-hosted by GEF, GCF and UNFCCC Secretariat, and on Ecosystems Services;
- (b) GCF-1 Second Replenishment Meeting, in Ottawa, Canada, August 28 to 30, 2019 as an observer;
- (c) GCF 2019 Private Investment for Climate Conference, in Incheon, Republic of Korea, October 7 to 9, 2019, where the GEF presented in a panel organized by the GCF on maximizing soil carbon sequestration potential;
- (d) GCF-1 High-Level Pledging Conference, in Paris, France, October 24 and 25, 2019, as an observer;
- (e) One Planet event with the GCF on Scaling up Blended Finance for Low Carbon and Green Transition, organized at the occasion of the High-Level Pledging Conference of the GCF, where the GEF CEO participated in the opening session to highlight GCF-GEF collaboration with examples from the Amazon and Land Degradation Neutrality Fund.

### **UN Forum on Forests**

95. The GEF participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Forum on Forest (UNFF 14) held in New York City, from May 6 to 10, 2019. UNFF 14 was the technical session for the 2019-2020 biennium. As such, discussions focused on implementation and technical advice on several thematic and operational priorities, including through an exchange of experiences among members of the forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), regional and sub-regional organizations and major groups and other stakeholders.

96. The UNFF Secretariat provided an update regarding the possible establishment of a “UNFF Secretariat project office” for the Global Forest Finance Facilitation Network (GFFFN) in Beijing, China as offered by the Chinese delegation to UNFF 13. A number of member states expressed concern about having a Secretariat office away from headquarter and about the lack of information since UNFF 13 on the matter.

97. Regarding the vacant post of Director of the UNFF Secretariat, the officer-in-charge informed that the functions of the post were being reviewed – a process that is normally undertaken when senior posts are vacated. Member States will be requested to examine these functions in the context of the 2020 budget proposal, as part of the finalization of the Department’s reform process. Member states will have an opportunity to examine the Director’s proposed functions in the context of the 2020 budget proposal.

98. The GEF actively continued to contribute to the work of the CPF in support of the UNFF in the reporting period, as recognized by its election as Vice-Chair of the CPF for 2019. On the margins of the UNFF, a new CPF Joint Initiative on Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes, co-led by GEF, UNEP and CIFOR, was approved on the occasion of a CPF meeting organized on the sidelines of the UNFF, on May 5, 2019. This initiative is expected to provide a platform for joint learning in order to scale up finance and leverage private investments for forests and deforestation-free agriculture. In addition, the GEF also attended a CPF donor meeting co-chaired by FAO and Germany to update donor countries on the CPF joint initiatives and seek their eventual interest to support its implementation.

99. The GEF further contributed to the work of the CPF through working on the development of a CPF strategic vision towards 2030, the Clearing House of the GFFFN, and the Quadrennial Program of Work 2021-2024 of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. The GEF notably attended a CPF meeting organized on the margins of the UNCCD COP 14, on September 6, 2019 to discuss the preparation of the UNFF 15 to be held in May 2020 and the CPF strategic vision towards 2030. Consultants presented a study which will help CPF members to develop the strategic vision for adoption by the CPF in January 2020.

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

100. During this reporting period, the GEF participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 22 April to 3 May 2019 at the UN Headquarters in New York. With the SGP, the GEF organized a side event titled Indigenous Peoples as Stewards of the Global Environment, to guide the development of the GEF's Inclusive Conservation Initiative. The event featured presentations from the GEF GOLD program and GEF SGP Indigenous Peoples Fellows on their work promoting the delivery of global environmental benefits. A representative of the GCF also participated and shared opportunities with the participants. Finally, the GEF also participated in International Expert Group Meeting on the theme of Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **SAMOA Pathway**

101. GEF staff continued to participate in meetings of the UN Inter-Agency Consultative Group 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**

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p><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;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><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>8</sup></p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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).</p>

<sup>8</sup> See decision XIII/21.

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p><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;</p>	<p>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>
<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> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p>	<p>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>
<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> <p>(a) To assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;</p> <p>(b) To support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and</p>	<p>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.</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol;</p> <p>(c) To support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;</p>	
<p><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;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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>
<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>As part of its ongoing support to the implementation of the GEF-6 IAP and the formulation, development and implementation of the GEF-7 IPs, and other programmatic approaches, the GEF remains committed to improving all elements of design, management and implementation performance.</p> <p>The GEF continues to make GEF-eligible countries aware of the processes and procedures that fall</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<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 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy;</li> <li>(ii) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies;</li> </ul>	<p>under the responsibility of the Conflict Resolution Commissioner.</p> <p>The GEF remains committed to ensure sustainability of all its projects and 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>The GEF continues to improve the efficiency and accountability of the GEF partnership using existing accounting and management mechanisms.</p> <p>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 Responses**

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>9</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>10</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 stands ready to continue 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>9</sup> COP 24 decisions are available on the UNFCCC website: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-24>.

