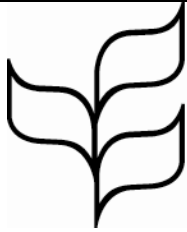




CBD



**Convention on
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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
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Twelfth meeting
Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-17 October 2014
Item 15 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

1. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) contained in the annex to decision III/8, the Council of the GEF is to prepare and submit a report for each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Section 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding provides a list of specific items, detailed information and other information to be included in the report.
2. In the light of the above, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. The report is reproduced as it was received by the GEF Secretariat.**

* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1.

** The GEF Secretariat provided the report in English, French and Spanish. The annexes have been reproduced in English only.

**GEF REPORT TO THE TWELFTH MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document reports on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the area of biological diversity for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014; the last 2 years of GEF-5, that are hereafter referred to as the reporting period. The report also provides an overview of programming during the entire GEF-5 period (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2014.)
2. The GEF, as the institutional structure that carries out the operation of the financial mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, provides financing to country driven projects based on guidance received from the Conference of Parties. The report describes the GEF's activities in response to guidance received from the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh session (COP-XI) held in Hyderabad, India, October 8-19, 2012 and the COP-MOP-VI held from October 1-5, 2012 and other relevant decisions of previous COPs. Please see Table 5 in the main report for a detailed report on GEF actions in response to guidance from COP-XI.
3. Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014, the GEF approved 167 projects from the GEF Trust Fund that supported implementation of the CBD and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols through stand-alone biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects. The total GEF resources provided to implement these projects was \$483,223,296, or about 46% of the resources allocated to the biodiversity focal area during GEF-5 (inclusive of agency fees and PPGs). These resources leveraged an additional \$ 1.7 billion in co-financing for the projects from partners including the GEF Agencies, bilateral agencies, recipient countries, private foundations, and the private sector for a total project cost of \$ 2.2 billion (with Agency Fee, without: 2.1 billion) . This resulted in a cofinancing ratio of 1 (GEF): 3.5 (cofinancing with Agency Fee, without 1: 3.8).
4. At the end of GEF-5, \$1,057,226,380 was programmed of the \$1.08 billion dollars allocated to the biodiversity focal area, or 98% of the total resource envelope.
5. Biodiversity programming by the GEF-5 strategy objectives during the reporting period is presented in Table A below.

Table A. Biodiversity Programming by Strategy Objective During the Reporting Period¹

Biodiversity Strategy Objective	GEF Amount (US\$)	Cofinance (US\$)
BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	210,067,104	886,421,917
BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors	185,372,436	738,609,811
BD-3: Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety	13,663,648	26,240,180
BD-4: Build Capacity on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	45,119,483	108,860,193
BD-5: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities (NBSAPs)	5,388,557	7,797,421
TOTAL	459,611,228	1,767,929,522

¹Programming amounts do not include the agency fee as it is not possible to attribute the fee to a biodiversity strategy objective as these costs cover the entire grant amount. These tables include funding from the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) to support implementation of BD-4.

6. Countries have prioritized funding for the management of their protected area systems (BD-1) during the last two years of GEF-5 (46% of programming, or \$210 million); however, a considerable amount of funding (40% of programming, or \$185 million) was invested in biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable use (BD-2). Biosafety programming increased five-fold during the last two years of GEF-5 when compared with the first two years. In addition, programming to support ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (BD-4) increased by a factor of 17 during the last two years of GEF-5 when compared to the first two years of GEF-5. Overall, more than \$1.7 billion of cofinancing was leveraged by the projects approved during the last two years of GEF-5.

7. Table B below presents biodiversity programming by the GEF-5 biodiversity strategy objectives for all of GEF-5 (2010-2014). Historically, countries have prioritized using their GEF allocation to advance the management of the protected area estate by considerable margins (~ 55-60% to support protected areas management versus ~35-40% to support biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable use); however, as the table demonstrates during GEF-5 countries have pursued more balanced programming strategies between these two objectives of the biodiversity strategy. Thus, although more total resources have gone towards protected area management the results indicate that there is an increased interest to invest in the management of biodiversity outside the protected area estate when compared to previous phases of the GEF. This bodes well for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020, given the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming to the achievement of many Aichi Targets.

Table B: Biodiversity Programming by Strategy Objective During all of GEF-5 (2010-2014) (amounts in US\$) ²

Biodiversity Strategy Objective	GEF Amount (\$)	Percent of total amount programmed	Cofinance (\$)
BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	489,068,947	49%	2,239,746,445
BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors	409,102,504	41%	1,862,014,386
BD-3: Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety	16,468,648	2%	28,680,180
BD-4: Build Capacity on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	47,806,233	5%	113,238,843
BD-5: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities (NBSAPs)	30,263,908	3%	51,998,355
TOTAL	992,710,240	100%	4,295,678,209

8. During the reporting period, the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) supported a total of 50 countries by means of eight country-based projects, three regional projects and one

² Ibid.

global project. Through these projects NPIF invested \$12.5 million leveraging \$30.6 million in co-financing.

9. GEF's SFM-REDD+ Program has made significant contributions to the objectives of the CBD during the reporting period and Aichi Target 7 primarily, but with contributions to related Aichi Targets 5, 11, 14, 15 and 18; in addition project investments in the forest enabling environment have made a direct contribution to Target Seventeen (17). GEF has contributed \$193,917,633 towards 34 SFM –REDD+ projects which have leveraged an additional \$865,364,906 in cofinance.

10. During the reporting period, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) financed approximately 1,277 biodiversity-related projects (including 145 projects with multi-focal area benefits contributing to climate change mitigation, international waters and land degradation), together representing \$43.28 million in financing from the GEF, in addition to \$44.53 million in cumulative cash and in-kind co-financing from partners and grantees, GEF agencies, bilateral agencies, national and local governments, as well as the private sector, that was generated over the course of national implementation of the SGP projects.

11. During the reporting period, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), of which GEF is one donor, provided funding for 228 projects in 43 countries, amounting to \$27.3 million, which leveraged \$25.16 million, bringing the program's global investment portfolio since inception to \$169 million in grants awarded to 1,874 civil society organizations, and leveraging \$341 million from partners around the world.

12. The Save Our Species program (SOS), of which GEF is one donor, approved 59 SOS projects during the reporting period. The SOS provided \$4,985,081 and leveraged \$5,371,870 in cofinance to conserve 129 threatened species in 42 countries, thus making a significant contribution to Aichi Target 12. These projects involved 42 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

13. Of the 20 projects approved under the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) during the reporting period, seven projects demonstrate a clear link to biodiversity management objectives. SCCF grants associated with these projects amount to \$44.16 million, with \$225.39 million in co-financing, for a total of \$269.55 million. Among these projects, several apply ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, thus contributing towards the resilience of ecosystems and natural resources in the face of the current and future impacts of climate change; as well as towards the resilience of the people and livelihoods that depend on these resources.

14. Of the 77 projects approved under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) during the reporting period, 25 projects demonstrate a clear link to biodiversity management objectives. LDCF grants associated with these projects amount to \$173.43 million, with \$625.91 million in co-financing, for a total of \$799.34 million. Several of these projects use ecosystems as an entry point for addressing the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of vulnerable rural communities.

15. The document also describes GEF financed activities in the GEF focal areas of international waters and land degradation that also contributed directly or indirectly to the objectives and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020.

