



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

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Virtual

Agenda Item 16

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.60/06, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests 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 November 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.
2. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, discourse and interactions with the Conventions remained in a virtual format, and the Conferences of Parties (COPs) and negotiations were further postponed beyond the reporting period. Nevertheless, provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued during the pandemic. The GEF CEO and senior level officials also took part in various engagements, including those organized by COP Presidencies and other partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.
3. The GEF-8 replenishment process also started in early 2021, with active engagement of the Convention Secretariats in the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings to help inform the programming directions development. The Convention Secretariats were also invited to provide comments on the first draft of the programming directions document in March 2021.
4. Highlights reported include:
 - (a) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD meetings and events, including informal sessions towards COP 15 and deliberations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
 - (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC meetings and events held virtually in an effort to advance work towards COP 26; consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment; roll out of support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs); ratifications and submission of national reports.
 - (c) UNCCD: Updates on consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment; and GEF Secretariat's participation in the meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 19) held virtually from March 15 to 19, 2021.
 - (d) Stockholm Convention: Updates on national reporting, consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention.

- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment, signatures and ratifications, and on the Special Programme and the Specific international Programme.
- (f) 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 (GCF).

5. An annex with the full list of GEF's responses to decisions from most recent COPs, including UNCBD COP 14, UNFCCC COP 25, UNCCD COP 14 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, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report was presented to the 59th GEF Council held in December 2020, covering the period from November 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
3. International processes remained deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the reporting period. Landmark Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and negotiation meetings that were originally scheduled in 2020 have been further postponed to the latter part of 2021 or 2022. The postponements have included COPs to CBD, Minamata, Stockholm, UNCCD, and UNFCCC, which may issue guidance and decisions of relevance to the GEF to inform the GEF-8 replenishment. The GEF Secretariat remained engaged in discussions, which shifted to a virtual mode, to support and maintain momentum for the Conventions to reach outcomes that are individually successful and also mutually reinforcing.
4. The provision of finance through the GEF in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued in the reporting period, as well as consultations with countries and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat.
5. Despite the challenges, the GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground, and to help enhance ambition of landmark decisions and agreements to be reached, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
6. The GEF-8 replenishment process started in 2021, with close engagement of the Convention Secretariats and other international institutions. Executive Secretaries and senior representatives of the Conventions opened the GEF-8 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings and took part in discussions. The TAG meetings were held on February 8 to 11, 2021 to seek technical inputs on priorities for the Programming Directions Framework in light of key global environmental challenges through 2030 and the GEF mandate across the Conventions. The Convention secretariats were also requested to provide comments on the first draft Programming Directions in March 2021, so that their feedback could be reflected in the document posted for the first Replenishment Meeting which took part in April 2021.

7. The Executive Secretaries of CBD, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, and UNCCD participated in the 59^b GEF Council, and discussed the status of negotiations and their financial needs for GEF-8.

8. Work continued on enabling access to the GEF portal to Convention Secretariats for the purposes of commenting on project submissions. The tasks are expected to be completed in time for the December 2021 work program constitution.

9. The GEF Secretariat also took part in the Rio Conventions trilateral meetings convened by the United Kingdom UNFCCC COP 26 Presidency to explore opportunities for synergy and integration across CBD, CCD, and UNFCCC.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

10. Due to the COVID pandemic, the 15th Conference of the Parties of the CBD (COP 15) and the meetings of the preparatory subsidiary bodies have been postponed. COP 15 is now scheduled to take place in Kunming, China, from October 11 to 24, 2021 and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) from August 2 to 7, 2021. The 24th session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the third session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) are to be held virtually held during the period May 3 to June 13, 2021.

11. The Executive Secretary of the CBD provided an update on the status of negotiations for the upcoming COP 15 and GEF-8 financial needs of Parties to the 59th GEF Council in December 2020.

12. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat participated in several virtual events and meetings organised to maintain momentum and advance the preparations for COP 15:

- (a) The GEF Secretariat presented the completed work of the GEF COVID-19 Task Force at the informal session of SBSTTA and SBI on the theme “Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19”, which took place on December 15 and 16, 2020.
- (b) The GEF Secretariat staff attended the informal session of SBSTTA from February 17 to 19 and 24 to 26, 2021. Participants had an opportunity to comment on the agenda items of the upcoming SBSTTA 24. However, no negotiations took place in this informal session, which primarily discussed the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) to be adopted at COP 15. Throughout the session, many raised issues for inclusion in the draft framework. Specific discussions focused on the monitoring framework. Other agenda items discussed included: synthetic biology; risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms; marine and coastal biodiversity, biodiversity and agriculture; and invasive alien species.

- (c) The GEF Secretariat staff attended the informal session in preparation to SBI 3 from March 8 to 14, 2021. The GEF Secretariat introduced the GEF draft COP 15 report to SBI during this session, which focused on implementation-related matters with the GBF taking central stage. The informal character of the meeting meant that there were no negotiations, and no formal outcome was adopted. Instead, delegates exchanged views on a variety of issues, broadening common understanding and paving the way towards SBI 3, COP 15, and the successful completion and adoption of the GBF. The meeting's deliberations focused on: resource mobilization and the financial mechanism; mechanisms for reporting, assessment, and review of implementation; capacity building, cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, and communication; mainstreaming of biodiversity; the interlinkages of all the above with the GBF as well as cross-cutting elements; review of progress in the implementation of the Convention; assessment and review of effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; international access and benefit-sharing instruments in the context of Article 4 of the Nagoya Protocol; a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism under Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol; review of the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its Protocols; and administrative and budgetary matters.

13. CBD Secretariat staff were active participants in the GEF-8 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings held virtually from February 8 to 11, 2021. The Deputy Executive Secretary provided opening remarks. Several secretariat staff participated in the TAGs on the biodiversity focal area strategy as well as the TAGs on resource mobilization and natural capital assessment and accounting and on unified action towards 2030 goals and commitments.

14. The CBD Secretariat reviewed the draft GEF-8 Programming Directions document and provided extensive comments on the document which the GEF Secretariat sought to accommodate in the version presented to the First Replenishment Meeting.

Ratifications and Accessions

15. As of March 31, 2021, the number of Parties to the CBD stood at 196. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

16. The total number of Parties increased to 129 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 membership from Brazil, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Turkmenistan since the last report to the GEF Council.

17. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety rose to 173, with Sierra Leone becoming the Party on 13 September 2020. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has now 48 Parties with one addition of Colombia.

National Reporting

18. The Convention Secretariat has received a total of 182 sixth national reports, 100 of which are available through the Convention's online submission system. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

19. During the reporting period, efforts continued to support climate change activities with the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

20. COP 26, originally scheduled to take place in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to November 1 to 12, 2021. The subsidiary body meetings, originally scheduled to take place in June 2020, were postponed to October 2020 and subsequently to virtual meetings to be held from May 31 to June 17, 2021. The postponement continued to have impacts on GEF-relevant UNFCCC processes with multi-year timelines, such as the seventh review of the Financial Mechanism, which is to be initiated at COP 26 and finalized at COP 27. The sixth review was concluded at COP 22 in 2017.