<sup>10</sup> CMA 1 Decisions are available on the UNFCCC website: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-1-3>.

UNFCCC COP 24 Decision <sup>9</sup> / CMA 1 Decision <sup>10</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 target 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 (IPs).</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.</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 (OFPs) inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) to participate in the GEF-7 IPs. Each EOI required endorsement by the GEF OFP, confirming the country's interest in participating in the IP as well as the amount of System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) resources the country intended to use for the specific IP.</p> <p>To further enhance transparency and safeguard country ownership, following a decision of the 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council, a report on the selection processes of lead Agencies and the recipient</p>

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	countries in the IPs was prepared by the GEF Secretariat and shared with Council. <sup>11</sup>
<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 of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner.</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>
<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>2</sub> eq 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. Information on the level of co-financing leveraged to date is included in Part III of this Report for both CCM and CCA.</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>The GEF appreciates positive feedback on the CBIT, and will continue to support the countries in the GEF-7 period from the GEFTF as agreed in the replenishment.</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.</p>

<sup>11</sup> GEF, 2019, 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting, [Joint Summary of the Chairs](#), Decision on Agenda Item 13 (2nd decision). Work Program for GEF Trust Fund.

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	<p>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 developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs).”<sup>12</sup></p> <p>All proposals received from Parties that have ratified/acceded to the Paris Agreement have been reviewed and all have been approved once technically cleared.</p> <p>The CBIT is supporting a diverse set of countries and regions. As of June 30, 2019, the GEF has supported CBIT projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA), and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa: 16 projects with \$25.4 million</li> <li>• Asia: 10 projects with \$15.1 million</li> <li>• ECA: 7 projects with \$8.9 million</li> <li>• LAC: 14 projects with \$21.5 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 centers and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide information to the COP on the outcomes of collaboration between the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer’s climate technology and finance centers and the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) in its annual report to the COP. Relevant information is included in Part III, Section 4 of this report, which focuses on technology transfer.</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</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</p>

<sup>12</sup> GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.50/06.

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and engagement, of the Global Environment Facility Partnership, and to consider the participation of additional national and regional entities, as appropriate.	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 December 2019. <sup>13</sup>
Paragraph 15: <i>Welcomes</i> the establishment of the private sector advisory group.	No response needed.
Paragraph 16: <i>Encourages</i> a balanced composition of the private sector advisory group in terms of gender and geographical coverage.	<p>Gender and geographical coverage have been key considerations of the private sector advisory group. The composition of the private sector advisory group is presented in the list below.<sup>14</sup></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Andrea Alvares, Vice President of Marketing, Innovation and Sustainability, Natura; On behalf of Mr. Guilherme Leal, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Board of Natura Cosmetics, Brazil. Sector: Natural resources, non-timber forest products, other consumer goods.</li> <li>2. Mr. Yoshihiro Ikegawa, Managing Corporate Executive Officer of Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation, Japan; On behalf of the Chairperson, Mr. Yoshimitsu Kobayashi. Sector: Chemicals.</li> <li>3. Ms. Darian McBain, Global Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Thai Union Group, Thailand; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Thiraphong Chansiri. Sector: Fisheries.</li> <li>4. Mr. Robert Metzke, Global Head of Sustainability of Royal Philips, Netherlands; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Frans van Houten. Sector: Technology, Electronics, and other consumer goods.</li> <li>5. Mr. Jeff Turner, Vice President for Corporate Sustainability of Royal DSM, Netherlands; On behalf of the CEO and</li> </ol>

<sup>13</sup> GEF, 2018, [Strengthening the GEF Partnership](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/08.

<sup>14</sup> GEF, 2018, [Private Sector Advisory Group \(PSAG\) Composition](#), Council Document GEF/C.56/Inf.05.

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	<p>Chairperson, Mr. Feike Sijbesma. Sector: Food and Nutrition.</p> <p>6. Ms. Helen Crowley, Head of Sustainable Sourcing and Innovation, Kering, France; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. François-Henri Pinault. Sector: Consumer goods, Jewelry, Natural resources.</p> <p>7. Mr. Kevin Rabinovitch, Global VP Sustainability, Mars Incorporated, USA; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Grant Reid. Sector: Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources</p> <p>8. Mr. Christopher Stewart, Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability of Olam International, Singapore; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Sunny Verghese. Sector: Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources.</p> <p>9. Mr. Serge Rajaobelina, CEO of the Livelihoods Fund at Fanamby, Madagascar. Sector: Ecotourism, non-timber forest products, agriculture, natural resources - SME.</p> <p>10. Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj, India. Sector: Agriculture, Food and nutrition - SME.</p> <p>11. Mr. Bey Soo Khiang, Vice-Chairman of Royal Golden Eagle (RGE), Indonesia; On behalf of the Chairman, Mr. Anderson Tanoto. Sector: Agriculture, Food and Nutrition.</p> <p>12. Mr. Ademola Adesina, CEO of Rensource Energy, Nigeria. Sector: Energy and cities.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Council approved minimum requirements for GEF Agencies on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT) and requested Agencies to certify that they meet those minimum requirements or present a time-bound action plan to achieve</p>

