



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.44/03
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Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 12

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.44/03, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the GEF in relation to the following multilateral environmental conventions: 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), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat (the Secretariat) and other international conventions and institutions.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) Update on ratification of various CBD protocols and GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD related events.
- (b) A brief summary of progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports; GEF reports submitted to the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies; an update on steps taken towards the establishment of the Green Climate Fund; the details of UNFCCC related meetings attended and issues discussed.
- (c) Status of MOU between GEF and UNCCD and update on GEF Secretariat's participation in Convention related events.
- (d) Report on Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention that was held on April 28-May10, 2013 along with simultaneous and joint meetings of the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.
- (e) Report on the progress of negotiations on a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury.
- (f) A summary of decisions taken, the projects approved, and other decisions adopted the Adaptation Fund Board at its 18th meeting.
- (g) A brief report on the participation in the events organized by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

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INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF occurring since the 43rd GEF Council meeting in November 2012 within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the MP). The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's (the Secretariat) relations with other conventions and institutions.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ratification

2. For the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Spain deposited its instrument of ratification on December 4, 2012. Both Bulgaria and Lithuania deposited their respective instruments of ratification on December 6, 2012. Panama deposited its instrument on 12 December 2012. Mauritius acceded to the Protocol on 17 December 2012. South Africa deposited its instrument of ratification on 10 January 2013. Ireland deposited its instrument of ratification on 14 January 2013. The European Union deposited its instrument of approval on 21 March 2013.

3. For the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing: Panama ratified the Protocol on December 12, 2012, Mauritius ratified the Protocol on December 17, 2012, South Africa ratified it on January 10, 2013 and the Federate States of Micronesia ratified the Protocol on January 31, 2013.

4. For the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Afghanistan deposited its instrument of access on February 20, 2013, and will become party to the Protocol on May 21, 2013.

5. During the reporting period, 92 Parties to the Convention have signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).

6. The list of signatories and ratifications can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/>

National Reporting

7. As of May 1, 2013, three countries submitted the final version of their fourth national reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, the total number of submissions remains unchanged.

8. As of May 1, 2013, 148 Parties submitted their second national reports for the Cartagena Protocol. Of these, 110 countries (out of the 123 GEF- eligible countries) prepared their reports using funding provided by the GEF.

Meetings and Events

9. The GEF participated in a meeting convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) of the Friends of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 11-12 February 2013, at the Château de Bossey, in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland. The aim of the meeting was to reflect on, and discuss, accomplishments thus far within the framework of the Convention and how best to adapt its work to the needs of Parties in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which coincides with the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

10. The GEF Secretariat attended the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in Bangkok, Thailand from March 3 to 14, 2013 in order to provide information about GEF policies and practices and the GEF biodiversity strategy at the request of parties as they deliberated on whether to request the GEF to be the financial mechanism for CITES. The COP decided to defer this decision until COP-17 in 2016.

Joint Activities

11. The GEF Secretariat is collaborating with the consulting firm contracted by the CBD Secretariat to conduct the 4th assessment of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. To date the GEF Secretariat has provided project data from the GEF project database, but no other contact or requests have been initiated by the consulting firm.

12. Objective Five of the GEF-5 biodiversity strategy is focused on providing support to country's to revise their NBSAP in order to respond to the Strategic Plan of the CBD and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To date, 94% of GEF-eligible Parties have received support or are finalizing proposals to present to the GEF to revise their NBSAPs. GEF will continue to focus on reaching 100% of countries prior to the end of GEF-5.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Ratification

13. From November 2012 until May 2013 there were no new countries who became Parties to the UNFCCC.

National reporting/National Communications

14. The total number of submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties, as of May 1, 2013, is shown below:

- (a) Initial national communications: **144**
- (b) Second national communications: **87**
- (c) Third national communications: **3**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **1**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

15. Full details of reports submitted are available on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) website (http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/653.php):

Reporting to COP

16. The GEF Secretariat prepared and submitted its report to the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UNFCCC. This report describes GEF response to COP 17 decisions and the achievements of the GEF during the reporting period from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The report also contains the GEF responses to several conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions (SBI 35 and SBI 36). This report is available on: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/06.pdf>

17. The GEF report to COP 18 includes information on GEF's supports for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), highlighting a project in Peru which explicitly focused on NAMAs, titled "Peru-Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in Energy Generation and End-use Sectors." More information on GEF's support for NAMAs will be available in the GEF report to COP 19, which is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, upon approval by the GEF Council, in August 2013.

