



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.46/03
May 1, 2014

GEF Council Meeting
May 25 – 27, 2014
Cancun, Mexico

Agenda Item 13

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.46/03, *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

1. 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), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions and institutions.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) Updates on the ratification of various CBD protocols; on the submission of national reports, and; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD-related events.
- (b) A brief summary of progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports; on GEF reports submitted to the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies; an update on the development of the Green Climate Fund, and; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC-related meetings.
- (c) Status of the MOU between the GEF and UNCCD, and updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNCCD-related events.
- (d) Report on activities related to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- (e) A summary on the status of ratification, national reporting of the Montreal Protocol and of the Stockholm Convention as well as related events.
- (f) A brief report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in the events of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and in the 23rd meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ii
INTRODUCTION	1
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	1
Ratification.....	1
National Reporting.....	1
Meetings and Events	1
Joint Activities	2
UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	2
Ratification.....	2
National reporting/National Communications	2
Reporting to COP.....	3
Meetings and Events	4
Joint Activities	4
Update on the Green Climate Fund	4
UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.....	5
Reporting.....	5
Decisions of COP.....	5
Meetings and Events	6
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS.....	8
Ratification.....	8
National reporting	8
Meetings and events.....	8
MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER	9
Meetings and events.....	9

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY	9
Meetings and events.....	9
Other related events to chemicals	10
RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	10
Adaptation Fund Board.....	10
Accreditation Decisions.....	10
Project Approvals	10
Resources.....	11
Other Decisions	11
Collaborative Partnership on Forests	12

INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF occurring since the 45th GEF Council meeting in November 2013 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 Montreal Protocol). The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's 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: Burkina Faso deposited its instrument of accession on October 4, 2013; Romania and Hungary deposited their instrument of ratification on October 4, 2013 and on December 9, 2013, respectively; finally, the Netherlands acceded to the Protocol on December 30, 2013.

3. For the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing: Tajikistan acceded to the protocol on September 4, 2013; Cote d'Ivoire and Indonesia both ratified the protocol on September 24, 2013; Guinea-Bissau accepted and approved the protocol on September 24, 2013; Bhutan ratified it on September 30, 2013, Norway ratified the protocol on October 10, 2013; Egypt ratified the protocol on October 28, 2013; Myanmar acceded to the protocol on January 8, 2014, and; Burkina Faso ratified the protocol on January 10, 2014.

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

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

National Reporting

6. As of March 2014, no new countries submitted the final version of their fourth national reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity. The total number of submissions is 181.

7. As of March 2014, 151 Parties submitted their second national reports for the Cartagena Protocol.

Meetings and Events

8. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 17th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 17), in Montreal, Canada, from October 14 to 18, 2013.

9. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Third Meeting of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ICNP-3) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from February 24 to 28, 2014. The GEF convened the side event “Technical and Financial Resources Available for the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol,” which informed parties on how to obtain technical and financial support for the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Three other side events on GEF-4-funded projects were presented as follows: 1) ABS in practice: lessons from Latin American and the Caribbean (convened by UNEP and IUCN); 2) Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol: some early experiences from India (convened by UNEP), and; 3) ABS development in Southeast Asia: general evaluation (convened by ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity).

10. The GEF Secretariat participated in and made a presentation at the seminar "Scaling up Biodiversity Finance" held in Quito, Ecuador, from April 9 to 12, 2014, convened by the Governments of Ecuador, Norway, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Uganda, as well as the European Commission and the CBD Secretariat.

11. The GEF Secretariat participated as an observer in the Third Meeting of the High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from April 14 to 15, 2014.

Joint Activities

12. The GEF Secretariat provided final comments and corrections to the final draft of the 4th assessment of the GEF as financial mechanism, to be considered by the consulting firm contracted by the CBD Secretariat to conduct the assessment.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Ratification

13. During the reporting period, there were no new parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As of March 2014, there are 195 members to the Convention.

National reporting/National Communications

14. The following is the total number of national communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of March 2014:

- (a) Initial national communications: **146**
- (b) Second national communications: **101**
- (c) Third national communications: **5**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **1**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

15. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website, available at 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 Nineteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the UNFCCC (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/111.pdf>), which provides the GEF's responses to convention guidance received from the eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 18) and to several conclusions from the 37th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 37), during the reporting period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. In responding to guidance, the GEF continues to place strong emphasis on: transparency during its project review; mitigation; adaptation; finance; technology transfer; National Communications; and capacity building.

17. The GEF report to COP 19 includes information on GEF's support for the preparation and/or implementation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), highlighting various projects from various sectors including urban systems and energy generation and end-use. The GEF has also liaised with the UNFCCC Secretariat on utilizing NAMA Registry Portal to which GEF has recorded its support for NAMAs. The portal is now fully operational to the public. This report is available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/03.pdf>.

18. The GEF Secretariat submitted a report to SBI 39 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. The reports were submitted on to the UNFCCC upon the approval of the GEF Council (available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbi/eng/inf07.pdf> and at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbi/eng/inf08.pdf>).

19. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat received 21 requests from non-Annex I Parties to prepare Biennial Update Reports (BUR). All of these requests are either in process and/or have been approved by the GEF Secretariat. The approved projects are either undergoing preparation or awaiting further approvals from the GEF Council. These amounts to \$7,940,291 (21 countries) of the total supported \$14,440,491 from 34 countries.

20. The GEF Secretariat submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat a report on capacity building activities financed during the period from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 (available at http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/7486.php). The GEF report on capacity building, in response to decision 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.18, contributes to the annual synthesis report on the progress made in the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, pursuant to decisions UNFCCC 2/CP.7, 2/CP.10, 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17, and to decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol 29/CMP.1 and 6/CMP.2. As per the provisions contained in decision 2/CP.18, the synthesis report will be made available at the next SBI session (SBI 40, June 2014) to, inter alia, facilitate discussions at the third meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building.

21. Table 2 in Annex 1 provides the relevant decision paragraphs along with the GEF's response, from specific guidance provided to the GEF during COP 19 and SBI 39.