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<p>Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session (December 2019).</p>	<p>compliance.<sup>15</sup> Following the approval of the minimum standards, GEF Agencies commenced a process of self-certification to ensure a timely roll-out of the new minimum requirements on AML-CFT. In June 2019, the GEF Council reviewed the Status of Agencies' Compliance with Minimum Requirements on AML-CFT.<sup>16</sup></p> <p>Furthermore, during the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has been carrying out a comprehensive review of the GEF's fiduciary minimum standards for GEF partner Agencies, with a view to presenting an updated policy for Council consideration in December 2019.<sup>17</sup> If approved, an updated policy on minimum fiduciary standards would require a complete, third-party assessment of Agencies' compliance, including on AML-CFT.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>World Bank Group's (WBG) Staff Rules and its Code of Conduct apply to GEF Secretariat staff, who are contractually employees of the WBG. The WBG's Code of Conduct defines sexual harassment as "any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that interferes with work, is made a condition of employment, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment."<sup>18</sup> The Code sets out that harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment and bullying, is unacceptable. It also sets out that: "The WBG does not expect staff to tolerate sexual harassment from managers, colleagues, or any other WBG stakeholders. Likewise, sexual harassment by staff members toward WBG stakeholders—including clients, partners, vendors,</p>

<sup>15</sup> GEF, 2018, [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), Council Document GA/PL/02.

<sup>16</sup> GEF, 2019, [Status of Agencies' Compliance with Minimum Requirements on AML-CFT](#), Council Document GEF/C.56/07/Rev.01.

<sup>17</sup> GEF, 2019, [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), Council Document GEF/C.56/07/Rev.01.

<sup>18</sup> World Bank Group, 2013, [Code of Conduct](#).

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	contractors, and conference participants—will not be tolerated.”
<p>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.</p>	<p>The present report includes information on the steps taken to implement the guidance received from COP 24.</p>
<b>Decision 8/CP.24, National adaptation plans</b>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11:  <i>Welcomes</i> the approval by the Least Developed Countries Fund of 11 proposals, as of 30 September 2018, from the least developed countries for funding for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans amounting to \$55 million.</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the positive acknowledgement of the support provided by the LDCF to countries.</p>
<b>Decision 12/CP.24, Review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network</b>	
<p><i>Invited</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to consider implementing the relevant recommendations referred to in paragraph 1<sup>19</sup> above when implementing their further activities relevant to the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;</p>	<p>The GEF has been and will continue considering, in collaboration with the CTCN the relevant recommendations within its mandate. For example, the GEF Secretariat personnel met with the CTCN, including at COP 24, SBI 50, and the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Technology Executive Committee (TEC) Meetings in an effort to encourage collaboration between the Poznan Strategic Program regional climate technology and finance centres and the CTCN. The CTCN has been encouraged to utilize GEF National</p>

<sup>19</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.

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	Dialogues and Extended Constituency Meetings as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF Operational Focal Points to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner.
<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 needed.
<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 needed.
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.	The GEF appreciates the acknowledgement of the ongoing coordination.
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.	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 CCM, as well as the CCA focal areas.  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

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	transfer of technology and innovation. The GEF will continue to support Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) for LDCs and SIDS through the global set aside under the CCM focal area.
<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>	The GEF stands ready to receive country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the TNAs and CTCN technical assistance.
<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>	This guidance is relevant for the CTCN. The GEF will respond to invitations to consult with the CTCN to discuss the identification of means to enhance information-sharing among national designated authorities and GEF OFPs.
<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 consideration of a conclusion on this matter, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020).</p>	This guidance is addressed to the SBI.
<p><b>Decision 15/CP.24, Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building</b></p>	
<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>	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 others, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs, and other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance developing countries'

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	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.
<b>Decision 16/CP.24, Least developed countries work programme</b>	
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.	No response required.
<b>CMA.1 DECISIONS</b>	
<b>Decision 3/CMA.1, Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement</b>	
Paragraph 7: <i>Confirmed</i> that the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement;	The GEF is committed to serving the Paris Agreement through the LDCF and the SCCF, in addition to the GEFTF.
<b>Decision 4/CMA.1, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21</b>	
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. Paragraph 2: <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.	The GEF continues to make resources available for the preparation of 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 accounting for and enhanced measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) measures for their NDCs.
<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	This decision is noted.