18. The GEF Secretariat submitted a report to SBI 38 through the UNFCCC Secretariat on the "Status of Resources Available for Programming and Any Possible Contingency Measures," on March 27, 2013, upon GEF Council approval. The report is available on: http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007387

19. The GEF Secretariat submitted a report to SBI 38 through the UNFCCC Secretariat on the status of National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), upon GEF Council approval. This report also contains information on the resources which have been approved by the GEF for the preparation of biennial update reports (BURs) for non-Annex I Parties (See Table 1). The report is available on: http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007389

Table 1: Status of request for resources for Biennial Update Reports

Party	Agency	Date of Project Technical Clearance by GEF Secretariat	Date of Approval by GEF Council	Status of Project
1.China	UNDP	1-Oct-2012	15-Nov-2012	BUR request included in the full size project proposal under preparation
2.India	UNDP	26-Jan-2012	29-Feb-2012	BUR request included in the full size project proposal, submitted to GEF for CEO Endorsement
3.Indonesia	UNDP	6-Apr-2012	6-Jun-2012	BUR request included in the full size project proposal under preparation
4.Mexico	UNDP	1-Oct-2012	15-Nov-2012	BUR request included in the full size project proposal under preparation
5.South Africa	UNEP	20-Feb-2013	12-Apr-2013	BUR request included in the full size project proposal under preparation
6.Uruguay	UNDP	27-Dec-2012	Approved by the CEO 27-Dec-2012	Project under implementation

20. The GEF Secretariat submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat a report on capacity building activities financed during the period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, in response to decision 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.18. This report will assist in facilitating the discussions at the second meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building at SBI 38, in June 2013.

21. The GEF Secretariat submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat a report entitled “Implementation of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer: A Progress Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its Thirty-Eighth Session” on April 23, 2013, upon GEF Council approval. The report is available on: http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007400

Meetings and Events

22. The GEF Secretariat participated in COP 18 in Doha, Qatar, from November 26 to December 8, 2012. Highlights of GEF activities during the COP included: a side event on GEF

Innovation and Reform–Meet the New GEF CEO; Adaptation Practitioners Days; Dialogue between the New GEF CEO and Civil Society; High Level Event on Technology Transfer and Finance co-organized by the Asian Development Bank.

23. The GEF Secretariat also participated in the following meetings during the reporting period:

- (a) The third meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) held on March 13–15, 2012 in Berlin, Germany;
- (b) The fifth Technology Executive Committee (TEC) meeting held on March 26–27, 2013 in Bonn, Germany;
- (c) The third meeting of the Standing Committee held on March 8–10 in Bonn, Germany;
- (d) The second meeting of the Adaptation Committee held on March 5–8, 2013 in Bonn, Germany; and
- (e) The twenty-third Meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) held on March 15–16, 2013 in Lomé, Togo.

Joint Activities with the UNFCCC Secretariat

24. Each year over the past few years, the GEF Secretariat and the UNFCCC Secretariat have jointly conducted an annual retreat. The overall objectives of the retreats are to advance collaboration to support the implementation of guidance and decisions by the COP with regards to climate change mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and enabling activities, and to identify following-up actions to be undertaken by the two Secretariats to enhance implementation of mandates from the COP. The GEF Secretariat held the 2013 retreat with the UNFCCC Secretariat through video conference on May 16 and 17, 2013.