21. The GEF Secretariat staff continued to participate and be observers in events and meetings held virtually in an effort to advance work and to continue momentum and action, including the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues and meetings of Constituted Bodies, such as the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Groups (LEG).

22. Regarding mobilization of finance, the GEF continued to review and approve projects without delay. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation projects included in the Work Program approved by the 59th Council in December 2020. The LDCF and SCCF continued to provide resources for urgent and immediate adaptation priorities in the reporting period, through one LDCF Work Program approved by the 29th LDCF/SCCF Council in December 2020, totalling approximately \$64 million.

23. In order to advance discussions on support provision for the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) as requested by COP 24 and 25 decisions, the GEF Secretariat organized a second virtual informal consultation meeting on November 17, 2020, where the modalities and support options were discussed with representatives of countries and institutions engaged in UNFCCC reporting support. An information document on this subject was also submitted to Council.¹ A notification on the availability of support for preparation of BTRs was sent by the GEF CEO on February 18, 2021 to all GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs).

¹ GEF, 2020, [Information Note on the Financing of the Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

24. The BTR support modalities have been made available during the reporting period to provide sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. To date, ten countries have submitted requests for BTR support and additional countries have expressed interest to start BTR preparations. The GEF Secretariat is working closely with these countries and GEF agencies to provide timely support.

25. Further, to comply with reporting requirements as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the GEF Council and UNFCCC COP, the GEF submitted its annual report to COP 26 on October 5, 2020, upon Council approval by mail.² In addition, the GEF submitted to the UNFCCC an addendum to the COP report on the status of resources approved by the GEF for the preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on December 4, 2020. The GEF also started preparations of the next report to be submitted to COP 26, covering activities that took place in fiscal year 2021.

26. Support for the CBIT progressed in the reporting period, with approval of three national projects totalling \$5.5 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and project preparation grants (PPGs). As of March 31, 2021, the entire CBIT portfolio includes projects covering 72 countries and five global projects, totalling \$121.6 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. In the GEF-7 period, \$55.0 million of set-aside resources have been notionally allocated to the CBIT. As of March 31, 2021, \$56.6 million has been programmed to support 30 CBIT projects. Progress made on the CBIT including a portfolio analysis and outlook is presented to Council in an information document.³ The GEF continues to accept and approve CBIT projects to respond to the Paris Agreement decision in the remaining GEF-7 period, exercising the flexibility to notionally allocate remaining unprogrammed set-aside resources.

27. The GEF Secretariat continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Enhancing complementarity with the GCF has been identified as a priority by the GEF CEO since coming on board in September 2020. The GEF and GCF Secretariats collaborated to develop a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF, which is also presented to Council.⁴ Additional details on coordinated engagement and the development of the Long-Term Vision are provided below in the section on the relation with the GCF. Much discussion with the GCF in the reporting period entailed coordination for the next phase of the Great Green Wall initiative and Amazon, sharing of information on projects and concepts to identify opportunities for tandem support, smooth transition from readiness to projects to scaling up, and to minimize potential overlap.

² GEF, 2020, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

³ GEF, 2021, [Progress Report of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council document GEF/C.60/Inf.10.

⁴ GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council document GEF/C.60/08.

Ratifications and Accessions

28. As of March 31, 2021, there are 197 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 191 ratified, the Paris agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

National Reporting

29. The following is the total number of National Communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of March 31, 2021:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **143**
- (c) Third National Communications: **85**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **11**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **2**
- (f) Sixth National Communications: **1**

30. As of March 31, 2021, a total of 63 first BURs, 33 second BURs, 13 third BURs, and five fourth BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

31. On November 17, 2020, the GEF held a second virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to present the modalities and guidelines that have been made available by the GEF for supporting the BTRs and related reporting. The GEF has received guidance from COP 24 and COP 25 to provide support for BTRs. The meeting participants included country representatives, and representatives from the UNFCCC Secretariat, LDC Group, UNDP, and UNEP. Meeting information has been posted on the GEF website.⁵

32. The GEF Secretariat has actively consulted with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the GEF-8 replenishment to ensure that the proposed GEF Programming Directions address UNFCCC and Paris Agreement priorities and recent COP guidance and facilitate synergies with other conventions towards greater effectiveness and impact. Input from the UNFCCC Secretariat has been sought through different channels and at various levels, including through, technical bilateral discussions, engagement of the UNFCCC Secretariat in various thematic discussions at the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings and through written comments on proposed Programming Directions.

⁵ GEF, 2020. [Second Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#)

33. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the following additional UNFCCC-related meetings and provided updates on the status of GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building, among other topics:

- UNFCCC Virtual Dialogue on Experiences and Lessons Learned from the Pilot Regional Climate Technology Transfer Centers Supported by the GEF Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer on November 4, 2020;
- UNFCCC Climate Dialogues: From Technology Needs to Climate Action from November 10 to 12, 2020;
- 16th Meeting of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) Advisory Board from November 10 to 12, 2020;
- 21st Meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), from November 17 to 20, 2020;
- Workshop of Koronivia Road Map: “Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others,” November 24 and 25, 2020;
- Workshop of Koronivia Road Map: “Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector,” December 1 and 2, 2020;
- Fourth Meeting of the Finance Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the UNFCCC, December 16 and 17, 2020; and
- Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) Meeting, from March 10 to 12, 2021.

34. The GEF CEO and senior staff took part in the Climate and Development Ministerial, hosted by the United Kingdom as the COP President, and its preparatory meetings in March 2021. The Ministerial was held to discuss the challenges and priorities for implementing the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 in the countries that are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

35. The Executive Secretary participated in the 59th GEF Council, and provided an update on the status of negotiations for the upcoming COP.

36. UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism representatives participated actively in the TAG consultations to provide inputs for the GEF-8 replenishment process. UNCCD Secretariat also provided written comments on the first draft of the GEF-8 Programming Directions.

37. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the nineteenth meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 19), held online from March 15 to 19, 2021. The CRIC is a subsidiary body to the UNCCD COP to assist in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention. CRIC 19 convened as a non-negotiating, information-sharing

session with a shortened agenda. Due to the online format, the CRIC did not prepare any draft decisions for the next UNCCD COP. The meeting provided an opportunity to share experiences on issues to be addressed at the next COP, including Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) projects and policy frameworks relating to drought, gender, and land tenure. The CRIC Draft Summary Report by the rapporteur is available online.⁶

38. In the context of the CRIC-19, the GEF Secretariat informed parties of its ongoing support to LDN implementation through Land Degradation Focal Area programming in GEF-7 as well as availability of funding for GEF eligible countries for UNCCD Enabling Activities and the procedures for accessing those funds.

39. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, CCD COP15, due to be held in autumn 2021, has been postponed. It will be rescheduled between May and October 2022, at a venue to be confirmed.

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

41. On March 25, 2021, the GEF CEO and the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD published a joint op-ed titled “How rescheduling debt for climate and nature goals could unlock a sustainable recovery” on the World Economic Forum website.⁷

Ratifications and Accessions

42. As of March 31, 2021, 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

43. The next reporting by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework will be due in 2022, which coincides with the end of the GEF-7 replenishment period. Enabling activity funding is available for all eligible countries in GEF-7 to build capacity for reporting and prepare the reports. GEF is making available \$100,000 each for GEF eligible countries for UNCCD Enabling Activities for national reporting and planning. This amount of \$100,000 includes GEF agency fees of 9.5 percent. Access to funding is provided through an umbrella project managed by UNEP. Countries wishing to receive funding need to submit a GEF OFP endorsement letter to UNEP. The deadline for accessing the funds is linked to the end of the GEF-7 period. However, to allow for adequate time for processing of the requests, parties have

⁶ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2021-03/CRIC%2019%20-%20compilation%20summaries%20of%20discussion.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/03/rescheduling-debt-climate-sustainable-recovery/>

been urged to provide OFP endorsement letters as soon as possible, and by the end of 2021 at the latest.

44. Additional support is being provided through an approved Global Support Program, in form of a medium-sized project, to enable the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate the reporting process through technical assistance and virtual regional workshops. Further, GEF provides support through an Enabling Activity project for implementing UNCCD COP 14 Decisions on drought to facilitate parties' active participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

45. The UNCCD and GEF Secretariats engaged in preparatory consultations at working level to prepare interventions at the CRIC-19. In the follow-up of the CRIC-19 deliberations, opportunities for collaboration will be further explored.

46. The GEF CEO and Secretariat staff took part in a E-conference on Private Investment in the Great Green Wall from March 23 to 25, 2021, organized by a group of actors to connect diverse groups of stakeholders to share experiences, promote innovation, and stimulate further investment in the Great Green Wall.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

47. The Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention attended and addressed the 59th GEF Council in December 2020.

48. The Stockholm Convention Secretariat representatives participated in the TAG consultations to provide inputs for the GEF-8 replenishment process. The Executive Secretary also delivered remarks at the TAG opening plenary. The Secretariat participated in several of the working groups during the consultations.

49. In February 2021, the Executive Secretary of the Convention published a blog on the GEF website that highlights the need to manage chemicals for a cleaner, healthier planet.⁸

50. The Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO had a follow-up call on March 1, 2021 to their introductory call held in October 2020.

51. The Stockholm Convention Secretariat team, led by the Executive Secretary, participated in a joint coordination meeting of the Minamata Convention Secretariat, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat, and GEF Secretariat, held virtually from March 8 to 10, 2021. This meeting included a conversation

⁸ <https://www.thegef.org/blog/managing-chemicals-cleaner-healthier-planet>

among the heads of the Secretariats of Minamata and Stockholm Conventions and the GEF CEO on the GEF-8 replenishment and chemicals and health.

52. The Convention Secretariat provided comments on the draft programming directions which were shared with GEF Agencies and Convention Secretariats in March 2021.

53. The Convention Secretariat informed the GEF that, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BC COP 15, RC COP 10, SC COP 10) will be held in two segments. The first is in an online segment scheduled from July 26 to 30, 2021 to be followed by a face-to-face segment tentatively scheduled from June 13 to 24, 2022.

54. The GEF Council approved the report of the GEF to the tenth Conference of the Parties to Stockholm Convention on March 24, 2021 and was transmitted to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat on March 26, 2021.

Ratifications and Accessions

55. During the reporting period, there were no new ratifications, so the number of ratifications remains at 184. The status of ratifications is available at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National Reporting

56. During the reporting period, 28 new national reports pursuant to article 15 were submitted by Parties to the Convention. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the 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 March 31, 2021, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and updates are as follows:

<i>NIP Phase</i>	<i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i>	<i>Change since last report</i>
Initial NIP	173	1
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	104	6
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	92	4
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	60	5
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	37	4
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	17	4
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	6	0

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

58. The Convention Secretariat launched an online reporting dashboard for Parties to directly upload their data on inventories. The dashboard can be found on this link: <http://www.pops.int/Countries/Reporting/ReportingDashboard/tabid/7477/Default.aspx>

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

59. The Executive Secretary attended the 59th GEF Council and participated in the Relations with Conventions Agenda.

60. The Minamata Convention Secretariat personnel participated in the TAG consultations held in February 2021 to kick off the GEF-8 replenishment process. The Executive Secretary delivered remarks at the opening plenary. The Secretariat personnel participated in several of the TAG working groups.

61. The Minamata Convention Secretariat, including the Executive Secretary participated in a joint coordination meeting of the BRS Secretariat, SAICM Secretariat and GEF Secretariat that was held in an online setting from March 8 to 10, 2021. This meeting included a conversation among the heads of the Secretariats and the GEF CEO on the GEF-8 replenishment and chemicals and health.

62. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, COP 4, originally scheduled from November 1 to 5, 2021 in Bali, Indonesia, will instead be held in two segments. The first segment is online and scheduled from November 1 to 5, 2021, followed by a face-to-face segment tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

Ratifications and Accessions

63. During the reporting period, seven countries became Party to the Minamata Convention: Cambodia, Central African Republic, Burundi, Cameroon, Italy, Pakistan and Qatar.

64. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention had 128 signatures and 131 Parties, as of March 31, 2021. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

National Reporting

65. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has created a website to house national reports from Parties, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), National Action Plans (NAPs) for the artisanal and small scale gold mining sector (ASGM), National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention.

66. There are currently 59 MIAs submitted, 12 NAPs, 2 NIPs and 99 reports submitted under Article 21.

67. MIAs that have been submitted are available at this link:
<http://mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties/MinamataInitialAssessments/tabid/6166/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

68. NAPs that have been submitted are available at this link:
<http://mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties/NationalActionPlans/tabid/7966/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

69. NIPs that have been submitted are available at this link:
<http://mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties/NationalImplementationPlans/tabid/8072/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

70. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at this link:
<http://mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Reporting/tabid/8189/language/en-US/Default.aspx>. The deadline for the full reports is 31 December 2021

Specific International Programme

71. The third round for proposals to be funded by the Specific International Programme (SiP) was announced on December 15, 2020 and closed on March 18, 2021. Twenty-four proposals were received. The technical task team, which comprises the Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Special Programme, the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership, and the GEF Secretariat, are in the process of reviewing and appraising these proposals. The Governing Board will meet in August 2021 to approve projects, subject to available funding.

72. The Special Program, also known as Chemicals and Waste Management Programme, was established in 2014 by the United Nations Environment Assembly to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation for effective frameworks. The Special Program supports implementation of the Minamata Convention, the BRS Conventions, and SAICM.