Meetings and Events

22. The GEF Secretariat participated in COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland, from November 11 to 22, 2013. Highlights of the GEF activities during the COP included: a Ministerial dialogue on Climate Change Finance, a High-Level Forum on Synergies for Global Environmental Benefits, an event on National Adaptation Plans, the second Adaptation Practitioner's Day (APD), and the launch of the GEF Climate Change film followed by a reception, and a CEO Private Sector Breakfast.

23. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat also participated in the following meetings:

- (a) The Regional Training Workshop on National Adaptation Plans (NAP) for Asian LDCs, held on February 17-20, 2014 in Pattaya, Thailand;
- (b) The Technology Executive Committee (TEC) Workshop on technologies for adaptation, held on March 4, 2014 in Bonn, Germany;
- (c) The sixth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) held on March 4-5, 2014 in Bonn, Germany.
- (d) The fifth meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC) held on March 5-7, 2014 in Bonn, Germany.
- (e) The fourth part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) held on March 10-14, 2014 in Bonn, Germany.
- (f) The third meeting of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Center and Network held on March 19-21, 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Joint Activities

24. Over the past few years, the GEF Secretariat and the UNFCCC Secretariat have jointly conducted regular meetings and an annual retreat. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat organized a kick-off discussion with the UNFCCC on the GEF report to COP 20 held on February 12, 2014. The aim of the discussion was to confer about the outline and timing of the report, which will be posted on the GEF website in August, 2014.

25. The 2014 GEF-UNFCCC Joint Retreat is currently being planned and will be held in proximity to the 40th session of the SBI in June in Bonn, Germany. The main objective will be to advance collaboration to support the implementation of guidance and decisions by Parties, including decisions of COP19 with regards to mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and enabling activities.

Update on the Green Climate Fund

26. At its seventeenth session, the UNFCCC COP "request[ed] the UNFCCC secretariat jointly with the [GEF] secretariat to take the necessary administrative steps to set up the interim

secretariat of the Green Climate Fund as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC secretariat premises without undue delay after [COP 17] so that the interim secretariat can provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the Board until the independent secretariat of the Green Climate Fund is established; [and] [d]ecide[d] that the interim arrangements should terminate no later than [COP 19]”.

27. In accordance with this decision, the interim arrangements were successfully concluded at COP 19, and the Fund’s headquarters in Songdo, the Republic of Korea, were officially opened on December 4, 2013. The Deputy CEO of the GEF attended the official opening and participated in various meetings organized at the occasion. The GEF Secretariat continues to engage in the GCF process and participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on the GCF in Singapore on February 14-15, 2014.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Reporting

28. In addition to its report to the Conference of the Parties, the GEF is also required to submit information on its activities through the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS). The dedicated GEF template for this purpose is being streamlined and simplified to ensure that information requested is consistent with GEF’s role as a financial mechanism of the Convention. The GEF Secretariat has provided input into the revision, and will use the final template for its next report to the Committee for Review of Implementation of the Convention.

Decisions of COP

29. The 11th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD convened in Windhoek, Namibia from September 16-27, 2013 adopted its decision on *Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility* (Decision 11/COP.11). The decision acknowledged amendment of the Instrument of the Global Environment Facility by the fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, stating that it shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD; acknowledged reforms during the current fifth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5) to support the implementation of the Convention by affected country Parties, including for enabling activities; and noted outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) relating to desertification, land degradation and drought and the need for GEF to take additional steps within its mandate for the implementation of the UNCCD.

30. The COP decision also considered the report of the GEF presented to the 12th session of the Committee for Review of Implementation of the Convention, and noted the need to update the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF. Efforts are already underway by the GEF and UNCCD Secretariats to address the implementation of the

decision. Details of the decision and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in the table 3 of Annex 1.

Meetings and Events

31. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat participated in the following meetings:

- (a) Workshop on NAP alignment for country Parties of Mesoamerica sub region - Mexico, November 13 – 15, 2013:

The sub-regional workshop is one element of a capacity building package that the UNCCD offers to countries to support (faster) NAP alignment. Mesoamerican countries actively participated in the workshop, with the exception of Nicaragua and El Salvador. Cuba is the only country that has already aligned its NAP; Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Panama are making good progress. Five of the countries requested GEF resources for the Enabling Activity while the other five have yet to do so. The joint presence of GEF and UNEP was helpful to the countries, especially with respect to explaining the EA support options. In this context, the countries, UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism appreciated GEF's participation in the workshop.

- (b) GEF-UNCCD Secretariat Retreat, December 13, 2013; Bonn, Germany

The purpose of the one-day retreat was to jointly brainstorm on priority actions emerging from decisions taken at COP11 on "Collaboration with the GEF," including important considerations for the GEF-6 replenishment. The following are highlights of the discussions, with proposals for joint actions:

- (i) *Reporting process 2014-2015* – Two key problems were considered as priority for joint action: too few reporting by countries and poor quality of reports submitted. The UNCCD Secretariat is taking necessary steps to simplify the reporting template, improve the on-line facility (to be matched with offline option), provide technical assistance for enhancement of data quality and access to relevant data, and link reporting to alignment of National Action Programs. It was noted that resources are required for countries and for technical assistance to help meet expectations for 2014 reporting cycle, especially for linking the NAP with reporting. GEF support through Enabling Activity financing was considered essential through a "global support project" to be prepared by the Global Mechanism in partnership with UNEP as GEF Agency.
- (ii) *Alignment of Regional and Sub-Regional Action Programs* - The issue of sub-regional and regional action programs was discussed in light of the need to consider them as part of Enabling Activities for GEF financing. It was agreed that there was need to find ways to better integrate their implementation within the Land Degradation focal area. It was noted that

there is an inherent challenge of finding the right institutional framework for SRAPs and RAPs to demonstrate ownership by all countries in the region; this is essential for justifying GEF support under EA. An initial step in this regard was to link the action programs with GEF projects designed to integrate actions at sub-regional or regional level, especially where some government-supported entities are already fully on-board, such as in West Africa (Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), Central Asia (Central Asia Countries Initiative on Land Management), and the Caribbean (Partnership Initiative on SLM). It was also agreed that UNCCD Secretariat could work with country Parties to identify such entities in all 15 or so UNCCD sub-regions and regions and make the information available to GEF Secretariat.