16. Through the international waters focal area, the GEF approved 23 projects during the reporting period benefiting 96 countries, for \$195.71 million which leveraged an additional \$1.55 billion in cofinancing that supported the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

17. In the land degradation focal area, 18 projects amounting to a total GEF commitment of \$39.87 million were approved during the reporting period and each contributes to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. An additional \$172.75 million was leveraged as cofinancing.

18. In sum, during the reporting period, the total GEF investment in supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, as summarized above, was \$1.2 billion, of which 40% came from the biodiversity focal area. The GEF resources leveraged an additional \$5.2 billion in cofinancing, resulting in a grand total of \$6.4 billion. This represents a cofinancing ratio of 1 (GEF): 4 (cofinancing). Please see Table C below.

Table C. Summary of GEF Funding (US\$) Contributing to Achievement of Strategic Plan of CBD 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets, FY 2012-2014

Funding Source	Number of Projects	GEF grant	Cofinance	Total	% of GEF total funding contributions towards implementation of the Strategic Plan
Biodiversity Focal Area	167	483 million	1.7 billion	2.2 billion	41%
SFM-REDD+	34	194 million	865 million	1.1 billion	17%
GEF Small Grants Programme	1,277	43 million	45 million	88 million	4%
SCCF	7	44 million	225 million	269 million	4%
LDCF	25	173 million	626 million	799 million	14%
International Waters Focal Area	23	196 million	1.6 billion	1.7 billion	17%
Land Degradation Focal Area	18	40 million	173 million	212 million	3%
Totals	1610	1.2 billion	5.2 billion	6.4 billion	100%

19. The report also provides portfolio monitoring results and key findings of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office during the reporting period. GEF's corporate goal is to have at least 75% of projects achieving ratings of moderately satisfactory or higher³. Within the biodiversity portfolio of 198 projects that are currently under implementation, 91% of projects are achieving their global environment objectives at a rating of moderately satisfactory (MS) or higher, with 61% of the total achieving ratings of Satisfactory or Highly Satisfactory. In terms of implementation progress, 85% of projects are achieving implementation progress ratings of MS or higher, with 54% of the total achieving ratings of Satisfactory or Highly Satisfactory.

20. Finally, during the reporting period, negotiations for the sixth replenishment period (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018) of the GEF (GEF-6) were successfully concluded on April 16-17, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland when 31 countries pledged a total of \$4.433 billion towards programming in GEF-6. The 31 countries are: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. For biodiversity, \$1.296 billion was allocated to the biodiversity focal area in GEF-6 making biodiversity the largest single focal area in the GEF based on resources allocated.

³ GEF projects under implementation are assessed as to whether they are achieving the development/global environment objectives (DO) of the project and their respective implementation progress (IP) according to the following rating system: 1) Highly satisfactory (HS). The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency; 2) Satisfactory (S). The project had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency; 3) Moderately satisfactory (MS). The project had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency; 4) Moderately unsatisfactory (MU). The project had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency; 5) Unsatisfactory (U). The project had major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency; and 6) Highly unsatisfactory (HU). The project had severe shortcomings.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report has been prepared for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-XII) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It reports on activities of the GEF to support implementation of the CBD, and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols during the period, July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014. The report also provides an overview of programming during the entire GEF-5 period (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2014.)
2. In addition to this report, supplemental information is presented in GEF publications and documents which the GEF will make available to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties. A list of the documents is provided in Annex 20.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY, 2011-2020

A. Summary

3. The GEF, as the institutional structure that carries out the operation of the financial mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, provides financing to country driven projects based on guidance received from the Conference of Parties. GEF financed projects are managed through the ten GEF agencies: the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP); the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP); the World Bank; the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the African Development Bank (AfDB); the Asian Development Bank (ADB); the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Four new project agencies became part of the GEF partnership during the reporting period: World Wildlife Fund-US, Conservation International, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Development Bank of South Africa. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) provides technical and scientific advice on GEF's policies and projects. Information on all GEF projects is available on the GEF website (<http://www.thegef.org>) under Projects.
4. Since 1991, the GEF has provided about \$ 3.46 billion in grants and leveraged \$10.4 billion in co-financing in support of 1200 biodiversity projects in 155 countries.
5. Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014, the GEF approved 167 projects from the GEF Trust Fund that supported implementation of the CBD and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols through stand-alone biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects. The total GEF resources provided to implement these projects was \$ 483,223,296, or about 46% of the resources allocated to the biodiversity focal area during GEF-5 (inclusive of agency fees and PPGs). These resources leveraged an additional \$ 1.7 billion in co-financing for the projects from partners including the GEF Agencies, bilateral agencies, recipient countries, private foundations, and the private sector for a total of \$ 2.2 billion (with Agency Fee, without: 2.1 billion) . This resulted in a cofinancing ratio of 1 (GEF): 3.5 (cofinancing with Agency Fee, without 1: 3.8).

6. At the end of GEF-5, \$ 1,057,226,380 of the total of \$1.08 billion dollars for biodiversity was allocated or 98% of the total resource envelope.¹

B. Overview of Project Support

- Biodiversity Programming by Biodiversity Strategy Objectives

7. Table One presents biodiversity programming by the GEF-5 biodiversity strategy objectives during the reporting period².
8. Each project approved by the GEF, whether as part of the Council Work Programs or when directly approved by the CEO (MSPs and Enabling Activities), is evaluated for its conformity with each country's NBSAP, relevant guidance from the COP, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020. In addition, project proponents identify the link between the project and the Aichi Targets.

Table 1. Biodiversity Programming by Strategy Objective During the Reporting Period (2012-2014) ³(amounts in US\$)

Biodiversity Strategy Objective	GEF Amount (\$)	Cofinance (\$)
BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	210,067,104	886,421,917
BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors	185,372,436	738,609,811
BD-3: Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety	13,663,648	26,240,180
BD-4: Build Capacity on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	45,119,483	108,860,193
BD-5: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities (NBSAPs)	5,388,557	7,797,421
TOTAL	459,611,228	1,767,929,522

9. Countries have prioritized funding for the management of their protected area systems (BD-1) during the last two years of GEF-5 (46% of programming, or \$210 million);

¹ The amount for the biodiversity focal area in the final GEF-5 programming document was \$1.07 billion. However, this amount increased slightly due to an overall increased replenishment, resulting in a final resource envelope of \$1.08 billion.

² The GEF-5 strategy document agreed by GEF Council and the GEF Assembly can be found at http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF-5_Bio_strategy.pdf.

³ Programming amounts do not include the agency fee as it is not possible to attribute the fee to a biodiversity strategy objective as these costs cover the entire grant amount. These tables include funding from the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) to support implementation of BD-4.

however, a considerable amount of funding (40% of programming, or \$185 million) was invested in biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable use (BD-2). Biosafety programming increased five-fold during the last two years of GEF-5 when compared with the first two years. In addition, programming to support ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (BD-4) increased by a factor of 17 during the last two years of GEF-5 when compared to the first two years of GEF-5. Overall, more than \$1.7 billion of cofinancing was leveraged by the projects approved during the last two years of GEF-5.