73. The fourth round of applications of the Special Program was launched on the margins of COP 3 of the Minamata Convention.

74. The sixth meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Program was held from March 1 to 5, 2021 in an online setting. The meeting considered the 24 complete and eligible projects presented for its consideration and funded 15 projects for a total of \$3.7 million. The GEF Secretariat participated in the board meeting as an expert observer.

75. The fifth round of applications to the Special Programme was launched on April 7, 2021. The deadline for the submission of applications is August 7, 2021.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

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

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund

84. 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. By decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, the Adaptation Fund started serving 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, from January 1, 2019. 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 will serve the Paris Agreement exclusively and no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol.

85. In December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), at its fifteenth session (CMP 15), decided to adopt the amended and restated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the Council of the GEF regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB). At its fifty-seventh meeting, the Council of the GEF decided to approve the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services to the AFB as in December 2019.

86. In line with decision 9/CMA.1 related to guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the Adaptation Fund, along with the GCF, the GEF, the Climate Technology Center and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, continued 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.

87. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for the thirty-sixth meeting of the AFB. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of March 31, 2021, the AFB has approved 118 concrete projects amounting to \$814.13 million in total. As of December 31, 2020, funds available to support funding decisions were \$253.50 million.

88. 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. The AFB Secretariat shared with the GEF Secretariat the updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan of the Adaptation Fund approved in March

2021. Both secretariats continued to collaborate with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme.

89. 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. The secretariats exchanged information on the new cost recovery measures for Trust Funds, Financially Intermediary Fund (FIF) Trustee Services, FIF Secretariats and Externally Financed Outputs released by the World Bank in March 2021.

90. The AFB Secretariat also attended the 59th GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council (virtually held) as an observer. Representatives of the AFB Secretariat also attended the GEF Introduction Seminar in February 2021 and gave a presentation on the Fund's work.

91. The GEF Secretariat and the AFB Secretariat participated in the Fourth Annual Dialogue of Climate Finance Delivery channels, organized by the GCF in a virtual meeting, on November 26, 2020. The Dialogue highlighted the importance of collaboration between multilateral climate funds and discussed the update of the joint roadmap of collaborative activities.

92. The Chair of the AFB invited the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF to address and have a dialogue with the Board at its 36th meeting. During the reporting period, arrangements were made for the dialogue.

93. The respective communications units of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchange updates and share ideas periodically about potential communications areas for collaboration. The communications units also periodically share/repost social media and news releases on one another's platforms, where relevant/appropriate.

94. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration. Most recently the GEF Secretariat included the AF-produced virtual courses on accreditation and environmental, social and gender considerations in project design and implementation as part of the optional reading material for the virtual GEF Introduction Seminar held in February 2021 where the AF also gave an introductory presentation.

Green Climate Fund

77. The GEF and GCF Secretariats continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance complementarity, collaboration and coordinated engagement throughout the reporting period. The GEF CEO and Chairperson, the GCF Executive Director, and the respective Secretariats held several discussions and joint engagements throughout the reporting period, including on articulating complementarity between the two funds, strengthening collaborations and shared

support for major initiatives, and on further promoting joint efforts on communications, outreach and sharing of lessons learned through the implementation of the respective portfolios. The GCF also took part in the first GEF-8 replenishment meeting as an observer.

78. The Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF is presented to the June 2021 GEF Council.⁹ It will also be presented to the 29th meeting of the GCF Board, to be held from June 29 to July 2, 2021, as part of the GCF Secretariat report. The document identifies specific areas of cooperation where complementarity of action can increase efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the respective strategies and interventions.

79. As highlighted in this joint document, the respective visions and missions of the GEF and GCF are partially shared and fully mutually reinforcing. The vision of the GCF is to promote the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate resilient development pathways in the context of sustainable development, while the GEF's mission is to safeguard the global environment by helping developing countries meet their commitments to multiple environmental conventions and by creating and enhancing partnerships at national, regional, and global scales based on the principle of sectoral integration and systemic approaches.

80. The Long-Term Vision aims at enhancing the planning, implementation and outcomes of the GEF and GCF investments, providing a strategic direction for complementarity designed to inform future programming and prospective joint work. More specifically, the Long-Term Vision seeks to assist both funds on working together, including to jointly progress on coordinating support for major initiatives, facilitate national investment planning, identify, share and apply lessons learned to facilitate implementation, collaborate on development of methodologies and guidance to maximize climate impacts, develop a list of activities or programs each fund will prioritize, and to support collaborating financing platforms. It also includes communication and inclusion of the vision in respective fund's programming, and collaboration on communications and outreach.

81. During the reporting period, the GEF and the GCF continued to explore opportunities to collaborate on specific projects or programs and to further expand the portfolio of countries that could receive coordinated financial support from the two institutions through either parallel or sequential financing. Collaboration is advancing on programming of major initiatives for which support from the two institutions is being considered, including the further expansion of the GEF-funded large-scale program on the Great Green Wall across the Sahelian countries, which the GCF has recently approved; the Amazon Initiative; the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)-REDD+ Initiative; and the implementation of the electric mobility portfolio.

⁹ GEF, 2021, [*Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.*](#)

UN Forum on Forests

82. The GEF continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The GEF notably contributed to tasks related to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) in the perspective of the UNFF 16, including the elaboration of the new CPF Workplan 2021-2024¹⁰, some CPF joint initiatives and the support to UNFF. The GEF updated its contribution to financing SFM in the UNFF 16 report “Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network”¹¹.

83. The GEF approved on December 2, 2020, the project “Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes” which is a CPF Joint Initiative co-led by UNEP and CIFOR. Building on existing work from the participating organizations, this initiative aims to mobilize and scale-up finance for sustainable forest management and deforestation-free agriculture. It is expected to be launched during the second half of 2021 and prepare events in conjunction with the forthcoming meetings in the second half of 2021 such as the UN Food Systems Summit, CBD COP 15, UNFCCC COP 26 and the Global Landscapes Forum investment case event.

84. The GEF participated in two CPF meetings: the second Meeting of the Working Group on the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024 on November 24, 2020 and in the CPF members meeting on February 4, 2021. While the first meeting allowed the finalization of the new CPF Workplan, the second meeting discussed among others the update of the CPF Joint Initiatives and CPF contributions to UNFF 16.

85. The GEF participated in the UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the Assessment of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Sustainable Forest Management from 19 to 21 January 2021.

86. As member of the CPF Consultative Group in support of the XV World Forestry Congress since May 2020, the GEF participated in two meetings of the group on November 23, 2020 and on March 6, 2021. The GEF continued to support the preparation of the Congress which is now expected to be held from May 2 to 6, 2022.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

87. GEF staff were planning on participating in the 19th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that was scheduled for April 13-24, 2020 and await decisions on rescheduling the meeting.