- (iii) *Progress indicator reporting – Convergence between the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy and UNCCD reporting* - The convention is now focusing on Progress indicators with respect to monitoring implementation of the strategic objectives. However, there are still problems with data for reporting, which needs to be addressed ahead of the 2016 reporting. Discussions covered the need to focus on two principles: available global data, and links to other Rio Conventions (CBD, CCC), which will make it much easier for countries to handle the reporting process. There are also issues with delineating affected areas at national level, which needs capacity building and process for extracting data in a consistent manner. Regarding links with GEF LD focal area strategy, there is the challenge of scaling-up from projects to national level. Hence the need to align focus on area covered by SLM and outcomes of relevant interventions at multiple scales, i.e. soil fertility, land cover, and food security.
- (iv) *Update to the Memorandum of understanding between UNCCD and the GEF* - A draft revised version of the MoU needs to be produced that takes into account latest developments from the UNCCD and GEF processes; this revision will take into account COP11 decisions. It was agreed that the draft will be jointly finalized and first cleared by GEF and UNCCD management. The two Secretariats will then reach agreement on next steps and approval process for submission to COP12.
- (v) *Communication and Outreach* - The UNCCD Secretariat is planning for activities to celebrate World Day to Combat Desertification (June 17) to be hosted at the World Bank Offices in Washington DC. The GEF Secretariat will join in the efforts to ensure a successful celebration. In addition, the GEF and UNCCD Secretariat will work jointly on a series of products and awareness raising activities, including the *Land for Life* Award, *UN Decade on Deserts and Desertification*, and the *Rio Conventions Pavilion*. The pavilion has been a fixture at COPs of all three Rio Conventions since 2010, and helped play an important role in

demonstrating the potential for synergy between the Conventions. However, its continued existence needs to be reconsidered through further consultations.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Ratification

32. From October 2013 until March 2014, there are no new countries that have acceded or ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The status of ratifications can be retrieved on the website of the Stockholm Convention, at <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National reporting

33. 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 National Implementation Plans (NIPs) submitted online can be retrieved on the website of the Stockholm Convention, at <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Overview/tabid/565/Default.aspx>. As of March 2014, 153 countries have submitted their initial NIPs to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, and 17 countries have transmitted their second NIPs.

Meetings and events

34. From January 20 to 24, 2014, the GEF Secretariat had a retreat with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Convention Secretariat, the Interim Secretariat for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat in Glion/Montreux, Switzerland. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) joined the meetings as well. The first two days of the week was the second annual retreat of the GEF and BRS Secretariats. The overall goal of the retreat was to improve coordination between the GEF and the Chemicals Conventions that it serves and to develop a joint work plan. The retreat also had the objective of supporting the synergies process ongoing within the chemicals and waste agenda.

35. The GEF participated in two UNEP meetings of the consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster in the longer term in Pretoria November 2013 and in New York February 2014. In the first meeting participants engaged in an open dialogue on how and better coordinated management on chemicals and waste can be achieved in the longer term, considering existing chemicals and waste conventions such as Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as non-binding instruments such as SAICM. A draft Outcome Document was initially prepared by the co-chairs during the first meeting of the consultative process and shared with the participants of the first meeting. Comments and suggestions offered by the participants were

incorporated in the revised document which was used as a working document for the second meeting. The main objective of the second meeting was to review the draft outcome document prepared by the co-chairs for submission to the UNEP ED who will present it in June at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

Meetings and events

36. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 71st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund (MLF), held in Montreal, Canada, on December 2-6, 2013. At the meeting, the Executive Committee welcomed the cooperation between the GEF and the MLF Secretariats in the joint review of the Azerbaijan HCFC Project. Members of the Executive Committee requested the MFL Secretariat to continue similar joint activities with the GEF and to report back on those activities on a regular basis.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

37. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Diplomatic Conference) on the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan, on October 9-11, 2013. The Conference was preceded by an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory meeting on October 7-8, 2013. At the Diplomatic Conference, the text of the Convention, which was agreed at the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC5) in January 2013, was presented for adoption and opened for signature. The Conference also adopted resolutions on arrangements in the interim period and financial arrangements.

38. Article 13 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury establishes a financial mechanism that shall include the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

39. As of March 2014, 96 countries have signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Meetings and events

40. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Andean Region ASGM Forum in Medellin, Colombia on November 20-22, 2013. At the meeting the GEF made a brief presentation on the program on mercury. The GEF representative noted that the GEF Council approved an allocation of 10 million US dollars to allow countries having signed the Minamata Convention to undertake mercury initial assessment.

41. From January 20 to 24, 2014, the GEF Secretariat had a retreat with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Convention Secretariat, the Interim Secretariat for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat in Glion/Montreux, Switzerland. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) joined the meetings as well. One of the days was dedicated to the first annual retreat between the GEF and the Minamata Secretariat, and a joint work plan was developed.

Other related events to chemicals

42. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Fifth Africa regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held in Pretoria, South Africa on November 18-22, 2013. At the meeting the GEF made a brief presentation on the current situation of GEF financing for the chemicals and waste cluster. The GEF representative noted that the GEF Council approved an allocation of 10 million US dollars to allow countries having signed the Minamata Convention to undertake mercury initial assessment.

43. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Consultation Meeting for the Chemicals in Products Programme held in Boston, Massachusetts on December 5-6, 2013. At the meeting participants discussed UNEP's draft guidelines for the Chemicals in Products Programme. The GEF discussed the approach for a GEF project on Chemicals in Products.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund Board

44. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) met twice during the reporting period. The twenty-second and twenty-third meetings were held on October 31- November 1, 2013 and on March 20-21, 2014, respectively, in Bonn, Germany. The meetings were preceded by meetings of the Project and Program Review Committee (PPRC) and the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) on October 29-30, 2013 and on March 18-19, 2014, respectively. The twenty-third meeting was the final meeting of the current fiscal year.