10. Annexes 2-14 and 19 provide a list and summary information on the full-sized, medium-sized and enabling activity projects approved during the reporting period.
11. Table Two presents biodiversity programming by the GEF-5 biodiversity strategy objectives for all of GEF-5 (2010-2014). Historically, countries have prioritized using their GEF allocation to advance the management of the protected area estate by considerable margins (~ 55-60% to support protected areas management versus ~35-40% to support biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable use); however, as Table Two demonstrates during GEF-5 countries have pursued more balanced programming strategies between these two objectives of the biodiversity strategy.

Table 2: Biodiversity Programming by Strategy Objective During all of GEF-5 (2010-2014) (amounts in US\$) ⁴

Biodiversity Strategy Objective	GEF Amount (\$)	Percent of total amount programmed	Cofinance (\$)
BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	489,068,947	49%	2,239,746,445
BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors	409,102,504	41%	1,862,014,386
BD-3: Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety	16,468,648	2%	28,680,180
BD-4: Build Capacity on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	47,806,233	5%	113,238,843
BD-5: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities (NBSAPs)	30,263,908	3%	51,998,355
TOTAL	992,710,240	100%	4,295,678,209

⁴ Ibid.

- Programming Per Notional Allocation in the Biodiversity Strategy

12. It is worth noting that the GEF-5 biodiversity strategy indicated notional allocations per each objective of the strategy. *These were not programming targets but they were programming estimates based on past prioritization and programming by countries.* Table 3 below provides a summary of country programming when compared to these notional allocations during the reporting period (2012-2104). Table 4 provides an overview of programming per notional allocation for the entirety of GEF-5 (2010-2014).

Table 3. Rate of Programming per Notional Allocation per Objective of the GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategy during the reporting period (2012-2014)⁵ (amounts in US\$)

Biodiversity Focal Area Objective	Amount Notionally Allocated (\$)	Amount Utilized (\$)	% utilized
BD-1	700,000,000	210,067,104	30%
BD-2	250,000,000	185,372,436	74%
BD-3	40,000,000	13,663,648	35%
BD-4	40,000,000	45,119,483	113%
BD-5	40,000,000	5,388,557	12%
TOTAL	1,070,000,000	459,611,228	43%

Table 4. Rate of Programming Per Notional Allocation per Objective of the GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategy during the entirety of GEF-5 (2010-2014)⁶ (amounts in US\$)

Biodiversity Focal Area Objective	Amount Notionally Allocated (\$)	Amount Utilized (\$)	% utilized
BD-1	700,000,000	489,068,947	70%
BD-2	250,000,000	409,102,504	164%
BD-3	40,000,000	16,468,648	41%
BD-4	40,000,000	47,806,233	120%
BD-5	40,000,000	30,263,908	76%
TOTAL	1,070,000,000	992,710,240	93%

13. Tables Three and Four demonstrate that the rate of programming for objective two of the biodiversity strategy exceeds what was expected based on past country demand. Thus, although more total resources have gone towards protected area management the results indicate that there is an increased interest to invest in the management of biodiversity

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

outside the protected area estate when compared to previous phases of the GEF. This bodes well for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020, given the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming to the achievement of many Aichi Targets.

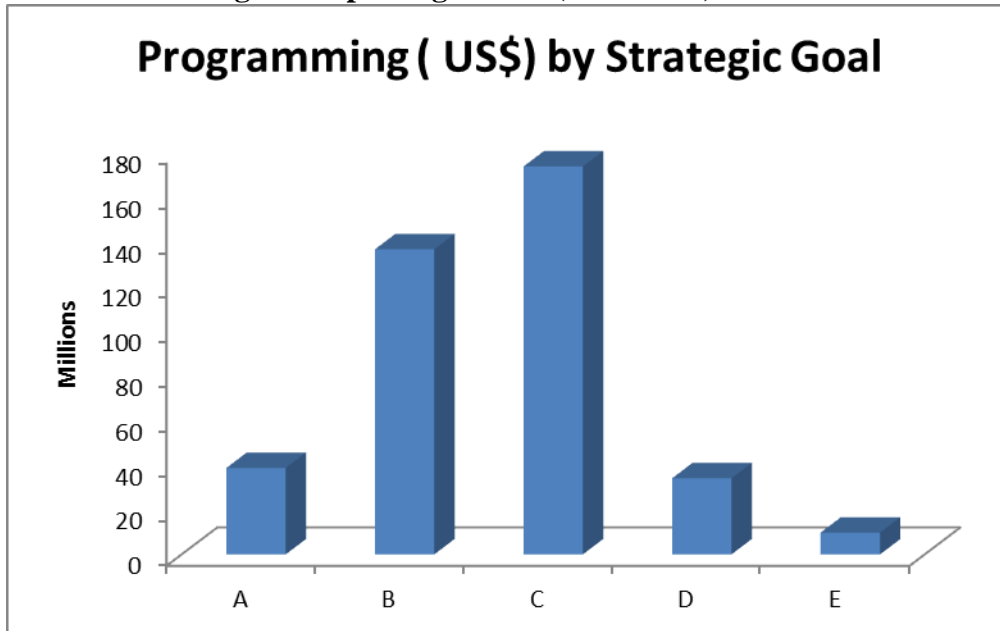
- Programming Contribution to Strategic Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and Aichi Targets

14. Figures (1), (2), (3) and (4) below depict country prioritization and programming against the five Strategic Goals and the 20 Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 during the reporting period and the entirety of GEF-5.
15. Given the varying nature of the Aichi Target descriptions, the metrics, or lack thereof, embedded in each one, allocating programmed resources to discrete Aichi Targets based on project concepts approved at the PIF (Project Information Form) stage is particularly challenging. Therefore, the following caveats must be considered with regards to the presentation of programming contributions to Aichi Target achievement, particularly given the great degree of overlap amongst individual targets.
16. As a general principle, we avoided double counting resource programming even though most projects are simultaneously contributing to more than one target at the same time within project components and through the same set of activities. For example, Target 5 is achieved through both protected area management and biodiversity mainstreaming activities supported by the GEF but we allocated resources to the thematic areas directly supported by the project activities, such as Targets 11, 2, or 7 respectively. In addition, many protected area projects (Target 11) will make significant contributions to Target 14 and 15, among others, but we chose not to double-count or divide resource allocation to these targets as the assignment would have been totally arbitrary. Therefore, we chose to allocate project amounts to specific targets, based on the primary and secondary measurable outcomes as presented in each project design.
17. Furthermore, it is rare for GEF biodiversity projects to directly support Aichi Targets 1, 5, 8, 18, and 19 through a targeted and specific set of actions although they received direct and indirect support during GEF-5. For example, virtually all projects are increasing awareness of the values of biodiversity; however, we have chosen not to allocate resources to Target One (1) as it would lead to excessive double counting. Targets 18 and 19 are more operational means to an end and their integration into the project design and implementation process is encouraged as relevant to specific project designs but tracking resource programming to implement these targets was not easily possible. This results in allocation amounts to some targets being significant and others minimal or nil (such as Target 5), which likely underestimates the programming contributions to important targets that receive “knock-on” benefits from the primary focus of the project investment. Finally, we combined Targets 6 and 10 as projects within the marine realm consistently contributed to both Targets and it was impossible to accurately parse out coral reef-specific investments from larger marine and coastal

projects; a challenge that will be alleviated somewhat with Program 6 on coral reefs in the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.