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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;	
<p>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;</p>	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>	
<p>Paragraph 25:  <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.</p>	No response needed.
<p>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.</p>	The GEF supports adaptation through the LDCF and the SCCF, and mitigation through the GEFTF. Efforts are being made to program available resources effectively.
<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>	This new guidance is noted, and the GEF has started consultations on how to meet the needs for the biennial transparency reports.
<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</p>	Some Parties have utilized the available programming modality to access resources for two Biennial Update Reports (BURs) as one project. The GEF stands ready to assess the feasibility of this request when there is further

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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.	clarity on the reporting requirement under Article 13.
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.	The GEF is in the process of assessing possible options. The report to the COP also contains information on the timelines of support provided to countries through CBIT projects approved to date, to provide information on the efficiency of process for support provision. <sup>20</sup>
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.	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.
<b>JOINT SBSTA 49 AND SBI 49 CONCLUSIONS<sup>21</sup></b>	
<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 work of the Koronivia road map and attend the workshops under the Koronivia road map.	The GEF stands ready to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from UNFCCC. GEF Secretariat personnel participated in the Koronivia workshops in June 2019 and participated as panelists in two sessions titled "Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management" and "Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience."

<sup>20</sup> Please refer to Part III, Section 3.c of the [Report of the GEF to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the COP to the UNFCCC](#).

<sup>21</sup> [FCCC/SBSTA/2018/8](#).

**Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 14 and GEF Response to Date**

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
Welcomes the signature and the entry into effect of the new memorandum of understanding concluded with the Global Environment Facility Council;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Also welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and acknowledges the increase in the focal area allocation, focus on land-based actions through Impact Programs, and opportunities to enhance synergies;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Global Environment Facility Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;	The GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. GEF Secretariat is also encouraging project proponents to use the "Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes" for GEF-7 project design.
Requests the Global Mechanism to continue its collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF will continue to collaborate with the Global Mechanism in the context of GEF-7.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting Parties to meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and encourages the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate financial resources in a timely manner;	Reporting, voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and capacity-building for implementation will be supported in the context of GEF-7 UNCCD enabling activities.
Invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention;	In the context of the GEF-7 programming directions, and within its mandate, the GEF provides countries with options to financing relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought mitigation activities through the LD focal area funding window as well as other funding windows, including multi-trust fund projects with the LDCF.
Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;	Within the context of the GEF-7, 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 14 Decision	GEF's Response
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.	Noted.

**Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP 9 Decision SC 9/15 and GEF's Response**

	<b>Stockholm COP 9 Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
1	Welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the report of the Facility to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
2	Welcomes the inclusion in the programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund of measures with respect to marine plastic litter and microplastics and alignment between those matters in the strategies for the international waters and the chemicals and waste focal areas;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
3	Recalls Articles 13 and 14 of the Stockholm Convention, and encourages the donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund, at the time of negotiations of its eighth replenishment, to increase significantly the allocation for the Convention, to assist recipient countries;	Noted. This will be taken into consideration during the negotiations of the eight replenishment of the GEF.
4	Reiterates its request to 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;	Noted. The GEF will continue to follow its operational guidelines, programming directions and guidance from the COP in the review of proposals for funding of the Stockholm Convention.
5	Adopts the terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism set out in annex I to the present decision;	Noted. The GEF will provide information when requested during the review process.
6	Requests the Secretariat to compile information relevant to the fifth review of the financial mechanism and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
7	Notes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention, and encourages them to further enhance effective inter secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of	Noted.

	<b>Stockholm COP 9 Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
	the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;	
8	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 tenth meeting;	Noted. The GEF will work with the Convention Secretariat to prepare the report for the consideration of the tenth Conference of the Parties.
9	Invites developed-country Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action.
10	Invites other Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action.
11	Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions, such as development banks, and the private sector, to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by	Not for GEF action.

	<b>Stockholm COP 9 Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
	31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such contributions;	
12	Adopts the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026, as set out in annex II to the present decision;	Noted. The GEF will provide information when requested during the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026.
13	Invites Parties and others to provide, by 31 August 2020, the relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs referred to in paragraph 12 of the present decision;	Not for GEF action.
14	Requests the Secretariat:	
	(a) To prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 9 to 11 of the present decision, 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 financial resources in support of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
	(b) To compile information relevant to the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026 and submit the draft report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
	(c) To provide assistance to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, upon request, to facilitate their assessment of funding needed for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022 to 2026	Not for GEF action.