Accreditation Decisions

45. The Board accredited the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE) of Peru as its sixteenth National Implementing Entity (NIE), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the *Corporación Andina de Fomento* (CAF) as the third and fourth Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as its eleventh Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE).

Project Approvals

46. At its twenty-second, twenty-third meetings and intersessionally, the Board approved grant funding for five projects/programs and six project formulation grants, with a total value of US\$ 36 million. This includes the approval of one direct access project, which will be implemented in Rwanda by its National Implementing Entity (NIE), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA). The project titled "Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in North West Rwanda through Community Based Adaptation" amounts to US\$ 9.97 million and aims to increase the adaptive capacity of natural systems and rural communities living in exposed areas of northwest Rwanda to climate change impacts.

47. As of the nineteenth meeting of the Board, the total funding requested for the project and program proposals submitted by MIEs, and recommended by the PPRC for approval, had

exceeded the 50 per cent cap for project funds directed through MIEs which had been instituted by Decision B.12/9 and consequently the pipeline had been operationalized. During the reporting period, the Board had noted that two proposals by the World Food Programme (WFP) for Nepal and Indonesia, respectively, were recommended for approval by the PPRC and, due to lack of available funds, had decided to place these proposals in the pipeline. As a result of new revenue received after the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 9) the Board had been able to approve intersessionally between the twenty-second and twenty-third meetings, four projects in the pipeline for Cuba, Myanmar, Seychelles and Uzbekistan, for a total value of US\$ 25,847,199. Following the twenty-third meeting of the Board, there are five proposals remaining in the pipeline, for a total value of US\$ 38,350,146.

48. The Board also endorsed one project concept for NIEs from Costa Rica, Jordan and Morocco each, three concepts for the NIE from India, and one concept for Indonesia submitted by the World Food Programme.

Resources

49. The Board has approved 34 project/programs for funding to the end of the reporting period, amounting to \$224 million. In CMP 9, several countries and regions pledged additional contributions to the Fund, which helped meet the fundraising target of US\$ 100 million by the end of 2013 set by the Board in its seventeenth meeting in March 2012. The new pledges from the governments of Germany, Switzerland, Finland, France, Belgium and its three regions, Norway and Austria totaled approximately US\$ 73.3 million, and complemented the earlier contributions made towards the target by the governments of Sweden and Brussels-Capital Region of Belgium, bringing the total pledged amount towards the target to approximately US\$ 105 million.

Other Decisions

50. The Board streamlined the application of environmental and social safeguards throughout its portfolio by approving an environmental and social policy. The policy, which reflects constructive inputs from civil society received through public consultation, provides guidance to implementing entities on safeguarding communities and the environment in all projects and programs financed by the Fund. The Board also approved a program for readiness to climate finance, which will, among other things, help countries integrate such safeguards in their adaptation work. The program will assist national entities in developing countries to build the capacities needed to implement adaptation projects and will aid all implementing entities in fully complying with environmental and social safeguards.

51. The Adaptation Fund Board also welcomed its new chair at its twenty-third meeting, Mr. Mamadou Honadia of Burkina Faso, who represents the African States constituency. He replaced outgoing chair Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk of Norway.

52. During both the twenty-second and twenty-third meetings, the Board engaged in a dialogue with civil society organizations chaired by the independent Adaptation Fund NGO

Network, coordinated by the NGO Germanwatch. Such dialogue allows for those organizations to provide their views on issues to be discussed under the Board agenda and other Adaptation Fund strategic issues.

53. The twenty-fourth Board meeting will take place on October 9-10, 2014 in Bonn, Germany.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests

54. The GEF Secretariat participated in the United Nations Forum on Forests' (UNFF) technical meeting on national reporting to the UNFF held January 14-15, 2014 in New York. The GEF participated in the First Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad-Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests held February 24-28, 2014. The GEF participated in a number of events as part of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). These events included the side event on Integrating Forests in the Sustainable Development Goals which was co-hosted by the CPF and the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN in New York as part of the 8th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the CPF meeting held in New York February 05, 2013. The CPF is a voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programs on forests with a key objective to support the UNFF and its member countries. The CPF provides major inputs to the UNFF and other important international forest dialogues, including the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It produces joint statements and papers on key forest issues on the international agenda. The statements can be found on the CPF website, at <http://www.cpfweb.org>

Annex 1: GEF responses to Decisions adopted by Conferences of the Parties of the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCCD

Table 1: GEF Response to CBD COP 11 Guidance

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<i>General Guidance</i>	
<p><i>Adopts</i> the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2014-2018 as contained in the annex to the present decision and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement it and report back to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the GEF-6 strategy and its thirteenth meeting on its implementation and how it responds to the individual Elements and their components, and the Additional Strategic Considerations of the Framework, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.</p>	<p>GEF will report on support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan during the final two years of GEF-5 and within the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and include that in the COP-12 report.</p> <p>This will continue during the implementation of the biodiversity strategy during GEF-6.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further expedite the provision of financial support, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention.</p>	<p>At the Council meeting in October 2014, the Secretariat will be proposing for consideration a set of project cycle streamlining measures.</p>
<p><i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to avoid additional and lengthy processes and to utilize existing NBSAPs as the basis for GEF 6 determination of needs based priorities.</p>	<p>At the Council meeting in October 2014, the Secretariat will be proposing for consideration a set of project cycle streamlining measures.</p> <p>All GEF biodiversity projects have to demonstrate linkage with the NBSAP as this is standard project review criteria.</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to further clarify the concept and application of co-financing for biodiversity projects, and <i>invites</i> the GEF to apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient countries to access GEF funds.	The Secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF Agencies, will be proposing for review of the GEF Council at its May 2014 meeting, a revision of the co-financing policy.
Urges the GEF, in the process of replenishment for GEF-6, to give due consideration to all aspects of the expert team's needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.	Noted.
<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to identify the Aichi Biodiversity Targets benefiting the most from synergies with other GEF focal areas and make this information available for further use.	As part of GEF-6 strategy development, synergies have been explored and exploited through the Integrated Approach Programs and the SFM program. In addition, contributions from other focal area strategies to the achievement of the Aichi Targets are identified and presented in the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.
<i>Transmits</i> to the Global Environment Facility the report on the assessment of needs for GEF 6, for consideration by the Global Environment Facility, so that the Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.	GEF will report at COP-12 on the results of the replenishment as well as at the WGRI meeting in an information document.
<i>Specific additional guidance to the financial mechanism</i>	
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation <i>Recalling</i> decision X/17, <i>urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate, timely and sustainable support for the implementation of	The GEF-5 strategy is comprehensive enough that plant conservation can be addressed under the objectives of the strategy, and the GEF-6 strategy follows suit in that regard. GEF will continue to fund activities within GEF projects that

