

GEF Agency Retreat
Washington, D.C., October 18-20, 2022
Venue: World Bank Main Building, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC.
Conference Room MC2-800 + Conference Room MC C2-350

Retreat Objective:

Reconnect in person for the first time in 3 years on GEF-8 strategic priorities and open up new areas of collaboration; share best practice on specific topics; clarify outstanding policy and operational issues.

DAY 1: The New GEF-8 Context - Tuesday, October 18, 2022 - Room MC2-800

Time	Session Title	Description	Lead Resource	Objectives of Session
8:00 – 9:00	Registration. Coffee, Light breakfast			
9:00 – 9:45	Opening	Welcome remarks	Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO	Outline vision for roll-out of GEF-8 and role of Agencies to contribute to the strategic, programming and policy agendas.
9:45 - 10:15	Remembering Gustavo	Sharing memories	Carlos Manuel	Provide space for Agencies to remember and pay tribute to Gustavo Fonseca
10:15 – 10:30	Agenda overview	Introduction and any adjustments to Agenda as needed	Paola Ridolfi, Manager, GEFPO	Summarize objectives and run of show for the Retreat
10:30 – 11:30	GEF-8 launch – working together for a strong start	Facilitated discussion on Strategy, Programming and Policy commitments for GEF8 – what it means for Agencies and how can we collectively deliver	Claude Gascon, Manager GPU Paola Ridolfi, Manager, PPO	Take stock of what and how we are doing, open discussion to keep going strong Clarify timeline and process to deliver on policy and programming commitments
11:30 – 11:45	Break			
11:45 – 12:45	2022 Portfolio Update and Follow-up	Facilitated discussion on the findings of the draft Monitoring Report and	Cyril Blet, Sr. Results and	Gather Agency feedback on latest monitoring update and GEF-8 commitment to communicate

Time	Session Title	Description	Lead Resource	Objectives of Session
		ways to act on them – what it means for Agencies	Monitoring Specialist Quynh Phan, Sr. Financial Management Specialist	bilaterally with Agencies on portfolio progress and challenges, including around financial closure.
12:45-14:00	Lunch			
14:00 – 15:00	2022 Portfolio Update and Follow-up (cont'd)	Facilitated discussion with Agencies on leveraging MTRs to improve outcomes	Agencies to present, moderated by Cyril	Focused feedback on Agencies' experience in conducting project MTRs and responding to issues and opportunities identified, with presentations from the World Bank, IFAD and FAO
15:15 – 15:45	Geo-mapping	Update on geo-mapping project locations	Omid Parhizkar, Operations Officer	Share results of data collection, discuss findings and challenges, and present interactive map
15:45 – 16:00	Break			
16:00 - 16:30	Agency Alignment with GEF Minimum Standards	Third Party Review update	Jonathan	Update Agencies on current status, seek any reactions on the process
16:30 – 17:00	Conflict Resolution & Grievance Cases	Quick update on how the system works and what is needed for upcoming meeting of Council; opportunity to share issues/experiences	Peter Lallas, Adviser	Build awareness of system-level needs (all agencies) and why important; ask agencies if they can share any lessons learned from their cases
17:00-17:15	Closing	Closing remarks for the Day	Paola Ridolfi	Summarize and note any issues that may need further discussion in Day 3

DAY 2: Operational Issues - Wednesday, October 19, 2022 – Room MC2-800

Time	Session Title	Description	Lead Resource	Objectives of Session
8:00 – 9:00	Registration. Coffee, Light breakfast			
9:00 – 9:15	Opening	Welcome	Carlos Manuel	
9:15 – 9:25	Agenda overview	Welcome participants and go over objectives and run of show for the day	Claude Gascon, Manager, GEFPU	Make any adjustments to agenda, run of show based on feedback or developments from previous day.
9:25-10:30	Streamlining GEF-8 Project Templates	Review new PIF Templates, how they have worked in Work Program submissions, update on PFD Templates	Claude Gascon	Get feedback from Agencies on the new templates, identify any adjustments needed
10:30 – 11:30	Engagement with the Trustee on Financial Issues	A discussion with the Trustee on various financial issues.	Praveen Desabatla, Sr. Financial Officer, World Bank	Address any financial issues related to FPAs, commitment letters, reporting, financial closure, etc.
11:30 – 11:45	Break			
11:45 – 13:00	Opportunities to streamline for greater efficiency and results	Follow-up to July 2022 meeting with Agencies on key operational issues	Jonathan Caldicott, Claude Gascon	Outline the process and timelines associated with the GEF-8 commitments on streamlining, harmonization with other funds, leading to expected December 2023 Council proposal for decision.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 – 15:00	Integrated Programs: Lead Agency Selection	Summary of the outcomes of the IP Lead Agency selection process	Claude, Mohamed Bakkar	Debrief Agencies on the outcome of the process and next steps.
15:00 – 15:30	Small Grants Program	Status update on the Council paper and proposed changes	Gabriella Temm, Sr. Operations Officer	Brief Agencies on the proposed implementation arrangements for SGP and how they can engage.
15:30 – 16:00	Break			

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16:00 – 16:45	Letters of Endorsement	Update Agencies on new LOE template	Henry, Quynh	Explain new calculations required in LOEs.
16:45 – 17:00	Closing	Closing remarks for the day	Claude Gascon	Summarize findings and propose any adjustments needed to run of show for Day 3
17:00-21:00	Cocktail on the N bldg. rooftop	All invited to cocktail		Reconnect in person after 2.5 years

DAY 3: Knowledge Exchange - Thursday, October 20, 2022. Room: MC C2-350 (n.b. different room from previous days)

Time	Session	Description	Lead Resource	Notes/Objectives
8:00 – 9:00	Registration. Coffee, Light breakfast			
9:00 – 9:15	Opening	Welcome remarks	Carlos Manuel	
9:15 – 10:30	ESS Good Practice and Lessons	Update on the ESS Progress Report and opportunity for Agencies to share any lessons regarding ESS in GEF Projects	Ikuko	By fostering the exchange of experiences and lessons learned from implementing the ESS Policy, the GEF Secretariat aims work with partners to improve the quality of GEF investments on environmental and social risk management.
10:30 – 11:30	Gender mainstreaming	Presentation of best practices in gender mainstreaming in project design; Facilitated discussion on reporting results on gender mainstreaming	Verona Ancheta Collantes Lebale, Sr. Gender Specialist to moderate	Share findings of the information document on gender mainstreaming (integration of gender perspectives in project design and reporting on results); Discuss a way forward to better ensure implementation of gender equality objectives in projects; initiate discussions on the role and directions of the GEF Gender Partnership
11:30 – 11:45	Break			
11:45 – 13:00	Knowledge Management	Agencies to provide feedback on current KM requirements, activities and recommendations for GEF8; IEO and STAP to discuss how KM&L can facilitate innovation in GEF-8	Yasemin Biro, KM Coordinator to moderate	Facilitated discussion to examine: a. KM Requirements for Projects/Programs, b. Existing KM Activities/Products, c. Potential new KM Actions for GEF 8, including proposed GPU and CES activities
13:00 – 13:15	Closing remarks		Carlos Manuel	
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch			