



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.61/07  
November 12, 2021

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61<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
December 6-09, 2021  
Virtual

Agenda Item 10

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

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.61/07, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). Covering the period from April 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

2. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, discourse and interactions with the Conventions remained in a virtual format. Some negotiations resumed during the reporting period, mostly in a virtual manner, with two Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and a number of Subsidiary meetings. The virtual segment of the Basel-Rotterdam-Stockholm COPs were held in July 26 to 30, 2021, with virtual participation of the GEF delegation. Part one of the CBD COP 15 was held from October 11 to 15, 2021, with the GEF CEO taking part in the High-Level Segment virtually. The GEF CEO and senior level officials also took part in various engagements, including those organized by COP Presidencies and other partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.

3. The provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued during the pandemic.

4. The Convention Secretariat representatives participated in the first and second GEF-8 replenishment meetings, held on April 22 and 23, 2021, and September 29 to October 1, 2021. The UNFCCC Secretariat personnel also took part in the first meeting on the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and Operational Improvements, held on October 19, 2021. The Convention Secretariats provided comments on draft programming directions and strategy documents.

5. Highlights reported include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD meetings and events, including the first parts of COP 15 and its subsidiary bodies and preparatory meetings (SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and OEWG-3); other events and meetings related to raising the ambition of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including the IUCN World Conservation Congress; consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC meetings and events held virtually to advance work towards COP 26; consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment and LDCF/SCCF programming strategy development; roll out of support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs); ratifications and submission of national reports.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment, funding of enabling activities for national reporting and meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat.
- (d) Stockholm Convention: Updates on national reporting, consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention including

the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BC COP 15, RC COP 10, SC COP 10).

- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment, signatures, and ratifications, the Special Programme, the Specific international Programme, and COP 4.
  - (f) International Waters: Report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in various meetings related to the International Waters Focal Area, including the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), the Source to Sea Partnership, the African Ministers' Council on Water webinar series, the 9<sup>th</sup> Southern African Development Community River Basin Organizations (RBOs) Meeting, the Stockholm World Water Week, Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, and the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP).
  - (g) Summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: the Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiation process, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
6. An annex with the full list of GEF's responses to decisions from most recent COPs, including UNCBD COP 14, UNFCCC COP 25, UNCCD COP 14 and Stockholm COP 9, is also included.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The report also provides information on the GEF International Waters Focal Area activities and the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report presented to the 60<sup>st</sup> GEF Council held in June 2021. It covers the period from April 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021. For the activities related to the International Waters Focal Area, it provides information for the period from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021.
3. International processes remained impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the reporting period. Landmark Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and negotiation meetings that were originally scheduled in 2020 have been further postponed, with some COPs divided into virtual segments in 2021 before in person meetings can take place in later 2021 and 2022. The postponements have included COPs to CBD, Minamata, Stockholm, and UNCCD, which may issue guidance and decisions of relevance to the GEF to inform the GEF-8 replenishment. The UNFCCC COP 26 has taken place from 31 October to 12 November 2021, in person in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The GEF Secretariat remained engaged in discussions to support and maintain momentum for the Conventions to reach outcomes that are individually successful and also mutually reinforcing.
4. The provision of finance through the GEF in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued in the reporting period, as well as consultations with countries and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat.
5. Despite the challenges, the GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground, and to help enhance ambition of landmark decisions and agreements to be reached, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
6. Initiated in early 2021, the GEF-8 replenishment process continued during the reporting period. As was done in March 2021 for the first draft of the Programming Directions, the Convention secretariats provided comments on the second draft in August 2021. Their feedback was reflected in the document posted for the second replenishment meeting, which took place from September 29 to October 1, 2021. The Convention secretariats were also invited to take part in the four Virtual Informal Briefing Sessions organized in September 2021 on Integrated Programming, STAR, concentration, and results, in preparation to the second replenishment meeting.
7. The Executive Secretaries of CBD, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, and UNCCD participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and discussed the status of negotiations, impact of delays on negotiations and guidance provision to the replenishment, as well as financial needs for GEF-8.

8. Work continued on enabling access to the GEF portal to Convention Secretariats to facilitate commenting on project submissions. The functionality has been made available for use by the Convention Secretariats in relation to the December 2021 work program constitution. A Portal training session for the Convention focal points was organized on October 21, 2021. The GEF Secretariat is continuing to consult with the Convention Secretariats to support their use of the new feature and identify potential refinements.

## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

### Summary of Key Activities

9. The organization of CBD COP 15 has been adapted to the exceptional circumstances stemming from the COVID pandemic. COP 15 as well as the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 10) and Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP 4) are held in two phases. Phase one (COP 15.1) took place mainly virtually from October 11 to 15, 2021, with limited in-person participation in Kunming, China. Phase two (COP 15.2) is scheduled to be an in-person meeting in Kunming, China, from April 25 to May 8, 2022.

10. With participation of close to 3,000 delegates in Kunming and 2,500 online, COP 15.1 opened with the handover of the COP Presidency from Egypt to China. COP 15.1 included a two-day High-level segment under the theme “Ecological Civilization – Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”, which was attended notably by nine Heads of States, the United Nations Secretary General, and close to 100 Ministers.

11. Parties adopted the Kunming Declaration<sup>1</sup>, where Parties committed to developing, adopting and implementing an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) to reverse the current loss of biodiversity and ensure that biodiversity is put on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest. Through the declaration, Parties also committed to increase the provision of financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries necessary to implement the GBF. Several financial commitments were made, including the announcement by the Government of China of Kunming Biodiversity Fund’s establishment with a contribution of 1.5 billion yuan (approximately \$233 million), a \$17 million extension to the Japan Biodiversity Fund from the Government of Japan, the doubling of the European Union’s external funding for biodiversity, or the commitment from the Government of France to ensure that 30 percent of its climate finance delivers biodiversity co-benefits.

12. Important initiatives introduced during the High-level segment included the commitment by the GEF, as announced by the CEO, to fast track financial and technical support to GEF-eligible countries to prepare for the rapid implementation of the GBF, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).<sup>2</sup> During the reporting

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<sup>1</sup> CBD/COP/15/5/ADD1: [Kunming Declaration: Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth](#)

<sup>2</sup> Joint statement of support by the Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations Environment Programme, 2021, [Fast-tracking action in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#).

period, the GEF Secretariat worked closely with the CBD Secretariat, UNDP and UNEP to begin to operationalize this fast-track support.

13. COP 15.1 further included a two-day “Ecological Civilization Forum”. The GEF CEO gave introductory remarks in the parallel thematic group dedicated to Natural Capital Accounting and Ecological Product Value Realization, highlighting the GEF support to Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting approaches.

14. The CBD subsidiary and preparatory bodies to COP 15 held virtual sessions during the reporting period and are to resume negotiations in person in 2022. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) held the first part of its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting online, from May 3 to June 9, 2021. SBSTTA-24 prioritized its agenda item related to the GBF. The GEF Secretariat staff attended the meeting.

15. With a view to formally adopt them at the second part of SBSTTA-24, in January 2022, SBSTTA approved draft recommendations providing technical and scientific information to support the review of updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines, of the GBF. Other agenda items included: Synthetic biology; Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms; Marine and coastal biodiversity; Biodiversity and agriculture; Biodiversity and health; and Invasive alien species. GEF SEC staff attended in the meeting.

16. The first part of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) took place virtually, from May 16 to June 13, 2021. It notably addressed agenda items related to the (i) Review of Progress in the Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan; (ii) Assessment and Review of the Effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; (iii) the GBF; (iv) resource mobilization and the financial mechanism; (v) capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, and communication; (vi) Mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation; (vii) mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation; and (viii) Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol).

17. Draft recommendations on (i) and (ii) were approved with a view to formal adoption at the second part of SBI-3, in January 2022. SBI delegates also approved a draft recommendation containing unresolved issues on the financial mechanism that will be further examined at the second part of SBI-3, including an annex providing the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

18. Consideration of draft recommendations related to the GBF, resource mobilization, (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) were deferred to part 2 of SBI-3. A Co-Chairs’ text, capturing views expressed on the GBF, was transmitted to the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the GBF.

19. The GEF Secretariat had already presented the draft COP 15 report of the GEF<sup>3</sup> to SBI during the informal SBI session of March 14 to 18, 2021. The draft COP 15 report provides information on the activities of the GEF in the biodiversity focal area in the period from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019 in response to the COP 14 guidance to the GEF received in November 2018. The final report to be

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<sup>3</sup> CBD/SBI/3/6/ADD1: [Preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility](#)

presented to COP 15 is to cover the period from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021, corresponding to all but the final six months of the GEF-7 replenishment period.

20. The Executive Secretary of the CBD provided an update on the status of negotiations for the upcoming COP 15 and GEF-8 financial needs of Parties to the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2021.