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<p>the Strategy, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition and those countries that are centres of genetic diversity.</p>	<p>advance the implementation of the GSPC when these elements are supportive of the objectives of projects that generate global environmental benefits, consistent with the GEF mandate.</p>
<p>Marine and coastal biodiversity</p> <p><i>Urges</i> Parties and <i>invites</i> other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations, as appropriate, to provide adequate, timely, and sustainable support to the implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to EBSAs, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, including countries with upwelling systems, and, as appropriate, indigenous and local communities.</p>	<p>The GEF-5 and GEF-6 strategies are comprehensive enough with regards to marine protected area management that this guidance can be supported.</p>
<p>Protected areas</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area projects with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work, for example by clearly articulating the linkages with elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in project documents, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and other related targets by Parties, and to maximize the contribution of such projects to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.</p>	<p>Projects submitted for funding to the GEF support activities in the Programme of Work and <u>all</u> biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects that use biodiversity resources are required to clearly identify the contribution each project makes to the Aichi Targets.</p>
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and <i>invites</i> other donors, to provide adequate and timely financial support to developing countries, in particular the</p>	<p>GEF continues to comply with this request.</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<p>least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries that are centres of origin or diversity of genetic resources.</p>	
<p>Cooperation with international organizations, other conventions and initiatives</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility and <i>invites</i> other financial mechanisms to continue to support projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements.</p>	<p>The inclusive nature of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy provides ample opportunity for country-driven projects to exploit synergies amongst the relevant multilateral environment agreements and advance shared objectives.</p>
<p>Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the Global Environment Facility makes available the necessary funds for activities to support access and benefit-sharing and the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in order to implement the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and <i>further recommends</i> that GEF operational focal points carefully consider the urgent need to finance activities related to access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol when consulting national stakeholders on the distribution of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocation;</p> <p><i>Further recommends</i> that the Global Environment Facility continues to finance, as a priority, technical support to Parties aimed at the speedy ratification and early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, and its implementation at national level;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> GEF, in considering financing for Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund projects, to ensure that the Fund will specifically support activities related to early ratification and capacity-</p>	<p>GEF will provide a full report for the COP-12 on support to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In brief, during GEF-5, the GEF Trust Fund supported the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol through 7 country-based projects and two global projects (50 countries for the early entry into force of the protocol and 25 countries for ratification). The GEF invested \$29 million and leveraged \$64 million in co-financing.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy responds to the guidance provided by the COP to the GEF on the programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.</p> <p>The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) has supported 11 projects totaling \$12.6 million and leveraging \$29.9 million in cofinancing. These include 8 country-</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<p>building, and be used for access to and utilization of genetic resources only when such activities have been approved by appropriate government authorities and endorsed through the GEF operational focal point.</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the GEF to continue to administer the NPIF until the time the resources committed up to the end of GEF-5 are disbursed, and to report on the status of the fund to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which shall decide on its future.</p>	<p>based projects, one global project and two regional projects (Pacific, Central Africa) in support of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Although all projects will support ratification in some measure, the global project and two regional projects were solely focused on accelerating early ratification. GEF will provide a full report to COP-12.</p>
<p>Monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> Parties, the Global Environment Facility, donors, international organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and organizations of indigenous and local communities to consider the provision of technical support and financial resources for collaborative programmes related to the work on indicators on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use contained in decision XI/3.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><i>Recalls</i> paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision X/10, which, <i>inter alia</i>, request the Global Environment Facility and invite other donors, Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide adequate and timely financial support for the preparation of the fifth national reports.</p>	<p>In the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, allowances have been made to provide support to the Fifth National Report to countries through the focal area set-aside.</p>
<p>Engagement of other stakeholders</p> <p><i>Reiterates</i> its invitation in paragraph 7 of decision X/23 to the Global Environment Facility to</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, based on voluntary contributions, and <i>welcomes</i> ongoing discussions on this matter	
<p>Biosafety</p> <p>In Decision XI/5, paragraph 28, The COP further transmitted the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was contained in appendix II to the present decision.</p>	This guidance was incorporated into the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.
<p>Elements of the GEF-6 Strategy</p> <p>In guiding the development of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities 2014–2018 consists of the following elements:</p> <p>(a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/2, annex);</p> <p>(b) The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020 (decision BS-V/16);</p> <p>(c) The guidance to the financial mechanism on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing put forward by the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol, contained in appendix I to this decision;</p> <p>(d) Any relevant indicators for national and global use for assessing the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan;</p> <p>(f) The current set of output, outcome</p>	The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy incorporates these elements.