SAMOA Pathway

88. GEF staff continued to participate in periodic meetings of the UN Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

¹⁰ [CPF Workplan \(2021-2024\)](#)

¹¹ [E/CN.18/2021/4](#)

89. In February and March 2021, the GEF Secretariat participated in inter-agency meetings on development of a multivariate vulnerability index for SIDS, organized by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

90. In its resolution 72/249 of December 24, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. Originally planned in August 2020, the fourth IGC session was postponed due to the COVID pandemic and is currently scheduled from August 16 to 27, 2021.

91. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat staff continued to monitor the negotiation process and to be available to clarify GEF's procedures, relations with Conventions it serves, and work in areas beyond national jurisdiction to all negotiating Parties. GEF Secretariat staff notably continued to participate in the virtual intersessional work led by the President of the IGC, which spanned from September 2020 to March 2021.

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
<i>Welcomes</i> the successful conclusion of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and <i>expresses its appreciation</i> for the continuing financial support from Parties and Governments for carrying out the tasks under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in its remaining years, and for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its first two years;	No response needed.
<i>Notes</i> that the biodiversity programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Trust Fund reflect the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, which includes the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism and the four-year framework of programme priorities (July 2018 to June 2022), as well as further guidance; ¹²	No response needed.
<i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility's process to review and upgrade its environmental and social safeguards and the related systems of its agencies, as well as its guidance to advance gender in its new gender implementation strategy, noting that the results will be applicable to all projects funded by the Facility, and <i>invites</i> the Facility to inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms in this important process;	The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018. ¹³ The updated policy is substantially consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines. The Secretariat is currently facilitating a process to review Agencies' compliance with the minimum standards contained in the updated policy.
<i>Notes</i> the ongoing review and updating against criteria of best practice of the Global Environment Facility's policy on safeguards and rules of engagement with indigenous peoples;	The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018. ¹⁴ The updated policy is aligned with international best practice, including with respect to engagement with indigenous peoples

¹² See decision XIII/21.

¹³ GEF, 2018, [Updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), Council document GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01.

¹⁴ Ibid.

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
<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. During the reporting period, the GEF approved one country-based project (Gambia) to strengthen the required technical, legal, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. GEF invested \$3.1 million and leveraged \$10.5 million in co-financing.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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; (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>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol; (b) To support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol; (c) To support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the 	<p>The GEF will continue 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
achievement of compliance with the Protocol;	
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and other relevant funding agencies to provide funds for regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;	The GEF will continue to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<i>Expresses its appreciation</i> for the financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility for a number of eligible Parties to support the preparation of their interim national reports on the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, and notes the importance of timely availability of financial resources to support the preparation and submission of national reports by the reporting deadline;	No response needed.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements, and to make funds available to this end;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy. During the reporting period, the GEF approved one country-based project (Gambia) to strengthen the required technical, legal, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. GEF invested \$3.1 million and leveraged \$10.5 million in co-financing.
<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: (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	As part of its ongoing support to the implementation of the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilots 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. The GEF continues to make GEF-eligible countries aware of the processes and procedures that fall under the responsibility of the Conflict Resolution Commissioner. The GEF remains committed to ensure sustainability of all its projects and programs, and in particular GEF's support to sustainable

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>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"> (i) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy; (ii) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies; 	<p>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><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 COP 14, 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. GEF Secretariat staff have participated in the Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean sharing GEF's experiences in supporting implementation of the CBD. GEF Secretariat staff have also attended the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Executive Secretary attended the 57th (December 2019) and 59th (December 2020) GEF Councils and presented an overview of the post-2020 framework discussions. One of OEWG co-chair also presented a summary of progress to date by the OEWG in developing the zero draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the 57th GEF Council. The CBD Secretariat has been consulted on the GEF-8 replenishment from the onset of the replenishment process, through participation in Technical Advisory Groups and review of draft programming directions. GEF Secretariat communicates and collaborates on an ongoing basis with the CBD Secretariat and the Executive Secretary in the context of this process.</p>

Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 25 and CMA 2, Conclusions of SBI 51 and SBI 50 and SBSTA 51 and SBSTA 50, and GEF Responses

Updates to the table for activities covering fiscal year 2021 are underlined for ease of reference.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹⁵ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁶ /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
COP 25 DECISIONS	
Decision 7/CP.25 National adaptation plans	
<p>Paragraph 6: <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 to enabling developing countries to advance their work in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.</p>	<p>Support for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process has been made by the LDCF and SCCF.</p> <p><u>Notably, GEF provides support combining NAP process with activities that support concrete adaptation investments for NAPA implementation. Such projects typically include separate components that are solely devoted to formulation of NAPs. In this reporting period, no country requested LDCF and SCCF financing for NAP process.</u></p>
Decision 8/CP.25 Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2019	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among others, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in an effort to enhance developing countries' abilities to assess their needs and priorities and to support developing countries to both develop and implement NDCs. The GEF also engages with developing country Parties through initiatives such as National Dialogues and Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs).</p> <p>In providing capacity-building support to developing countries, the GEF continues to collaborate with relevant initiatives and other capacity-building providers, including through fostering coordinated</p>

¹⁵ COP 25 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-25>

¹⁶ CMA 2 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-2>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹⁵ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁶ /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	engagement with the GCF as part of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as well as through the NDC Partnership, to enhance synergies and coherence of the respective work programs.
Decision 11/CP.25 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Looks forward</i> to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.</p>	Noted.
Decision 13/CP.25, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.</p>	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Also welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The approval of climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund; (b) The approval of minimum requirements for Global Environment Facility Trust Fund agencies on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism; (c) The composition of the Private Sector Advisory Group; (d) The implementation of the gender equality policy and the approval of the gender implementation strategy; 	Noted with appreciation of recognition of work undertaken.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹⁵ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁶ /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
(e) The approval of the policy on monitoring and the evaluation policy.	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund during the reporting period, amounting to USD 184 million, and the contribution made by Switzerland to the Special Climate Change Fund during the reporting period amounting to USD 3.3 million, and <i>encourages</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds to provide support for adaptation.</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the LDCF contributions of Euro 100 million made by Germany and Euro 20 million The Netherlands of at the Global Adaptation Summit in January 2021. In addition, GEF appreciates additional contributions to the LDCF from Belgium, Finland, Qatar and Switzerland amounting to \$33.93 million during this reporting period and stands ready to continue to work with countries to support adaptation with additional contributions.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects.</p>	<p>The GEF continues its efforts to strengthen efficiencies in the project cycle. As part of this effort, the GEF has instituted a maximum time period (12 months for Medium-sized Projects, and 18 months for Full-sized Projects) for the project to receive Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Endorsement after approval by the Council of the relevant Work Program, in line with the Project Cancellation Policy¹⁷ approved by the Council in December 2018.</p> <p>As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2019, presented to the 57th GEF Council Meeting in December 2019, the percentage of Full-sized Projects that were CEO-endorsed within 18 months of Council approval of the Project Information Form (PIF) increased to 35 percent in GEF FY 2019, from 28 percent in GEF FY 2018.¹⁸ Additionally, the average time from CEO Endorsement to first disbursement decreased from 11.2 months in GEF-5 to 7.7 months in GEF-6. The GEF Monitoring Report 2019 provides further detailed explanation of additional measures for increasing the pace of preparation and implementation of GEF projects.¹⁹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF provided an initial automatic extension of three months in March</p>

¹⁷ GEF, 2018, [Project Cancellation Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.55/04/Rev.01.