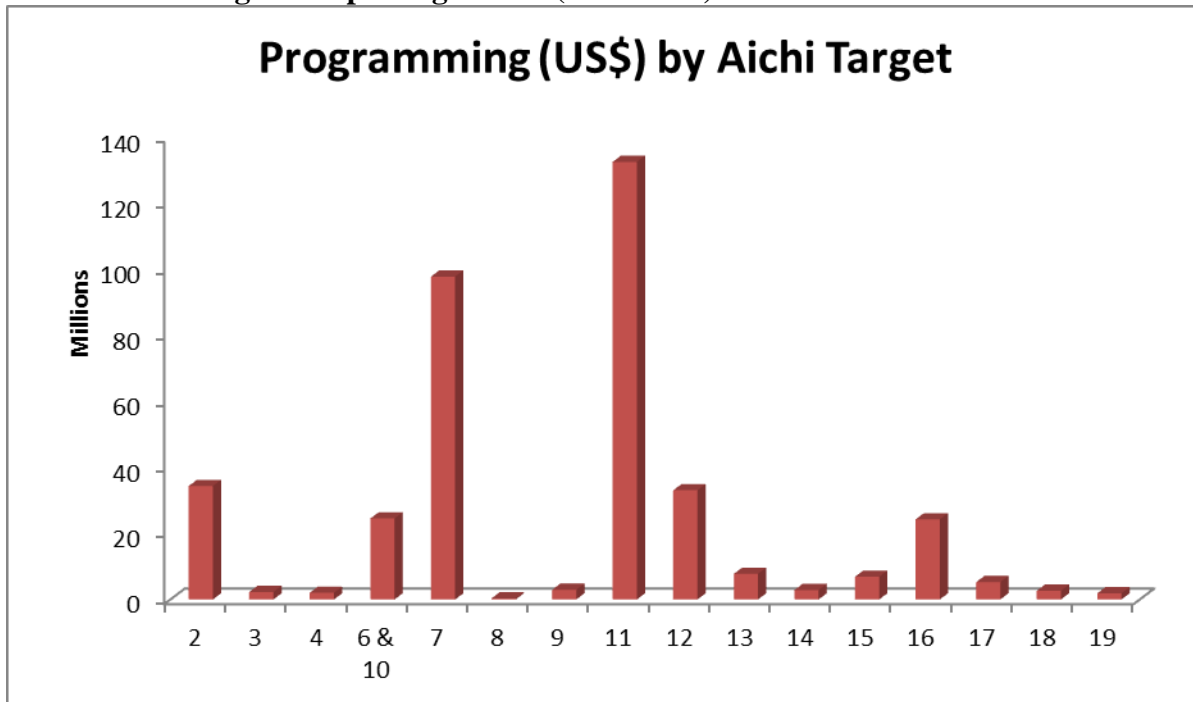
18. Contributions to Target 8 are made both directly and indirectly through the implementation of the International Waters, Chemicals, and Land Degradation Focal Area strategies, respectively, but we did not tally them here although we may consider doing so for future COP reports.
19. Finally, some targets are not readily addressed by project investments, per se, such as Target 20 which addresses both national level and global priorities within the CBD process. However, with regards to Target 20, the entirety of the GEF programming that has contributed to implement the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets, along with the related co-financing leveraged, as presented in the Summary Funding Table in the Executive Summary of this report can be considered the GEF-wide contribution to this Target. In sum, during the reporting period, the total GEF investment in supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, through 1,610 projects of all sizes, was \$1.2 billion, of which about 40% came from the biodiversity focal area. The GEF resources leveraged an additional \$5.2 billion in cofinancing, resulting in a grand total of \$6.4 billion. This represents a cofinancing ratio of 1 (GEF): 4 (cofinancing).
20. The exercise of cataloguing programming per Aichi Target brings into relief the diverse nature of the target descriptions with some being discrete and explicit and others being more general statements, and at times representing subsidiary or sub-results of the actions undertaken by countries to achieve other targets. Going forward, GEF will continue to track and report on country programming by the objectives and programs of the GEF-6 strategy, linking these to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 and in doing so, the GEF will refine the process of reporting and assigning resource programming accordingly.

Figure 1. Country Programming by Strategic Goal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 During the Reporting Period (2012-2014)



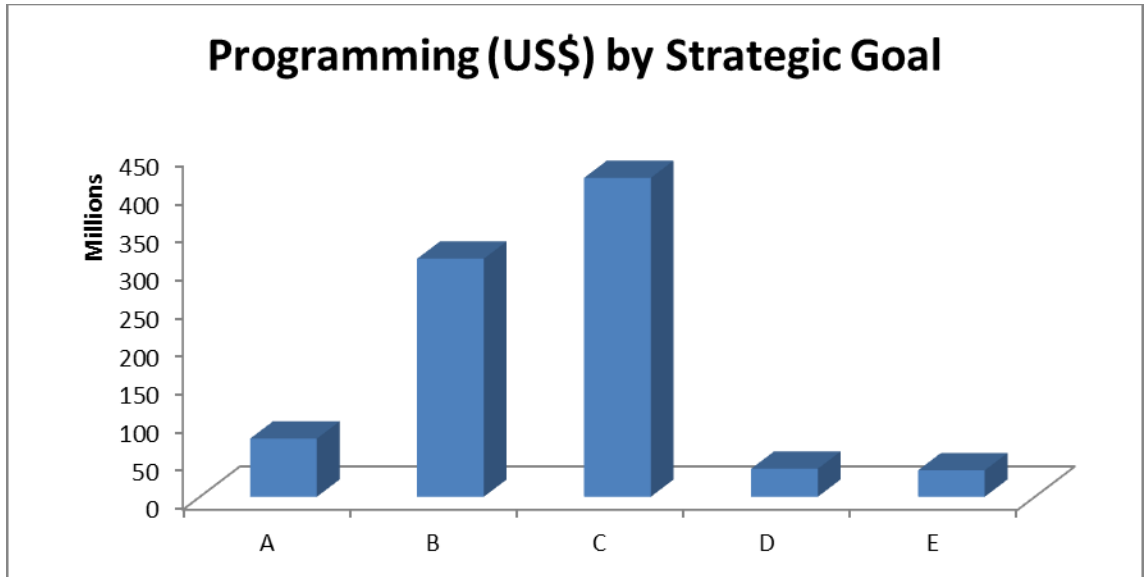
(Note: Goal A: \$38 million, Goal B: \$136 million, Goal C: \$174 million, Goal D: \$34 million, Goal E: \$10 million)

Figure 2. Country Programming by Aichi Target of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 During the Reporting Period (2012-2014)