Table 2: GEF's response to decisions adopted by UNFCCC COP 19 and conclusions by SBI 39

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion		GEF's Response
COP 19 Agenda Item 11 (e): Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/111.pdf		
3.	Requests the GEF to clarify the concept of co-financing and its application in the projects and programmes of the GEF.	The GEF Secretariat is presenting to the GEF Council at its 46th Meeting a proposal for a revised Policy on co-financing that will clarify the concept of co-financing and its application to the projects and programs of the GEF. See Council Document GEF/C.46/09, <i>Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines</i> . The Policy will clarify the definition of co-financing and approaches to promoting effective co-financing and responds to the Policy Recommendations of the Sixth Replenishment and to the request made by the COP.
4.	Also requests the Global Environment Facility to further specify the steps that it has undertaken in response to the request contained in decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 1(c);	On March 21, 2014, the LDCF/SCCF Council approved an SCCF grant amounting to \$4.93 million towards the full-sized project 'Global: Assisting non-LDC Developing Countries with Country-driven Processes to Advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)'. The project seeks to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to allow non-LDC developing countries to integrate climate change adaptation into their medium- and long-term development planning processes in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner. The project is structured around three main components, aiming to (i) enhance the capacities of countries to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in the context of their development policies, strategies, plans and budgets; (ii) develop and disseminate tools and approaches to support the

		<p>NAP process; and (iii) promote the exchange of lessons and knowledge through South-South and North-South cooperation.</p> <p>Consistent with the decision taken by the LDCF/SCCF Council at its fourteenth meeting in June 2013, the GEF Secretariat has also invited developing countries to put forward proposals under the SCCF for medium-sized projects, full-sized projects and programmatic approaches that would contribute towards the preparation of their NAP processes, consistent with the objectives, principles and scope of the process, as defined in decision 5/CP.17 and specified in document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.14/06, <i>Operationalizing Support to the Preparation of the National Adaptation Plan Process in Response to Guidance from the UNFCCC COP</i>.</p> <p>The GEF, through its existing portfolio of SCCF projects and programs, is already providing significant support towards the objectives of the NAP process, and future support will build on the progress made to date.</p> <p>GEF support, through the SCCF, towards the preparation of the NAP process in non-LDC developing countries is further elaborated in the GEF's submission to SBI of March 26, 2014, which is available on the UNFCCC website.</p>
5.	Further requests the Global Environment Facility to include, in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twentieth session (December 2014), information on the modalities that it has established in response to paragraph 5 of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference	The GEF report to COP 20 will provide responses to guidance provided in this decision, and will be published on the GEF website in August, 2014.

	of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;	
8.	Emphasizes the need for the Global Environment Facility to consider lessons learned from past replenishment periods in its deliberations on the strategy for the sixth replenishment in order to continue to increase the effectiveness of its operations;	Since its inception, the GEF has been characterized by independent evaluation assessments. In particular, an overall comprehensive study of the GEF's performance is periodically undertaken in order to specifically inform the next replenishment cycle. With the specific terms of reference as (1) an assessment of the extent to which the GEF is achieving its objectives and (2) the identification of potential improvements, the Fifth Overall Performance Study (OPS5) and supporting technical documents were presented by the Evaluation Office to the 45th meeting of the GEF Council in November 2013. The GEF Secretariat welcomed the OPS5 as a critical input into the Replenishment Process and has integrated key recommendations into its proposed Policy and Programming documents for GEF6. As with previous Evaluation studies, the Secretariat remains committed to an uptake of key lessons learned in order to continue to increase effectiveness and impact.
9.	Calls upon developed country Parties, and invites other Parties that make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility, to ensure a robust sixth replenishment in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding;	At the November 2012 meeting, the GEF Council requested the Trustee of the GEF, in cooperation with the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Facility, to initiate discussions on the sixth replenishment of resources of the GEF Trust Fund. The fourth and final meeting of the Replenishment process will be held in April 2014, at which donor pledges will be finalized. The "Summary of Negotiations" and the core replenishment documents (Programming document, Policy recommendations and draft Replenishment Resolution) will then be transmitted to the GEF Council for endorsement. The Council will then request the GEF CEO to transmit the Summary of Negotiations and the core replenishment documents to the World Bank's Executive

		<p>Directors for consideration and adoption of the Replenishment Resolution. The financing period under GEF-6 Replenishment will begin when the World Bank Executive Directors adopt the GEF-6 Replenishment Resolution. Such resolution authorizes the World Bank to act as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund. The Trustee will inform Donors of the adoption of the resolution, and Donors will work to formalize their pledges to the replenishment. When Donors have obtained the appropriate parliamentary authorization and/or budgetary approval to participate in the replenishment, they will deposit an Instrument of Commitment with the Trustee. This will initiate the implementation of the new replenishment. The GEF-6 replenishment is expected to fund four years of GEF operations and activities, beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2018 (FY15-FY18).</p>
10.	Requests the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration in its sixth replenishment period to funding for small island developing States and the least developed countries in order to enable them to address their urgent needs and to comply with their obligations under the Convention;	<p>The GEF will continue to provide resources to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in particular African countries, LDCs and small island developing states, through its regular programming of resources for project. The GEF will allow for flexible programming for eligible SIDS and LDCs during GEF 6.</p>
11.	Also requests the Global Environment Facility to support, within its mandate, the implementation of country-driven projects identified in the technology needs assessments prepared by developing country Parties;	<p>All projects submitted to the GEF for climate change financing are required to address its consistency with the technology need assessments if they have been conducted recently in the respective countries.</p> <p>The GEF is ready to support projects identified in the technology needs assessments provided they are in line with the GEF objective and procedures.</p>
12.	Encourages the Global Environment	The GEF Secretariat followed the Council

	Facility to continue with its voluntary National Portfolio Formulation Exercise, which has been proved to enhance coordination and coherence at the national level;	request on including proposals the continuation of NPFE support in GEF-6 in the final replenishment, to be implemented through the Secretariat. The Council also requested to use the balance of the GEF-5 NPFE support for programming exercises to enable countries --on a voluntary basis-- to prepare for GEF-6. Therefore, after some consultations the GEF Secretariat updated the NPFE guidelines to make this exercise available to countries.
13.	Invites developing country Parties that wish to do so to apply for the National Portfolio Formulation Exercise before the start of the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility;	On March 19, 2014 a message was sent out by the GEF CEO to all GEF Political and Operational Focal Points inviting the countries to carry out, on a voluntary basis, a National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE). The Exercise will serve as a priority setting tool for countries to program GEF resources under GEF-6.
14.	Encourages the Global Environment Facility to finalize the accreditation of new project agencies and assess the possibilities for further expanding the direct access modality;	A pilot to accredit new institutions to serve as GEF project agencies is under implementation. The GEF Council in June 2012 had approved 11 agencies to progress to the second stage of the accreditation process. In 2013, World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US) and Conservation International (CI) have been accredited as GEF project agencies, responsible for assisting eligible recipients in the development, implementation, and management of GEF projects. Stage two reviews of other applicant agencies are on-going.
15.	Invites the Global Environment Facility and all of its implementing agencies and recipient countries to continue to work together to improve institutional arrangements, giving special consideration to expediting the project cycle;	The GEF continues to work with the Agencies and recipient countries to explore ways to further improve the project cycle. Most recently, four inter-agency working groups collaborated to explore ways to improve the project cycle, to simplify templates, and to design a revised co-financing policy that will provide additional clarity to all stakeholders, including Agencies and recipient countries alike. The Secretariat is also engaging the