¹⁸ GEF, 2019, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2019](#), Council Document GEF/C.57/03, page 14.

¹⁹ GEF, 2019, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2019](#), Council Document GEF/C.57/03, paragraph 34.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹⁵ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁶ /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p>2020²⁰ and subsequently additional extension of a further three months in April 2020²¹ (six months in total) to the business standard deadlines applicable to the submission of CEO Endorsements or Approvals, as well as the actual CEO Endorsements or Approvals, in line with the Cancellation Policy approved by the Council in December 2018. The six-month extension applies to all projects and child projects under Programs approved after March 1, 2019 to address challenges and mitigate risks of the preparation of such projects.</p> <p><u>As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2020, presented to the 59th GEF Council Meeting in December 2020,²² the overall disbursement ratio of ongoing portfolio projects has improved from 18 percent in FY 2019 to 25 percent in FY 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the start of the projects resulting in a decline in the number of projects able to disburse in less than 18 months after CEO Endorsement/Approval from 78 percent to 47 percent.</u></p> <p><u>In December 2020, in light of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF Council approved an exceptional authorization for the CEO to grant exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy, as follows: a) the CEO may grant extensions to cancellation deadlines for all project types for a total of up to 24 months, replacing the references to extensions of 12 months and six months in paras 5(d) and 6(d) respectively of the Cancellation Policy; and b) this authorization is effective through the final day of the 60th Council meeting in June 2021.²³</u></p>

²⁰ The information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-march-23-2020>

²¹ The information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-april-23-2020>

²² GEF, 2020, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2020](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01

²³ This information is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/impact-COVID19-project-preparation-and-implementation-overview-responses>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹⁵ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁶ /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p><u>This provided Agencies and recipient countries with the extra time needed to prepare quality projects, as recipient countries continued to roll out several lockdowns and other restrictions to international travel, access to offices and gathering of people. The GEF Council has further requested that the Secretariat continue to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on GEF operations, report to Council and take necessary actions within its authority.</u></p> <p><u>On September 25, 2020 the GEF issued an internal guidance on “Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics”²⁴ to provide clear guidance to enable countries address COVID-10 risks and create opportunities for green recovery.</u></p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to report to the Conference of the Parties any change or update to the eligibility criteria for accessing the Global Environment Facility resources, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to report to the Conference of Parties should such change or update occur in the future.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, as part of the overall performance study of its seventh replenishment, to analyse any challenges faced and lessons learned by the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies in applying the updated policy on co-financing of the Global Environment Facility and to report back to the Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of the study.</p>	<p>The GEF plans to have a review of experiences of the implementation of the updated Policy on Co-financing as described in the GEF-7 Policy Recommendations at the 59th GEF Council meeting in December 2020. Furthermore, the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation (OPS7) is expected to be completed in FY 2022.²⁵ Relevant findings will be reported to the Conference of the Parties once they become available.</p> <p><u>A Progress Report on the Implementation of the Updated Co-Financing Policy²⁶ was released on</u></p>

²⁴ The guidance is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/project-design-and-review-considerations-response-COVID-19-crisis-and-mitigation-future>

²⁵ GEF, 2019, [Four-Year Work Program and Budget of The GEF Independent Evaluation Office – GEF-7](#), GEF/C.56/03/Rev.01.

²⁶ GEF, 2020, [Progress Report on the Implementation of the Updated Co-Financing Policy](#), GEF/C.59/Inf.07.

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	<p><u>December 2020 at the 59th GEF Council Meeting. The report found out that the implementation of the updated GEF Co-Financing Policy, together with the comprehensive GEF-7 policy framework on monitoring and results, has provided valuable new insight into co-financing mobilized by GEF projects.</u></p> <p><u>The following are the main findings of the report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>GEF co-financing has become more diverse, both in terms of number of different sources, and types of co-financing indicating broader reach in terms of partnerships and potential impacts;</u> • <u>Investments account for more than 70 percent of the co-financing mobilized by GEF project financing. Loans from multilateral development banks continue to play a major role in co-financing GEF projects and they account for more than a third of the investments;</u> • <u>Based on the indicative information on private sector co-financing, it is mostly driven by private sector interest in NGI and Impact Programs (IPs);</u> • <u>Co-financing is documented more clearly and consistently throughout the GEF project cycle, facilitated by GEF portal;</u> • <u>Following the on-set of COVID-19 pandemic and resulting fiscal risks there are potential impacts on the level and type of co-financing mobilized by GEF projects, but it is still too early to estimate any trends.</u>
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility country focal points, to promote the use of technology needs assessments to facilitate the financing and implementation of technology actions prioritized by countries in their technology needs assessments, within the scope of its mandate and operational modalities.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to work with the respective focal points of GEF recipient countries to ensure that requests for GEF funding are in line with national priorities identified as part of UNFCCC processes, including technology needs assessments (TNAs), in line with the scope of its mandate and operational modalities. The GEF continues to stand ready to receive country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the TNAs.</p>

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<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider:</p> <p>(a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on technology needs assessments the least developed countries and small island developing States that have never undertaken a technology needs assessment and have not been included in the fourth phase;</p> <p>(b) Relevant recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Technology Executive Committee on the updated evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.</p>	<p>(a) The GEF has continued to work closely with partners to support the development of technology needs assessments for all developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), which choose to undertake them. In GEF-7, set aside resources continue to be available to LDCs and SIDS to support the development of TNAs. The GEF has worked in collaboration with the implementing agency of the fourth phase of the global TNA project to endeavor to include all LDCs and SIDS that wish to participate but: (i) have not yet undertaken a TNA and/or (ii) have not been included in the fourth phase.²⁷ As a result, two additional countries, Lesotho and Barbados, were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>(b) The GEF has and will continue to work with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer (PSP), as appropriate, consistent with the GEF's mandate and operational modalities.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Also invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its existing mandates and in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, to report on lessons learned in supporting developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support through the LDCF and SCCF to developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation, in collaboration with the GCF.</p> <p><u>Several LDCF and SCCF projects include focus on systems for generating, collecting and managing information and data to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, in coordination with the GCF. This also continues to involve support for formulation of national adaptation plans and other adaptation planning processes, which includes collecting and managing information and data on adaptation. The application of lessons learned, including as it relates to adaptation, is an explicit</u></p>

²⁷ The fourth phase of the TNA project was Council-approved on June 13, 2019, and was in the process of GEF CEO endorsement at the time of the preparation of the GEF COP report submitted in 2020. The project was CEO endorsed in July 2020.