Update on the Green Climate Fund

25. The GEF Secretariat collaborated with the UNFCCC Secretariat in preparing for the third meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board held in Berlin in March 2013. Besides providing advice and guidance on all documents under preparation, the GEF Secretariat took the lead in preparing some of documents, including the one on readiness. The GEF Secretariat also provided support for the sub-committee of the GCF Board involved in the search for the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Ratification

26. From November 2012 until May 2013 there were no new countries who became Parties to the UNCCD.

Reporting

27. The GEF Secretariat successfully completed and submitted relevant information under the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS). The information submitted covered the period 2010 – 2011, which is same for the report submitted to the Conference of Parties at its 10th Session in Changwon, Republic of Korea. The PRAIS submission was synthesized by the UNCCD Secretariat and included as part of the preliminary analyses presented to the 11th Session of the Committee on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

Decisions of COP

28. In accordance with decision 11/COP.10 on “*Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility*”, the GEF and UNCCD Secretariats have completed a review of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between Secretariats of the GEF and the UNCCD to identify and propose areas for amendment. The following were identified for consideration by the GEF CEO and the UNCCD Executive Secretary:

- (a) Update of the preamble to reflect the GEF role as financial mechanism of the Convention further to the amendment of the GEF Instrument to list UNCCD as a convention for which GEF is serving as its financial mechanism and include all recent COP decisions in this regard.
- (b) Replace the term “desertification” with “land degradation” to reflect the GEF mandate and focal area.
- (c) Emphasize cooperation between the UNCCD Secretariat and GEF Secretariat as partners for supporting implementation of the convention.
- (d) Clarify working modalities between the UNCCD Secretariat and GEF Secretariat to emphasize priorities for joint activities.

Meetings and Events

29. The GEF Secretariat participated in three Convention events during the period covered by this report:

- (a) National Action Program (NAP) Alignment Workshop in the Southern Africa Region – Maseru, Lesotho, February 12-14. The sub-regional workshop was intended to help the countries in the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) region toward meeting their obligation of aligning their NAPs to the UNCCD 10-Year Strategic Plan. GEF participation was considered from two perspectives: first, to help clarify expectations of GEF financing for NAP alignment; and second, to understand emerging priorities in the sub-region for implementation of aligned NAPs during the period 2014 – 2018, which coincides with the Sixth GEF Replenishment Phase. The three-day workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Land Reclamation in Lesotho, which serves as national focal point for the Convention, with 12 of 14 countries in sub-region represented. A separate session was dedicated to discussing the GEF financing for enabling activities and emerging opportunities to strengthen implementation of the in the context of GEF-6.

- (b) 3rd Special Session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-3) and 2nd Scientific Conference – April 9-12, Bonn, Germany. The Scientific Conference was embedded within the CST, and organized around the theme “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas.” The 3-day conference attracted 350 participants, including scientists and practitioners from both developed and affect countries. GEF Secretariat and STAP participated fully in the conference, and co-organized a session on “Soil Organic Carbon as a Valuable Benefit of Sustainable Land Management.”

30. It was announced that the 3rd Scientific Conference will be organized in 2014 focusing on the theme “Combatting desertification, land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices.”

- (a) 11th Session of the Committee on Review of Implementation of the Convention – April 15-19, Bonn, Germany. The CRIC-11 mainly reviewed preliminary analysis of reports submitted by country Parties and other reporting entities (including the GEF) for the period 2010 – 2011. The information was based on indicators in the Performance Indicators related to five Operational Objectives (i.e. activities and actions undertaken by country Parties to implement the Convention), and Impact Indicators related to four Strategic Objectives of the Strategy (i.e. achievements or transformations resulting from actions by country Parties). A total of 71 affected country Parties submitted required information for the reporting period, with the GEF, the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism as the only reporting entities reporting globally. GEF financing during the reporting period was only \$60.6 million, which is due to the fact that the period coincided with end of GEF-4 and start of GEF-5 when few SLM projects were approved. GEF support was acknowledge by most country Parties, but there was also a call for increased and robust allocation to the Land Degradation Focal Area in GEF-6 as well as improved access to funds for enabling activities and the provision of capacity building for reporting and action program alignment.

31. The GEF participated in several events as part of CRIC11. The first was an Open Forum with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to facilitate their important role in combating land degradation. GEF Secretariat participated in a panel discussion on how CSOs can better leverage GEF resources for effective implementation of sustainable land management. This helped to further clarify GEF policies and expectations for CSO engagement in GEF-funded projects, in addition to the Small Grants Program opportunities that exist in most eligible countries. In this regard, GEF commitment to CSOs was acknowledged by most country Parties.