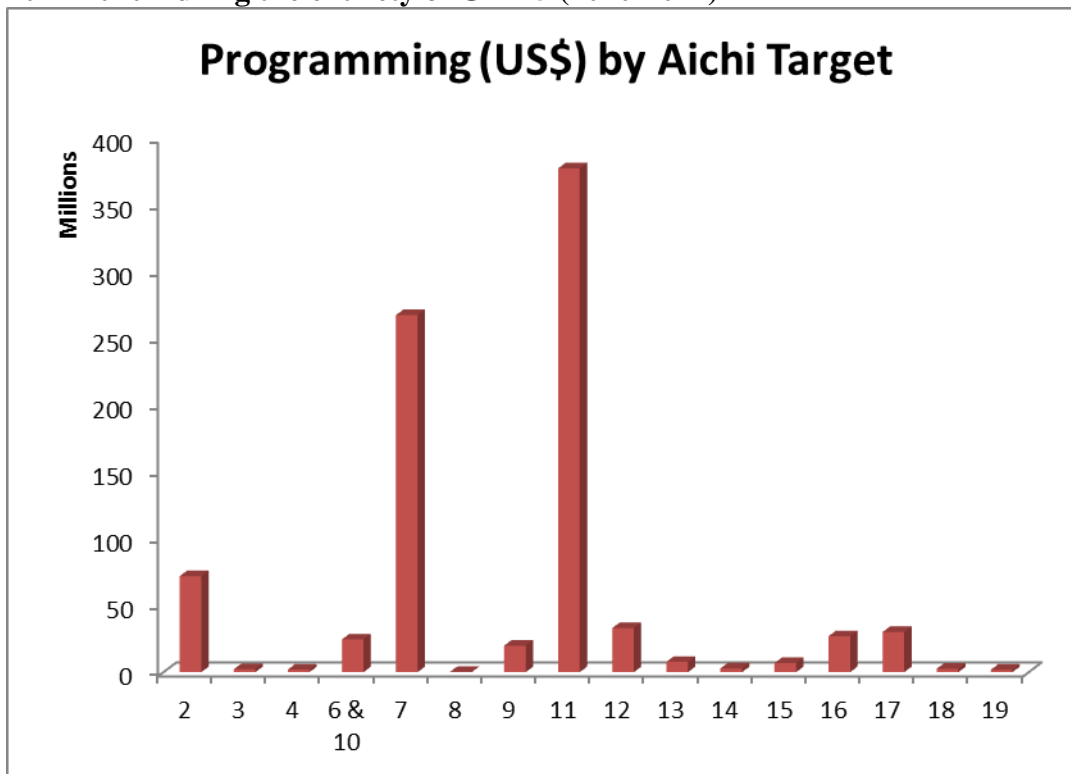
(Note: Programming by Aichi Target: 2: \$34 million, 3: \$2 million, 4: \$2 million, 6 & 10: \$25 million, 7: \$98 million, 8: \$0.3 million, 9: \$3 million, 11: \$133 million, 12: \$33 million, 13: \$8 million, 14: \$3 million, 15: \$7 million, 16: \$24 million, 17: \$5 million, 18: \$3 million, 19: \$2 million.)

Figure 3. Country Programming by Strategic Goal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 During the entirety of GEF-5 (2010-2014)



(Note: Goal A: \$76 million, Goal B: \$312 million, Goal C: \$ 418 million, Goal D: \$37 million, Goal E: \$34 million)

Figure 4. Country Programming by Aichi Target of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 During the entirety of GEF-5 (2010-2014)



(Note: 2: \$72 million, 3: \$2 million, 4:\$ 2 million, 6 & 10: \$25 million, 7: \$268 million, 8: \$0.3 million, 9: \$20 million, 11: \$ 378 million, 12: \$33 million, 13: \$8 million, 14: \$3 million, 15: \$7 million, 16: \$ 27 million, 17: \$30 million, 18: \$3 million, 19: \$ 2 millio)

21. Even with the caveats expressed above, the results indicate that countries are prioritizing Strategic Goals B and C and the associated targets of these goals. In addition, it may also indicate that the cost per unit of effort is less in activities funded under Strategic Goal A, which is focused mainly on policy development and planning processes to support biodiversity mainstreaming whereas Goals B and C are focused on higher cost biodiversity management activities. The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and its 10 programs provide ample opportunities for countries to implement projects supportive of Strategic Goals A and E, particularly with regards to biodiversity mainstreaming (Program 9) and resource mobilization strategies (Program 10). Finally, it is worth noting that Strategic Goal D and Targets 14 and 15 are outcomes of the actions taken to meet other targets, such as protected area management, sustainable forestry and agriculture, etc. thus they are never likely to be adequately reflected and recorded through resource programming analyses.

- Enabling Activities: Revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the Fifth National Reports

22. During the first two years of GEF-5, 108 countries received funds to revise their NBSAP and produce their Fifth National Report.
23. During the last two years of GEF-5 and covering this reporting period, 29 additional countries received funds to revise their NBSAP and produce their Fifth National Report receiving \$5,338,557 from the GEF which leveraged \$7,797,421 in cofinancing.
24. Therefore, of the 145 GEF eligible countries, 137 (94%) have accessed funds set-aside in GEF-5 for Biodiversity Enabling Activities (49 through UNDP, 80 through UNEP, one through FAO, one through IADB, and six via Direct Access). Most of these projects have completion dates set before October 2014. Nine (6%) of GEF-eligible countries have not yet utilized the GEF-5 BD-EA funding window, two of whom have chosen to revise their NBSAP with their own or other funds, meaning that GEF has funded 96% of the potential pool of GEF eligible countries. See Annex 13 for a summary description of enabling activity proposals.

- Project Preparation Grants

25. As a first step in project development, the GEF provides financing to assist recipient countries to develop a project concept (PIF) into a project proposal for CEO endorsement. One hundred twenty-one (121) project preparation grants (PPGs) were approved in the reporting period amounting to \$ 11,019,239 including a PPG Fee of \$951,251.

- Support for the Implementation the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity

26. During the reporting period, the GEF funded 3 country-based projects, 1 regional and 1 global project in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. GEF invested \$13.6 million leveraging \$26.2 million in co-financing. Please see Annexes 9 and 10 for a description of these projects.

27. The global project, “Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH), responds to MOP-5 Decision BS-V/5, para 4 (d), calling for the GEF to “Expand its support its support for capacity building for effective participation in the BCH to all eligible Parties to the Protocol”. Following on this guidance, this project will support capacity building in the 76 countries that didn’t participate in BCH-2 and a handful that did not participate in the initial BCH-1. GEF is investing \$4.6 million leveraging \$9.7 million in co-financing.

- Support to Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Project Support Provided by the GEF Trust Fund During the Reporting Period

28. During the reporting period the GEF approved eight country-based projects, one regional and one global project in support of strengthening human resources, and the legal and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. GEF invested \$33.9 million and leveraged \$67.4 million in co-financing. Two projects, one regional project in the Caribbean and one global project, supported early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in a total of 35 countries. Please see Annexes 9 and 10 for descriptions of these projects.

Project Support Provided by the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF)

29. During the reporting period, the NPIF supported a total of 50 countries by means of eight country-based projects, three regional projects and one global project. In these projects NPIF invested \$12.5 million leveraging \$30.6 million in co-financing. One global project supported the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in 19 countries spanning three continents. Please see Annex 14 for descriptions of these projects.
30. All told, with resources from the GEF Trust Fund and the NPIF, GEF supported early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in 54 countries.