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	<p><u>objective of the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the GEF and GCF, which has been developed jointly and presented to the GEF Council and the GCF Board. Reporting on lessons learned in collaboration with the GCF is carried out through various means, including Council documents on the Relations with Conventions and Progress Reports on the LDCF and SCCF, and through outreach activities.</u></p>
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status by continuing to provide approved funding through the Least Developed Countries Fund until the completion of projects approved by the Least Developed Countries Fund Council prior to those countries' graduation from least developed country status.</p>	<p>Funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.</p> <p><u>The GEF proactively engaged with Vanuatu prior to its graduation from LDC status in December 2020 to ensure access to maximum amount available under the LDCF in GEF-7 (\$10 million per LDC). The country succeeded in doing so. The GEF made similar efforts with Angola, which was earlier expected to graduate LDC status during GEF-7 as well.</u></p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Takes note</i> of decision 7/CMA.2 and <i>decides</i> to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 12–13 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.</p>	<p>Please see the responses to the guidance transmitted from CMA to COP as included in related paragraphs 12 and 13 below.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles, to adequately support developing country Parties</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to support developing country Parties in preparing their biennial transparency reports (BTRs). The GEF has held consultations on how to meet the needs for the BTRs under GEF-7 with existing resources. The GEF also continues to provide support to developing country Parties in</p>

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<p>in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.</p>	<p>transparency-related capacity-building in accordance with the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions through the CBIT.</p> <p>On June 18, 2020, the GEF held a virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to discuss support needs, possible modalities, and timing with partners. The meeting was attended by 45 participants including country representatives, and representatives from the LDC Group, UNFCCC Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme. The discussion focused on considerations for costing BTRs, supporting BTRs in conjunction with National Communications (NCs), avoiding duplication of support in the transition to BTRs, preliminary options for supporting the first BTR based on existing modalities, and potential resource implications. Meeting information is available on the GEF website.²⁸ With the feedback provided, the GEF will further develop programming modalities and guidelines for BTRs and continue to seek feedback.</p> <p><u>A second informal consultations on financial support for BTRs was held in November 17, 2020,²⁹ with participation of national government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies. Discussions from these informal consultations helped inform the development of the modalities for supporting the first BTRs. As a result, the GEF published an Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Report for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement³⁰ which further develops the programming modalities and guidelines for financing</u></p>

²⁸ GEF, 2020. [Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#).

²⁹ Information is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/events/second-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³⁰ GEF, 2020, [Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Report for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

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	<p><u>of BTRs. Specifically, GEF has made available three modalities for supporting the preparation of the first BTR: a) Modality 1 - countries can access up to \$484,000 for the preparation of a stand-alone BTR; b) Modality 2 - countries can access up to \$517,000 for the preparation of a combined BTR and NC; c) Modality 3 - countries can access additional (top-up) financing of \$200,000, maximum, to an ongoing enabling activity project.</u></p> <p><u>The GEF CEO officially informed the UNFCCC Secretariat, Council Members and Operational Focal Points (OPF) on the modalities for BTR financing on February 2021 and provided a visual aid in the form of a decision tree to help illustrate the options available and their timing.</u>³¹</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the secretariat via the submission portal, no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2020), their views and recommendations on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the Global Environment Facility.</p>	<p>This is an invitation to Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 14 above when preparing its draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>This is a request to the Standing Committee on Finance.</p>
<p>Paragraph 16: <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 25.</p>
<p>Decision 14/CP.25</p>	

³¹ Decision tree for choosing modality for first BTR support from GEF can be accessed from:
http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/events/GEF_Second_Informal_Consultation_BTR_Decision_Tree.pdf

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Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the engagement and collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and <i>encourages</i> their continued and enhanced collaboration.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to collaborate with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. An MSP, which is a part of the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation with CTCN as the Executing Agency is currently under review for CEO Approval</p>
CMA.2 DECISIONS	
Decision 2/CMA.2 Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 review	
<p>Paragraph 36: <i>Invites</i> Parties to make use of available support relevant for averting, minimizing and addressing impacts related to extreme weather events, slow onset events, non-economic losses and human mobility and for comprehensive risk management from a wide variety of sources, public and private, domestic bilateral and multilateral, under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to the extent consistent with their mandates.</p>	<p>This decision is for Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 37: <i>Requests</i> the Executive Committee to further engage and strengthen its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance by providing input in line with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)(ii), to the Standing Committee on Finance when, in accordance with its mandate, it provides information, recommendations and draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the financial mechanisms under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate.</p>	<p>This decision is for the Executive Committee.</p>
Decision 5/CMA.2 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Looks forward</i> to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing</p>	<p>This decision is for the Executive Committee.</p>

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Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.	
Decision 7/CMA.2 Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
Paragraph 1: <i>Recommends</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–3 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.	This decision is for the Conference of the Parties.
Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Paragraph 3: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.	Please see the response to paragraph 13 of Decision 13/CP.25 above.
CONCLUSIONS of SBSTA 51, SBSTA 50, SBI 51, and SBI 50	
Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its fifty-first session, held in Madrid from 2 to 9 December 2019³²	
Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 21: The SBSTA and the SBI further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-	The GEF continued to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC. <u>The GEF participated in the following workshops of Koronivia Road Map: (1) “Improved livestock</u>

³² The report of SBSTA 51 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_05_adv.pdf

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<p>administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	<p><u>management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others” on November 24-25, 2020; and (2) “Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector” December 1-2, 2020.</u></p>
<p>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-first session, held in Madrid from 2 to 9 December 2019³³</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 33: The SBI and the SBSTA further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	<p>Please see the response above.</p>
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries Paragraph 48: The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 160 million, made at the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, the financial pledge of 7.5 million Canadian dollars made by the Government of Canada at the 2019 G7 Summit, and the financial pledge of USD 16.6 million made by the Government of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund, and urged additional contributions to the Fund.</p>	<p><u>As mentioned in response to paragraph 3 of Decision 13/CP.25 above, the GEF appreciates the contributions made by Germany of Euro 100 million and The Netherlands of Euro 20 million at the Global Adaptation Summit in January 2021. In addition, GEF appreciates contribution of Belgium, Finland, Qatar and Switzerland amounting to \$33.9 million during this reporting period and would appreciate additional contributions to enable the LDCF to provide additional support to address adaptation priorities of LDCs in a timely manner.</u></p>
<p>Poznan strategic program</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>

³³ The report of SBI 51 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_20_adv.pdf