32. Second was a side-event on “Climate Change Financing Opportunities for Sustainable Land Management in Africa,” organized by the UNCCD Global Mechanism. The event was used to help Parties understand how to harness climate change financing mechanisms for sustainable land management. The GEF Secretariat joined a panel of representatives from Tanzania, Ghana and Niger, discuss experiences and lessons. Main challenge identified, among others, is the need

to mainstream SLM into national development frameworks such as Medium-Term Expenditure plans and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

33. Finally, it was formally announced at the CRIC that the Government of Namibia has accepted to host the 11th Conference of the Parties from 16-27 September, 2013. The GEF is expected to submit its report on its collaboration with the UNCCD and provide in particular information relating to activities on sustainable land management financing, covering the period 2011 – 2012. Since COP11 is the first Conference of the Parties to take place after Rio Plus 20 Conference undertook to strive for a land degradation neutral world, to monitor under the UNCCD land degradation and to reclaim degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and sub humid areas, the GEF participation to COP11 should be planned accordingly.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Ratification

34. From November 2012 until May 2013, Afghanistan has ratified the Stockholm Convention. The status of ratifications can be retrieved at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National reporting

35. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavor to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force for it. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner the Conference of the Parties specify. The NIPs submitted online can be retrieved at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Overview/tabid/565/Default.aspx>. As of May 2013, 178 countries have submitted their initial National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, and 14 countries have transmitted their second NIPs.

Reporting to COP

36. As the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the GEF submits a report on its activities at each COP, in with the MOU between the COP and the GEF and in response to guidance provide by the COP, which takes place every two years. The sixth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention was held April 28-May10, 2013 along with simultaneous and joint meetings of the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The Secretariat has prepared and delivered the report to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The triple COP was attended by nearly 2000 participants, including over 80 ministers.

37. Negotiations in Geneva focused on key elements of the synergies process, including: joint activities among the conventions; progress on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions; the integrated approach to financing chemicals and waste; compliance mechanism for the Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention; and identifying new

concrete areas where synergies could be achieved. Parties also considered convention-specific issues, notably: the listing of hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) under the Stockholm Convention. Parties agreed to convene the next round of chemicals and wastes COPs back-to-back in 2015, without ExCOPs or a high-level segment.

38. There were 40 decisions taken at this triple COP including a decision to consolidate the guidance to the GEF from the Stockholm Convention; transmission of the third review of the financial mechanism and the second needs assessment of the Convention to the GEF for consideration during the sixth replenishment; an invitation to the GEF to implement the integrated approach in the context of the GEF 6 replenishment and encourage donors to the GEF to increase funding to chemicals and waste, the listing of a twenty third chemical to the list of Persistent Organic Pollutants, the listing of four new chemicals to the Rotterdam Convention and the adoption of environmentally sound management of waste guidelines for the Basel Convention.

39. The GEF had three side events at this triple COP and participated in a number of others including the participation of the CEO in the opening of the high level segment, a side event with the Director General of FAO and participation in the post COPs press conference.

40. The GEF organized a technical side event with the GEF agencies and project partners, a CEO forum with the Executive Secretary of the Joint Secretariat of the three Conventions and the launch of the first GEF documentary film on the work of the GEF and its partners in implementing the Stockholm Convention.

Progress on Mercury Negotiations

41. The GEF Secretariat participated in the LAC regional meeting to prepare for the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5). The GEF provided inputs into the discussions on the Financial Mechanism.

42. The fifth session of the INC to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from January 13th to January 19th 2013. The GEF CEO participated in the INC5 meeting by providing plenary remarks. She indicated that GEF was prepared to become a financial mechanism of the mercury instrument if asked to do so. The meeting resulted in the GEF being named a financial mechanism to the convention.

43. The Diplomatic Conference on the Minamata Convention on Mercury will be held in Japan on October 9th to October 11th, 2013. GEF will participate in this meeting.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund Board

44. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) met twice during the reporting period. The nineteenth and twentieth meetings were held on December 13-14, 2012 and on April 4-5, 2013,

respectively, in Bonn, Germany. The meetings were preceded by meetings of the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) on December 11-12, 2012 and on April 2-3, 2013, respectively. The twentieth meeting was the final meeting of the current fiscal year.