III. Activities in Other GEF Focal Areas and Programs that Supported Implementation of the CBD and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020

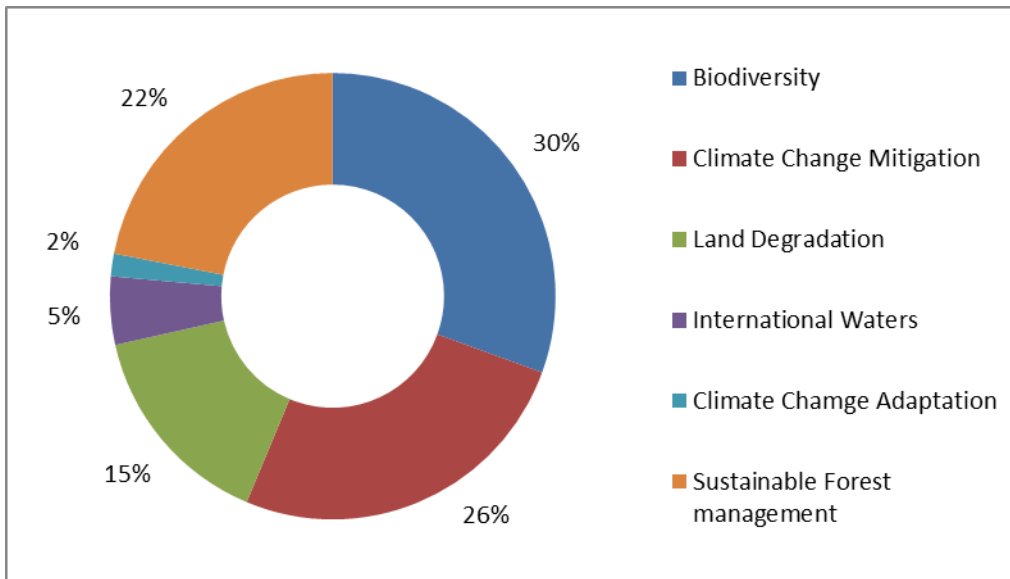
A. Summary of Project Activities Funded under the SFM-REDD+ Program

31. GEF-5 included an incentive mechanism that allowed countries to invest their STAR allocations from biodiversity, climate change and/or land degradation in multi-focal area projects focused on sustainable forest management up to a total of \$ 750 million that leveraged \$250 million in additional funding from the SFM/REDD+ program. The goal for GEF-5 investment in forests was to achieve multiple environmental benefits from improved management of all types of forests.
32. GEF’s SFM-REDD+ Program has made significant contributions to the objectives of the CBD during the reporting period and Aichi Target 7 primarily as well as contributions to related Aichi Targets 5, 11, 14, 15 and 18; in addition project investments in the forest

enabling environment make a direct contribution to Target Seventeen (17). GEF has contributed \$193,917,633 towards 34 SFM –REDD+ projects which has leveraged an additional \$865,364,906 in cofinance.

33. Figure 5 depicts the percentage of resources from each focal area that contributes to the SFM REDD+ projects. This demonstrates how resources from the biodiversity focal area have leveraged considerable resources from other GEF focal areas to advance forest biodiversity conservation and sustainable use making a significant contribution to the associated Aichi Targets noted above. Please see Annex 11 and 12 for descriptions of these projects.

Figure 5. GEF-5 SFM REDD+ Funding of the SFM Projects by Focal Area and SFM Program Funds



B. GEF Small Grants Programme

34. The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership. During the reporting period, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) financed approximately 1,277 biodiversity-related projects (including 145 projects with multi-focal area benefits contributing to climate change mitigation, international waters and land degradation), together representing some \$43.28 million in financing from the GEF, in addition to \$44.53 million in cumulative cash and in-kind co-financing from partners and grantees, GEF agencies, bilateral agencies, national and local governments, as well as the private sector, that was generated over the course of national implementation of the SGP projects.

C. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

35. During the reporting period the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a partnership of GEF, Conservation International, the Government of Japan, the French Development Agency, the European Union, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank, provided funding for 228 projects in 43 countries, amounting to \$27.3 million, which leveraged \$25.16 million in cofinance.

D. Save our Species (SOS) Program

36. The Save Our Species program (SOS), of which GEF is one donor, was established in 2010 (GEF: \$4.9 million, cofinancing \$7.85 million, total: \$12.75 million), by the GEF, the World Bank (WB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to support targeted species-conservation projects in GEF-recipient countries.
37. During the reporting period, 59 new SOS projects were approved for funding. These projects are presented in Annex 15. The SOS provided \$4,985,081 and leveraged \$ 5,371,870 in cofinance to conserve 129 threatened species in 42 countries, thus making a significant contribution to Aichi Target 12. These projects involved 42 CSOs.

E. Biological Diversity and Climate Change Adaptation

38. The GEF manages two separate trust funds with a priority on climate change adaptation, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). Although these funds were established to address the special needs of developing countries under the UNFCCC, some of the projects approved during the reporting period contribute to the objectives of the CBD.
39. Of the 20 projects approved under the SCCF during the reporting period, seven projects demonstrate a clear link to biodiversity. SCCF grants associated with these projects amount to \$44.16 million, with \$225.39 million in co-financing, for a total of \$269.55 million. Among these projects, several apply ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, thus contributing towards the resilience of ecosystems and natural resources in the face of the current and future impacts of climate change; as well as towards the resilience of the people and livelihoods that depend on these resources.
40. Of the 77 projects approved under the LDCF during the reporting period, 25 projects demonstrate a clear link to biodiversity. LDCF grants associated with these projects amount to \$173.43 million, with \$625.91 million in co-financing, for a total of \$799.34 million. Several of these projects adopt ecosystems as an entry point for addressing the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of vulnerable rural communities. Please see Annex 17 for the list of SCCF and LDCF projects.

F. International Waters

41. The International Waters (IW) focal area helps countries work together to secure a wide range of economic, political, and environmental benefits from shared surface water,

groundwater, and marine systems. The goal of the IW focal area is the promotion of collective management for transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services.

42. Through the international waters focal area, the GEF approved 23 projects, benefiting 96 countries, for an amount totaling \$195.71 million that supported directly or indirectly the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity during the reporting period. An additional \$1.55 billion was leveraged as cofinancing for these international waters projects. One global project, “Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System” has the potential to benefit all GEF-eligible countries and advance implementation of Aichi Target 8. Please see Annex 17 for a list of these IW projects.

G. Land Degradation Focal Area

43. The Land Degradation (LD) focal area is the window through which the Global Environment Facility, as a financial mechanism, supports the implementation of the UNCCD. For the period under review, 18 stand-alone Land Degradation projects contributed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. A total of \$39.87 million have been programmed in these projects, leveraging a total of \$172.75 million in cofinance.
44. These projects will generate global environmental benefits and bring about socio-economic benefits to communities. As LD projects, they are implemented in agricultural, pastoral, forest or mixed production landscapes also addressing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by: 1) reducing pressure on natural habitats by improving SLM in existing production systems; 2) improving management of crop and livestock diversity and associated practices (agro-biodiversity) in the production systems; and 3) improving soil health (microbes, organic matter) and water resource use in the production systems. Please see Annex 18 for a list of these projects.