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<p>Paragraph 64: The SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 25 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.</p>	
<p>Poznan strategic program Paragraph 65: The SBI also welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer on approval by the GEF Council of 8 proposed projects with technology transfer elements for climate change mitigation and 18 proposed projects for adaptation during the GEF reporting period.</p>	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
<p>Poznan strategic program Paragraph 66: The SBI further welcomed the approval by the GEF Council of the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs, whereby support is being provided to 15 LDCs and SIDS for conducting or updating their TNAs. The SBI noted that some LDCs and SIDS have not been included in the fourth phase of the project.</p>	Noted with appreciation of recognition. Opportunities were provided for all LDCs and SIDS which had not yet undertaken a TNA to join the fourth phase. The fourth phase involving 17 LDCs and SIDSs was CEO-endorsed in July 2020 <u>and has since begun implementation.</u>
<p>Poznan strategic program Paragraph 67: The SBI noted the importance of implementing the technology action plans resulting from the TNA process, and encouraged Parties to consider using the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for implementing the outcomes of TNAs and technology action plans.</p>	Please see the response to paragraph 8 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above.
<p>Poznan strategic program Paragraph 68: The SBI noted and considered the progress, challenges and lessons learned in relation to the global CTCN project supported by the GEF.</p>	Noted.
<p>Poznan strategic program Paragraph 69: The SBI welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the CTCN and the pilot regional</p>	Noted with appreciation of recognition. <u>Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in person meetings have been limited. As such, the last in person meeting the GEF had with the CTCN was at COP 25</u>

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<p>climate technology and finance centres supported by the GEF, and encouraged the CTCN to consult with the GEF and relevant multilateral development banks to find ways to harness the lessons learned in a manner that benefits future projects.</p>	<p><u>for the 5th CTCN-GEF Project Steering Committee meeting, during which the two entities discussed the possibilities for harnessing lessons learned and further developing partnerships. The GEF continues to attend the CTCN Advisory Board meetings, as appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>The GEF approved an MSP with CTCN engagement titled <i>Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities</i> from the LDCF and the SCCF through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation during FY2020. The project has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but is expected to be submitted for CEO endorsement by the end of this year.</u>³⁴</p>
<p>Poznan strategic program Paragraph 72: The SBI recommended that the COP invite the GEF to consider:</p> <p>(a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs the LDCs and SIDS that have never undertaken a TNA and have not been included in the phase;</p> <p>(b) Relevant recommendations contained in the evaluation report referred to in paragraph 70 above, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.</p>	<p><u>The GEF worked with partners to support the development of technology needs assessments by LDCs and SIDS which chose to undertake them.</u></p> <p>Two additional countries were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>The GEF continues to work with the TEC and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the PSP. Please see the response to paragraph 8 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above for more detailed information.</p>
<p>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its fiftieth session, held in Bonn from 17 to 27 June 2019³⁵</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 42: The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

³⁴ The GEF Agency, UNIDO, submitted an extension request to submit the CEO endorsement by May 2021.

³⁵ The report of SBSTA 50 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_02E.pdf

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<p>arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 44: The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	<p>Please see the above response to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 Report.</p>
<p>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fiftieth session, held in Bonn from 17 to 27 June 2019³⁶</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 44: The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to:</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

³⁶ The report of SBI 50 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_09E.pdf

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<p>Welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 46: The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered LDCF, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	<p>Please see the response above to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 Report.</p>
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries Paragraph 71: The SBI took note of the information note on LDCF support for graduating LDCs prepared by the GEF.</p>	<p>An information document was prepared for the 27th Meeting of the LDCF/SCCF Council held in December 2019, which further specified LDCF support for graduating LDCs.³⁷</p>
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries Paragraph 72: The SBI decided to recommend that in its decision on guidance to the GEF, COP 25 request the GEF, in administering the LDCF, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status by continuing to provide approved funding through the LDCF until the completion of projects approved by the LDCF Council prior to those countries' graduation from LDC status.</p>	<p>Funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.</p> <p><u>As mentioned in response to paragraph 10 of Decision 13/CP.25 above, the GEF proactively engaged with Vanuatu prior to its graduation from LDC status in December 2020 to ensure access to maximum amount available under the LDCF in GEF-7 (\$10 million per LDC). The country succeeded in doing so. The GEF made similar efforts with Angola, which was earlier expected to graduate from the LDC status during GEF-7 as well.</u></p>

³⁷ GEF, 2019, Updated Information Note on [Least Developed Countries Fund Support for Graduating Least Developed Countries](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/Inf.05.

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<p>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> <p>Paragraph 78: The SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 24 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> <p>Paragraph 79: The SBI welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer, including innovation. It also welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the regional climate technology transfer and finance centres and the CTCN. It encouraged the GEF, the regional centres and the CTCN to continue to collaborate with a view to providing further support to developing country Parties for scaling up their technology-related action for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action, in a balanced manner.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to collaborate with the regional centers and the CTCN, , to support in assisting developing countries, on technology-related needs and activities for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action.</p>
<p>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> <p>Paragraph 80: The SBI noted the information provided in the report referred to in paragraph 78 above on the collaboration between the GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer in response to an invitation from SBI 47,49 and encouraged strengthened collaboration so as to enhance coherence between the support provided by the GEF and that provided by the CTCN for technology transfer activities. It also encouraged the GEF and the CTCN to facilitate the collaboration, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to respond to invitations to consult with the CTCN on the identification of ways to enhance information-sharing among national designated entities and GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs). The GEF stands ready to continue to receive and share information on collaboration between GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer and provide this information in its reports to the COP. The GEF has also invited the CTCN to find ways to participate in GEF Extended Constituency Workshops and other meetings to engage with GEF OFPs on this matter.</p> <p>The GEF has also approved a MSP titled <i>Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities</i>, as part of the Challenge Program on Adaptation Innovation, <u>the</u></p>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹⁵ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁶ /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p><u>CEO endorsement of which is currently delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</u></p> <p>The Implementing Agency of this project is United Nations Development Agency (UNIDO), which is also the co-host of the CTCN. The Executing Entity for this project will be the Network Members / Consortium Partners of the CTCN.</p>

Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 14 and GEF Responses

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 continues to collaborate with the Global Mechanism in the context of GEF-7 through various means and activities.
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 is being supported in the context of GEF-7 UNCCD enabling activities. Global support projects have been approved and are being implemented. GEF Secretariat also informed parties during CRIC 19 on the availability of funding for national Enabling Activities and procedures to access the funding.
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. An approved Enabling Activities project facilitate parties' active participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought.

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
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 continues to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
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 Responses

	Stockholm COP 9 Guidance	GEF's Response
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.
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;	Five projects and programs approved during the reporting period (for the COP report) are addressing these important topics.
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;	This will be taken into consideration by donors during the negotiations of the eighth 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 the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	The GEF Secretariat will continue to work closely with the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) Secretariat in accordance with the MOU.

	Stockholm COP 9 Guidance	GEF's Response
	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;	The GEF Secretariat will work with the BRS 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 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the	Not for GEF action.

	Stockholm COP 9 Guidance	GEF's Response
	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;	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.