		<p>Agencies and the recipient countries to undertake consultation on the overdue projects pending CEO endorsement. A tripartite conference call will bring all stakeholders together to discuss and hear views from recipient countries regarding the overdue projects in their respective countries and to seek cancellation of these projects as deemed appropriate.</p>
16.	<p>Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue to increase the overall transparency and openness of its operations;</p>	<p>The GEF joined the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) in April 2013. The decision to join was natural, considering the GEF's long-standing commitment to openness and transparency in its operations. GEF fully endorse the principles of IATI and will strive to report funding data in accordance with the IATI common standard during its new programming phases ("GEF-6") covering 2014-2018. Since 1998, the GEF has disclosed all non-confidential information and data related to its operations and policy making processes on the internet. The system has been continuously upgraded to make access to information easier. Today all relevant information regarding the organization, its projects and operations are made available to the general public through thegef.org website, ensuring full disclosure. This comprehensive approach to disclosure has not changed despite the significant increase in information resulting from the expansion of the GEF network.</p>
17.	<p>Also encourages the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its collaborative efforts with the Standing Committee on Finance;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support and inform the work of the Standing Committee on Finance. The GEF Secretariat participated in the sixth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, held on March 4-5, 2014 in Bonn, Germany. The GEF also contributed information towards the Committee's biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows</p>
18.	<p>Requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the</p>	<p>The GEF will, in the course of its annual reporting to the COP, report on the steps taken</p>

	financial mechanism of the Convention, 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.	to implement the guidance. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2013 until June 30, 2014, is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, upon approval by the GEF Council, in August 2014.
COP 19 Agenda Item 11(g): Work programme on results-based finance to progress the full implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/l05.pdf		
5.	Encourages entities financing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, through the wide variety of sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 65, including the Green Climate Fund in a key role, to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner, taking into account different policy approaches, while working with a view to increasing the number of countries that are in a position to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions;	The GEF, through its climate change mitigation programming under “reducing emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry” and SFM/REDD-plus incentive program, has provided significant resources and will continue to support activities described under 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.
6.	Also encourages the entities referred to in paragraph 5 above, when providing results-based finance, to apply the methodological guidance consistent with decisions 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 12/CP.17 and -/CP.19 to -/CP.19,4 as well as this decision, in order to improve the effectiveness and coordination of results-based finance;	The GEF continues to provide support for a range of technical and policy related capacity building activities which contribute to implementation of the decisions.
8.	Encourages entities financing the activities referred to in decision	Please see the response for section 5. The GEF is equipped with modalities to finance joint

	1/CP.16, paragraph 70, through the wide variety of sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 65, to continue to provide financial resources to alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests;	mitigation and adaptation approaches and encourages more countries to seek support for such approaches.
COP 19 Decision on Further advancing the Durban Platform http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/decisions/application/pdf/cop19_adp.pdf		
2 (d)	Urges and requests developed country Parties, the operating entities of the financial mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so to provide support for the related activities referred to in paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) above as early as possible in 2014;	<p>The GEF Secretariat held consultations with relevant agencies and countries to support the domestic preparations for intended nationally determined contributions, and has undertaken the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusion of an additional component on nationally determined contributions support to the Global Support Program for National Communications and BURs submitted for CEO endorsement, so that capacity building and information sharing support may be provided to non-Annex I countries from 2014. ▪ Working with UNDP and UNEP to encourage countries preparing GEF-5 projects for national communication and/ or BUR with set-aside resources to include a component on preparation of contributions with national allocation (STAR) ▪ Encouraging countries with remaining GEF-5 STAR resources to submit proposals to prepare intended nationally determined contributions. ▪ Providing programming flexibility at the end of GEF-5 period by accepting enabling activity proposals until the

		<p>Trustee black-out period in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing information with Parties on GEF support summarized above at the briefing session on this subject organized at the ADP 2.4 session in Bonn, Germany in March 2014.
COP 19 Decision on national adaptation plans (NAPs) http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbi/eng/110a01.pdf		
4.	Invites developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to continue to enhance financial and technical support to the national adaptation plan process for the least developed country Parties, and other interested developing country Parties that are not least developed countries;	Please refer to the response to 11/CP.19 above, and to SBI/2013/L.10 below.
5.	Invites United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to consider establishing or enhancing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties that are not least developed countries, and to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, information on how they have responded to this invitation;	<p>Please refer to the response to 11/CP.19 above.</p> <p>GEF support, through the SCCF, towards the preparation of the NAP process in non-LDC developing countries is further elaborated in the GEF's submission to SBI of March 26, 2014, which is available on the UNFCCC website.</p>
SBI 39 Agenda Item 4(c): National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention Provision of financial and technical support		