IV. Response to COP Guidance to GEF from COP XI

45. Guidance was provided to the GEF at COP XI through Decision COP/XI/5. GEF’s response to that guidance is summarized in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Response to Guidance to the GEF in Decision COP/XI/5/ The Financial Mechanism

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>Report on GEF support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan is provided in this report. Please see Figures 1-4 of this report in particular which maps country prioritization of their allocations to the Aichi Targets.</p> <p>In addition, please see GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and paragraphs 18-24 in particular, and Annex I and II within the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.</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 in order to be approved as this is a requirement for approval.</p>
<p><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.</p>	<p>The Secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF Agencies, proposed for review of the GEF Council at its May 2014 meeting, a revision of the co-financing policy. The Council approved the new policy which can be found at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.C.46.09_Co-Financing_Policy_May_6_2014.pdf</p>
<p><i>Urges</i> 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.</p>	<p>The expert team's needs assessment was duly noted during the replenishment process.</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<p><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.</p>	<p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy outlines synergies within the strategy’s various programs and each programs’ contribution to the Aichi Targets, and these are presented in Annex I of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy document. As part of GEF-6 strategy development, synergies with other focal areas have been explored and will be made use of through the Integrated Approach Pilots and the SFM program in particular. 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. Please see Annex 1 of this report (GEF-6 biodiversity strategy), Annex II of the strategy document, and the GEF-6 Programming Directions document which can be found here: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.C.46.07.Rev_.01_Summary_of_the_Negotiations_of_the_Sixth_Replenishment_of_the_GEF_Trust_Fund_May_22_2014.pdf</p>
<p><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.</p>	<p>The results from the 6th replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund are presented in Section VI of this report. This includes the total value of the replenishment amount pledged, including that to the biodiversity focal area.</p>
<p><i>Specific additional guidance to the financial mechanism</i></p>	
<p>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation</p> <p><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 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>The GEF-5 strategy was comprehensive enough that plant conservation could 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 country-driven GEF projects that advance the implementation of the GSPC when these elements are in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets; supportive of the objectives of projects that generate global environmental benefits; and consistent with the GEF mandate.</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<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-6 strategy is comprehensive enough with regards to marine protected area management that this guidance can be supported should countries prioritize this support.</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 that are consistent with the GEF mandate and <u>all</u> biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects that use biodiversity resources are required to clearly identify the contributions 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 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>GEF continues to comply with this request.</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>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<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-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>Please see paragraphs 28-30 of this report and Annexes 9 and 10 for a description of support provided to support access and benefit-sharing and the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.</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>During its entire operational history, Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) has supported 11 projects totaling \$12.6 million and leveraging \$29.9 million in cofinancing. These include 8 country-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. Please see paragraphs 29-30 of this report and Annex 14 for a description of programming for the reporting period.</p> <p>At its May 2014 Council Meeting, the GEF Council having reviewed document GEF/C.46/12, Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund, took note of the good progress made by the GEF Secretariat in managing the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) and decided to extend the operation of the NPIF to December 31, 2020 for operational reasons to allow continuation of project preparation for and implementation of the Project Identification Form (PIF) approved projects. Consistent with the May 2011 GEF Council decision on the NPIF, the Council will not approve new PIFs under the NPIF after 30 June 2014. Noting that the GEF-6 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy includes resources for implementing the Nagoya Protocol, Council requested that the GEF Secretariat report to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity on funding for the ratification and early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<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>Providing financial support for work on indicators on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use would not be eligible for GEF-funding. The GEF would welcome an invitation to participate in any initiative to provide technical advice to advance indicator work in this area.</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>Support to production of the 5th National Report is described in paragraphs 22-24 of this report.</p> <p>In the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, allowances have been made to provide support to the Sixth 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 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>	<p>Noted.</p>
<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>	<p>This guidance was incorporated into the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and will inform GEF’s ongoing support to the Cartagena Protocol. Please see Annex 1 of this report (GEF-6 biodiversity strategy).</p>
<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: (a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/2, annex); (b) The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on</p>	<p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy incorporates these elements. Please see Annex 1 of this report (GEF-6 biodiversity strategy).</p>

COP-11 Guidance	GEF Action
<p>Biosafety for the period 2011–2020 (decision BS-V/16); (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; (d) Any relevant indicators for national and global use for assessing the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan; 9e)The current set of output, outcome and impact indicators, and associated monitoring processes and tracking tools, currently in use by the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p>Additional strategic considerations</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy should take into account that the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a flexible basis for Parties which can be adapted, taking into account different national circumstances and capabilities, including in revised national biodiversity strategy and action plans.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in revised national biodiversity strategy and action plans, while focusing on filling the highest priority gaps associated with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy should promote coherence and synergies among the GEF focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change – mitigation and adaptation, and within the context of country-driven programmes and priorities. The GEF should continue to engage key stakeholders, including the Secretariat of the Convention, in the process of formulating the GEF-6 strategy for the biodiversity focal area.</p>	<p>These additional strategic considerations were applied in the development of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy explicitly promotes synergies amongst the GEF focal areas and in the Integrated Approach Pilots in GEF-6.</p> <p>CBD Secretariat, along with technical experts and CSO representatives, were part of the Technical Advisory Group that advised the GEF on GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.</p>

V. MONITORING & EVALUATION RESULTS

A. Portfolio Monitoring Results

46. GEF projects under implementation are assessed as to whether they are achieving the development/global environment objectives (DO) of the project and their respective implementation progress (IP) according to the following rating system:
- **Highly satisfactory (HS).** The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency;
 - **Satisfactory (S).** The project had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency;
 - **Moderately satisfactory (MS).** The project had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency;
 - **Moderately unsatisfactory (MU).** The project had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency;
 - **Unsatisfactory (U).** The project had major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency; and
 - **Highly unsatisfactory (HU).** The project had severe shortcomings.
47. GEF's corporate goal is to have at least 75% of projects achieving ratings of moderately satisfactory or higher. Within the biodiversity portfolio of 198 projects that are currently under implementation, 91% of projects are achieving their global environment objectives at a rating of moderately satisfactory (MS) or higher, with 61% of the total achieving ratings of Satisfactory or Highly Satisfactory. In terms of implementation progress, 85% of projects are achieving implementation progress ratings of MS or higher, with 54% of the total achieving ratings of Satisfactory or Highly Satisfactory.

B. Results from the GEF Independent Evaluation Office

48. During the reporting period the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) was involved in several evaluations that are of relevance to the biodiversity focal area. These include five Country Portfolio Evaluations, one Country Portfolio Study, two Annual Performance Reports, the STAR Midterm Evaluation, two technical papers from OPS5, and several Impact evaluations. The main messages from these evaluations are summarized below.¹⁰
49. **Country Portfolio Evaluations.** The GEF IEO conducted five Country Portfolio Evaluations in India, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Tanzania, and Eritrea, and one Country Portfolio Study in Sierra Leone.¹¹ The evaluations found that GEF support has played an important role in creating the enabling framework necessary for the development of environmental policy and laws. GEF support remains relevant to the countries' environmental priorities

¹⁰ The full reports are available at the GEF IEO website (www.gefio.org). The Office is ready to provide any additional information to the COP as needed.

¹¹ Three of these are included in the Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation report (ACPER) of 2013, and three are included in the ACPER 2014. Both are found here: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/ACPERs>

and to their sustainable development needs, with few exceptions. In Tanzania, Eritrea and Sierra Leone, project design factors, particularly over-ambitious objectives, have often caused implementation over-runs. The likelihood of sustainability is mixed. Sustainability is most likely when institutional and individual capacity development is fostered and when livelihood activities are promoted through community-based approaches. In India, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and SPREP countries, effective communication and outreach and use of lessons learned facilitated broader adoption. Long preparation times and delayed implementation affected overall efficiency. The introduction of resource allocation mechanisms since GEF-4 stimulated country programming with varying degrees of success in the respective countries.