Accreditation Decisions

45. The Board accredited the *Agence pour le Développement Agricole* (ADA) of Morocco, the *Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible* of Costa Rica and the *Agencia de Cooperación Internacional de Chile* (AGCI) of Chile, bringing the total number of accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) to 15.

Project Approvals

46. At its nineteenth and twentieth meetings, the Board approved grant funding for three projects/programs and one project formulation grant, with a total value of \$17.9 million. This includes the approval of a fourth direct access project, which will be implemented in Argentina by its National Implementing Entity (NIE), the *Unidad para el Cambio Rural* (UCAR). The project entitled “Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small-scale Agriculture Producers of the Northeast of Argentina” amounts to \$5.64 million and aims to increase the adaptive capacity of small-scale agricultural producers in the face of climate change and climate variability impacts.

47. At the nineteenth Board meeting, for the first time since operationalization of the Fund, the funding demands for recommended projects and programs by Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) outstripped the resources available for implementation, according to the cap of 50% of the sum of cumulative project funding decisions and funds available to support funding decisions set for MIEs, as established in decision B.12/9. The Board had anticipated such a circumstance arising in light of the sharp fall in its main source of funding from Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) and took the decision of establishing a “pipeline” of projects and programs once the cap of 50% had been reached, which would be funded when new resources become available. The Board noted that four proposals by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Guatemala, Cuba, Seychelles and Myanmar were recommended for approval by the PPRC. Due to lack of available funds, the Board decided to place these proposals in the pipeline. Subsequently in the twentieth meeting, the Board placed in the pipeline three proposals which were submitted by UNDP on behalf of the governments of Ghana and Uzbekistan, and by the World Bank, for the government of Belize, bringing the total number of proposals placed in the pipeline to seven.

48. The Board also endorsed concepts for Rwanda’s NIE, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Rwanda, and for Niger (*Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement*).

49. The Board has approved 28 project/programs for funding to the end of the reporting period, amounting to \$184 million.

Other Decisions

50. The Board held a discussion on the strategic objectives and further steps for the Fund, which started at the nineteenth Board meeting and continued during the twentieth meeting. This included a discussion on a strategy for building up the level of funding available to meet its stated goal of raising \$100 million for the Fund by the close of 2013. As part of this effort, a new partnership had been formed with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) to allow the Fund to collect private donations online through a link available in UNF's website. The Board also decided to establish a task force on outreach, strategy, and other efforts to achieve the interim fundraising target. The Board subsequently decided to request the fundraising task force to provide a fundraising and outreach strategy for the Board to discuss.

51. The Adaptation Fund Board also welcomed its new chair at its twentieth meeting, Hans Olav Ibrekk of Norway, who represents the Western Europe and Others Group constituency. He replaced outgoing chair Luis Santos of Uruguay.

52. During both its nineteenth and twentieth meetings, the Board engaged in a dialogue with civil society organizations chaired by the independent Adaptation Fund NGO Network. The sessions were attended by non-governmental organizations from a variety of countries with ties to the Adaptation Fund, including Practical Action East Africa (Kenya); Forum CC (Tanzania); Cambodia NGO Forum (Cambodia); Indigo (South Africa); and German Watch.

53. The Board also decided to take the necessary steps for the Fund to comply with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard and start publishing IATI-compatible data. This included, as a first step, authorizing the Chair to sign the IATI standard on behalf of the Board.

54. The twenty-first Board meeting will take place on July 1-4, 2013, and the twenty-second meeting on 29 October to 1 November 2013. Both meetings will be held in Bonn, Germany.

United Nations Forum on Forests

55. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Organization-Led initiative (OLI), September 19 to 21 2012, at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The main objective of the OLI was to deepen the understanding and knowledge of stakeholders on the state of forest financing, the opportunities and challenges, and allow participants to provide suggestions to improve the situation through the sharing of information and best practices. It also offered participants the space and opportunity to exchange views on the findings of the 2012 Collaborative Partnership on Forests' Advisory Group on Finance Study of which the GEF was co-author. This was followed up by GEF Secretariat participation in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing held January 14 to 18, 2013, Vienna, Austria. This event further considered options for forest financing and developed a series of recommendations which would subsequently be presented for consideration at the United Nations Forum on Forests at its 10th session. The GEF Secretariat was also represented at the UNFF 10th session held in Istanbul, Turkey April 08 to 19, 2013. Over 1200 participants attended the two-week session to address the topics of forests and economic development; means of implementation for sustainable forest management; and emerging issues, including the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable

Development, the post-2015 development agenda and the future of the international arrangement on forests. The GEF CEO addressed the plenary during the Ministerial Segment and participated in the panel discussion of Executive Heads of Collaborative Partnership on Forests Member Organizations. In addition, the Secretariat reported on GEF activities related to forest financing during a meeting of Heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests held on April 17, 2013.