<p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>	<p>The SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, including information on the dates of the approval of funding and the disbursement of funds. It also invited the GEF to continue providing information on the approximate date of completion of the draft national communications, and an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the national communications, for consideration at SBI 41 (December 2014).</p> <p>The SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of the request for funding, approval of funding, disbursement of funds as well as an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of BURs, for consideration at SBI 40 (June 2014).</p> <p>Encouraged the GEF implementing agencies to continue facilitating the preparation and submission of project proposals by non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs.</p>	<p>The GEF will submit a report to SBI 41 on the status of National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) as well as information on the resources which have been approved by the GEF for the preparation of BURs for non-Annex I Parties.</p> <p>The GEF continues to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information to the UNFCCC on its activities relating to the preparation of National Communications and BURs by non-Annex I Parties. At SBI 40 the GEF will submit a report on the status of Biennial Update Reports.</p>
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	Recalling decision 9/CP.18, the SBI encouraged the GEF to make support available to non-Annex I Parties for preparing their subsequent BURs in a timely manner, taking fully into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 41(a) and (e).	
SBI 39 Agenda item 10: COP Decision on national adaptation plans (NAPs) http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbi/eng/110.pdf#page=2		
7.	<p>The SBI welcomed the establishment of the NAP global support programme for the LDCs for facilitating technical support to the LDC Parties, and invited developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to enhance support to the programme, and to other relevant programmes, to address the needs of all LDC Parties in initiating the NAP process.</p>	<p>Please refer to the response to 11/CP.19 above.</p> <p>With regard to addressing the needs of LDCs in initiating their NAP processes, the LDCF project, ‘Global: Assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPS)’, is underway and is providing institutional and technical support to LDCs, as well as sharing information on tools, methods and other relevant resources that countries may draw on in advancing their NAP processes. Through four regional training workshops carried out over the course of 2014, the project will provide representatives of all LDCs with an opportunity to learn about the NAP process and the associated technical guidelines developed by the LDC Expert Group (LEG); relevant tools and methods; opportunities to access further financial and technical support; and to reflect on the progress they have made towards the objectives of the NAP process and their potential needs for further support. Progress made under the project is continuously updated on the project website (http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs).</p> <p>As in the case of the SCCF (see response to</p>

		11/CP.19 above), the GEF Secretariat has invited LDCs to put forward proposals under the LDCF for medium-sized projects, full-sized projects and programmatic approaches that would contribute towards the preparation of their NAP processes. The GEF, through its existing portfolio of LDCF projects and programs, is already providing significant support towards the objectives of the NAP process, and future support will build on the progress made to date.
SBI 39 Agenda Item 13(c): Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbi/eng/104.pdf		
4.	<p>The SBI invited the GEF to continue to consult with the CTCN, through its Advisory Board and the United Nations Environment Programme as the host of the Climate Technology Centre, on the support that the GEF will provide for the work of the CTCN and to report on the concrete results of the consultations at SBI 40 (June 2014).</p>	<p>As part of the GEF report to COP19, the GEF secretariat indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The GEF is ready, with the means at its disposal and in line with GEF procedures, to support the operationalization and activities of the CTCN in response to decision 2/CP.173. ▪ The GEF can fund projects that combine technical assistance, policy support, capacity building and investment and that this would enable the CTCN (i) to respond to the most challenging requests from countries, and (ii) to develop responses that can go beyond pure technical assistance to have real impact on the ground. ▪ Developing countries and economies in transition that have such requests selected through the CTCN can submit project proposals to the GEF, through any of the existing GEF agencies, for the financing of concrete project activities. <p>Following the SBI 39 guidance, the GEF</p>

		<p>organized two teleconference discussions with the CTCN Advisory Board, UNEP as the CTC host, the UNFCCC secretariat, and UNIDO as a member of UNEP consortium for the CTC host, with the aim to further build understanding of the types of proposal that would be in line with the GEF mandate and strategy.</p> <p>UNEP and UNIDO are currently working on drafting such a proposal, with the GEF Secretariat providing review and comments to ensure that the proposal is in line with the GEF requirements.</p>
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Table 3: GEF's responses to Decision 11/COP.11 UNCCD

Operative paragraphs of the Decision	GEF Response and Action Taken
55. Invites the donors to the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to strive for a robust replenishment of resources, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area;	Noted
56. Calls on Parties to align their programming of Global Environment Facility resources at the national level, taking into account the priorities of sub-regional and regional action programmes to justify additional support for collaborative actions at the regional level;	Noted
3 Invites Parties to utilize Global Environment Facility financial resources in their implementation of activities geared towards the objectives of the Convention, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including the potential for harnessing synergies through the use of relevant Global Environment Facility incentive mechanisms across the various focal areas;	Noted. The GEF and UNCCD Secretariat are working to produce a Guide Book that will help countries to better assess options for programming GEF resources across focal areas.
4 Also invites the Global Environment Facility, during its sixth replenishment period, to support national-level capacity development for affected country Parties, as appropriate, to take coordinated action at the national, regional and international level to monitor globally land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, if requested	Noted. The Land Degradation focal area allocation for GEF-6 includes provision for Enabling Activity financing to eligible countries.

Operative paragraphs of the Decision	GEF Response and Action Taken
and among other activities;	
5. Encourages eligible country Parties to make use of the Global Environment Facility programme on capacity development to support the capacity needs in relation to the Rio conventions;	Noted
6. Invites the Global Environment Facility to consider promoting the involvement of the private sector to generate multiple global environmental benefits and improve livelihoods, through country-driven sustainable land management initiatives and programmes;	Noted. The GEF-6 replenishment process has given due consideration to the important role of private sector.
7. Also invites eligible Parties that have yet to request Global Environment Facility resources for UNCCD enabling activities to do so, bearing in mind that GEF-5 phase ends in June 2014, after which these resources will no longer be available;	Noted
8. Further invites the Global Environment Facility to continue to simplify and clarify the procedures for accessing the funding for the implementation of the Convention, including for the alignment of national action programmes with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and for timely reporting;	Noted
9. Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to inform and build the capacity of eligible country Parties on the procedures mentioned in paragraph 8 above;	Noted

Operative paragraphs of the Decision	GEF Response and Action Taken
10. Requests the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the UNCCD to engage in consultations on harmonizing the disbursement of funding for enabling activities with the deadlines for the alignment and the reporting and review process;	Noted
11. Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue raising awareness of UNCCD issues, including through its communication strategy;	Noted. The GEF Secretariat will continue to regularly share on its website and through publications stories, best practices and lessons from projects addressing land degradation.
12. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare draft amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the Global Environment Facility and to report on the proposed draft amendments to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on this matter.	Noted. The MoU is being revised and updated for consideration by GEF Council in November 2014.