50. **Performance Evaluations.** The Annual Performance Report (APR) of the GEF IEO presents a detailed account of project results, including ratings for achievement of expected outcomes, ratings for the likelihood of outcome sustainability, and financial information.¹² Of the 298 biodiversity projects rated for outcome achievements so far, 251 (84%) were rated moderately satisfactory or higher. Of the 285 biodiversity projects rated for sustainability, 159 (56%) were in the “likely” range. The last two APRs (APR 2012 and APR 2013) reported on 93 completed biodiversity projects. Of these, outcomes of 87% were rated to be in the satisfactory range and sustainability of 58% (out of 91 rated) was rated in the ‘likely’ range. Both the outcome ratings and sustainability ratings for the projects in the last two APRs are comparable to the long-term average.
51. The GEF invested \$1,125 million dollars in the 299 completed biodiversity projects for which financial information is available so far. An aggregate co-financing of \$2,472 million was promised at the start of these projects, at \$2.2 dollars per dollar of GEF grant. Of the 260 completed biodiversity projects for which information on materialization of co-financing is available, a co-financing of \$2,365 million materialized: a mean of \$2.1 per dollar of GEF funding and a median of \$1.7 per dollar of GEF funding. The mean materialization ratio per dollar of GEF funding was \$2.5 in the cohort of completed projects reviewed in APR 2012 and \$3.0 for the cohort of APR 2013, and the median materialization ratio per dollar of GEF funding was \$1.9 for both APR years.
52. **Mid Term Evaluation of STAR.** The GEF IEO’s mid-term evaluation of STAR¹³ found that the Biodiversity global environmental benefit index is conceptually simple and based on scientific evidence. Indicators for biodiversity are directly linked with global environmental benefits pursued by the GEF. The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) set aside has been effective in directing resources to SFM activities. The evaluation recommends improving the scientific and technical validity of the biodiversity GBI index by giving greater attention to ecosystem functions and freshwater species.

¹² The most recent APR 2012 and APR 21013 are both available here: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/APRs>

¹³ The System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) is a framework for the allocation of GEF-5 replenishment resources to support activities in the biodiversity, climate change and land degradation focal areas. Mid-Term Evaluation of the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources, available here: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10012>

53. **Relevance of the GEF to the Conventions.** The OPS5’s Technical Paper #4¹⁴ on the Relevance of the GEF to the Conventions found that the GEF’s Biodiversity GEF-5 Strategy reflects COP guidance closely and tries to incorporate the multitude of areas for GEF programming mandated by CBD guidance. The overall amount of CBD guidance issued to the GEF has been continuously high and slightly increasing over time and faces two challenges: consolidation and prioritization. Due to a lack of prioritization in CBD guidance, there is a certain level of fragmentation and lower strategic coherence of the Biodiversity Strategy. Approved resources under the BD Focal Area are focused almost exclusively on activities under objectives BD-1 and BD-2. The programmatic areas of biosafety under the Cartagena Protocol as well as on Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Nagoya Protocol are operationalized through the GEF-5 Focal Area Strategy objectives BD-3 and BD-4, but countries are not requesting corresponding resources from their STAR allocations.
54. **Impact Evaluations.** The OPS5’s Technical Paper #2, “Impact of the GEF”, reports that the “Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund” project effectively contributed to the creation or expansion of 9.4 million hectares of protected areas in 15 countries with globally significant biodiversity hotspots. The OPS5’s Technical Paper #12, “Progress Towards Impact”, reports that of 227 completed biodiversity projects, 70% (158 projects) showed environmental impacts; 50% (114 projects) achieved environmental stress reduction, and an additional 20% (45 projects) resulted in improved environmental status. Terminal evaluations of biodiversity projects reported environmental impacts mostly in the form of improved habitats at the site level (33%, 76 projects), but 11% (26 projects) also reported impacts at a landscape scale. The GEF IEO’s 2013 Annual Impact Report¹⁵ describes an ongoing evaluation jointly undertaken by the GEF IEO and UNDP that will assess GEF support to the protection of biodiversity through protected areas.

VI. OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

A. Sixth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

55. Negotiations for the sixth replenishment period (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018) of the GEF (GEF-6) were successfully concluded on April 16-17, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland when 31 countries pledged a total of \$4.433 billion towards programming in GEF-6. The 31 countries are: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
56. The GEF Council endorsed the entire Replenishment package at its 46th meeting, May 25-27, 2014, including the Programming Directions Document, the GEF-6 Policy Recommendations, and the Replenishment Resolution.

¹⁴ GEF IEO’s Fifth Overall Performance Study (OPS5) of the Global Environment Facility. All documents are found here: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/OPS5>

¹⁵ Annual Report on Impact, GEF 2013. Found here: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/AIRs>

57. In the case of biodiversity, \$1.296 billion was allocated to the biodiversity focal area in GEF-6 making biodiversity the largest single focal area in the GEF based on resources allocated. Furthermore, other elements of GEF-6 programming are directly relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets including the SFM program (\$250 million), and two integrated approaches, “Taking Deforestation out of Commodity Supply Chains”, and “Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Africa” which were allocated \$45 and \$60 million, respectively. Finally, biodiversity-relevant objectives and programs can be found in the International Waters and Land Degradation strategies, (sustainable fisheries and sustainable agriculture, respectively).

GEF-6 Policy Recommendations

58. The policy recommendations are targeted towards an overall objective that the GEF as a whole deliver higher impacts in an effective and efficient manner, and cover the following six areas:
- a. Differentiation;
 - b. Improving efficiency of the project cycle;
 - c. Enhancing engagement with the private sector;
 - d. Strengthening country and civil society engagement;
 - e. Enhancing gender mainstreaming; and
 - f. Strengthening results-based management and the knowledge management systems.
59. The full text of the policy recommendations can be found at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.C.46.07.Rev_.01_Summary_of_the_Negotiations_of_the_Sixth_Replenishment_of_the_GEF_Trust_Fund_May_22_2014.pdf. Table 6 below presents the agreed Action Plan for Implementing the GEF-6 policy recommendations.

Table 6: Action Plan for Implementing GEF-6 Policy Recommendations

Council Meeting Date	Action
May 2014	<p>Council approved a proposal for updating the STAR for GEF-6, including the following modifications: (i) increasing the weight of the GDP per capita index to 0.08; (ii) lowering the ceilings imposed on each focal area to 10 percent; and (iii) increasing the aggregate floor to \$6 million for LDCs. The Secretariat, in line with the mid-term evaluation of the STAR, and OPS5 recommendations, to include a review of the feasibility of changing other elements of the STAR system, and the procedures for flexible use of country allocations.</p> <p>Council approved a policy for providing clarity in definitions and approaches to promoting effective co-financing; indicate a level of ambition for the overall portfolio to reach a co-financing ratio of at least 6:1; and create expectations for greater co-financing for upper middle income countries that are not SIDS.</p>

Council Meeting Date	Action
October 2014	<p data-bbox="313 306 1406 369">Council to consider a proposal for a non-grant instrument pilot employing resources from the non-grant set-aside, including updated tools.</p> <p data-bbox="313 405 1425 506">Council to consider further measures to improve the policies and procedures associated with the project cycle, including the programmatic approach, and a portfolio management system to keep track of project progress through the partnership.</p> <p data-bbox="313 541 1333 573">Council presented with a report on actions taken to enhance private sector engagement.</p> <p data-bbox="313 609 1403 672">Council to consider a gender action plan, for enhancing gender mainstreaming, including use of gender sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data.</p> <p data-bbox="313 707 1338 808">Council to consider a comprehensive work plan for further strengthening results-based management system and for building a knowledge management system, supported by a revamped technological platform that is fit for this purpose.</p> <p data-bbox="313 844 954 875">Council presented with public involvement guidelines.</p>