Annex 1: GEF’s response to decisions adopted by UNFCCC COP 18 and conclusions by SBI 37

The COP at its eighteenth session adopted five decisions with specific guidance to the GEF. Additional guidance was provided by the SBI at its thirty-seventh sessions. Table below provides the relevant decision paragraphs along with the GEF’s response.

Table 1: GEF’s response to decisions adopted by the COP 18 and conclusions by SBI 37

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF’s Response
<p>Decision 9/CP.18, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/08a01.pdf)</p>	
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>1. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:</p> <p>(a) To make available support to non-Annex I Parties for preparing their subsequent BURs, fully taking into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 41(a) and (e);</p> <p>(b) To provide funds for technical support for the preparation of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Programme, recognizing that the costs of such technical support are not deducted from the funds provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs;</p> <p>(c) Through the Special Climate Change Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for interested developing country Parties that are not least developed country Parties, as it requested the Global Environment Facility, through the Least Developed Countries Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for the least developed country Parties in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 22;</p>	<p>(a) (b)</p> <p>The GEF finances biennial update reports (BURs), through the regular avenue of financing National Communications. The GEF has prepared policy guidelines for the financing of BURs for non-Annex I Parties, which were distributed to all Parties in early 2012. The policy guidelines provides that, for the BURs, non-Annex I Parties can access up to \$352,000 through a GEF Agency or by direct access. If \$352,000 for the BURs is not sufficient for a country, then the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocation can be used. All requests for National Communications and BURs have been financed.</p> <p>The GEF Council in November 2012 approved the project titled “<i>Global Support Program for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC.</i>” This project supports non-Annex I countries to strengthen their technical and institutional capacities to ensure effective preparations of the BURs along with the National Communications.</p> <p>The GEF submitted to SBI 38 a report on the status of request for resources for BURs.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)/ Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council, at its 13th meeting on November 15, 2012, in response to the Council information document,</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p><i>Support for National Adaptation Plans (GEF/LDCF.SCCF.13/Inf.07/Rev.02¹), requested that “the GEF Secretariat prepare a paper for the next Council meeting on how the GEF will operationalize support to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation planning process” (Joint Summary of the Chairs²). In line with the latest guidance provided by the COP, and in support of the technical guidelines issued by the LEG in support of the national adaptation plan (NAP) process, the GEF has prepared a paper on operational guidelines for supporting the NAP process through the LDCF and the SCCF. These guidelines define the eligibility criteria, objectives, principles, scope and modalities for GEF support, through the LDCF and the SCCF, for the NAP process in eligible developing countries. The paper will be presented at the LDCF/SCCF Council meeting on June 20, 2013.</i></p>
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>2. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraph 1 above;</p>	<p>The GEF will, in the course of its annual reporting to the COP, report on the steps taken to implement the guidance. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013, is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, upon approval by the GEF Council, in August 2013.</p>
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>3. <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to submit to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-eighth session, through the secretariat, information on the status of resources available for programming in its fifth replenishment period, and on any possible contingency measures regarding the allocation of resources for implementing climate change projects;</p>	<p>The GEF submitted a report to SBI 38 through the UNFCCC Secretariat on the “Status of Resources of Resources Available for Programming and Any Possible Contingency Measures,” on March 27, 2013, upon GEF Council approval. The report describes the status of resources available for programming by the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF, as of January 31, 2013, and any possible contingency measures.</p>

¹http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Support%20for%20National%20Adaptation%20Plans%20Nov%2012th_0.pdf

²<http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Joint%20Summary%20of%20the%20Chairs%20with%20Annexes%20-%20Nov%2015.pdf>