21. After over a year of postponements, the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the GBF (OEWG-3) convened virtually from August 23 to September 3, 2021 for the first part of its meeting. It discussed the first draft of the GBF, which was released in July 2021 and consists of a theory of change; a 2050 Vision and 2030 mission; four Goals; 21 2030 action targets; and cross-cutting sections related to Implementation support mechanisms; Enabling conditions; Responsibility and transparency; and Outreach, awareness and uptake.

22. The GBF is to be supported by three additional documents: (a) a monitoring framework with headline indicators, (b) a glossary with a definition of terms used in the framework, and (c) supporting technical information on each draft goal and target. OEWG-3 also considered the outcomes of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on ways to resolve divergent views on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

23. OEWG-3 approved the draft report of the meeting, which also includes reports from five contact groups on: Goals, Milestones and Overall Structure; Reducing Threats for Biodiversity (draft GBF targets 1 to 8); Tools and Solutions for Implementation and Biodiversity Mainstreaming (draft GBF targets 9 to 13); Nature's Contributions to People (draft GBF targets 14 to 21); and Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources. Reports from contact groups mainly consist of a compilation of textual proposals from Parties on the first draft of the GBF, including new target proposals, with reflections and observations by contact group co-leads.

24. Delegates agreed that these reports would form a basis for discussions at the resumed session of the OEWG-3, in January 2022. Given the virtual nature of the meeting, delegates mainly exchanged views, broadened common understanding and paved the way for more efficient work in January 2022, and the successful completion and adoption of the GBF at COP 15.2. GEF Secretariat staff attended the meeting.

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

- (a) The GEF Secretariat staff attended the meeting organized by the CBD Secretariat on "Financial Sector and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" on June 17 and 18, 2021;
- (b) The GEF CEO participated in the pre-COP organized on August 30, 2021 as a high-level virtual meeting by Colombia, in consultation with the Secretariat and the presiding officers;
- (c) The GEF CEO and Secretariat staff participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France, from September 3 to 11, 2021. The GEF Secretariat organized seven virtual and in-person events,<sup>4</sup> participated in approximately 30 events and supported two

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<sup>4</sup> GEF, 2021, [GEF at IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020](#).

pavilions, namely the Vital Sites for a Protected Planet and the Post-2020 Pavilions. The GEF CEO and the GCF Executive director jointly promoted the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF, which was presented to the June 2021 GEF Council. As the first hybrid in-person and virtual environmental event since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the IUCN Congress enabled the GEF Secretariat to broadly showcase its accomplishments in GEF-7 and share its vision and ambition for the GEF-8 replenishment.

26. The CBD Secretariat reviewed the second draft of the GEF-8 Programming Directions document and provided comments on the document which the GEF Secretariat sought to accommodate in the version presented to the Second Replenishment Meeting.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

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

28. The total number of Parties increased to 131 for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, with new membership from Brazil and Kiribati since the last report to the GEF Council. Tunisia will become Party on November 25, 2021.

29. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety remained 173. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has now 49 Parties with the addition of Austria.

### **National Reporting**

30. The Convention Secretariat has received a total of 186 sixth national reports, 103 of which are available through the Convention's online submission system. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

## **UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

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

32. The 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 26), originally scheduled to take place in November 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to October 31 to November 12, 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

33. The subsidiary body meetings, originally scheduled to take place in June 2020, were subsequently held virtually from May 31 to June 17, 2021. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the virtual meetings and more details are provided below. The postponement continued to have impacts on GEF-relevant UNFCCC processes with multi-year timelines, such as the seventh review of the Financial

Mechanism, which is to be initiated at COP 26 and finalized at COP 27. The sixth review was concluded at COP 22 in 2017.

34. The GEF Secretariat staff continued to participate and be observers in events and meetings held virtually in an effort to advance work and to continue momentum and action, including the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues and meetings of Constituted Bodies, such as the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC).

35. Regarding mobilization of finance, the GEF continued to review and approve projects without delay. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation projects included in the Work Program approved by the 60<sup>th</sup> Council in June 2021. The LDCF and SCCF continued to provide resources for urgent and immediate adaptation priorities in the reporting period, through one LDCF Work Program approved by the 30<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2021, totalling approximately \$60.7 million, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees.

36. For the LDCF/SCCF, the programming strategy development process started during the reporting period, with the approval of the planning note at the 30<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in June 2021.<sup>5</sup> The GEF Secretariat organized the following meetings in preparation for the first LDCF/SCCF programming strategy meeting:<sup>6</sup>

- Informal Technical Consultations (September 16, 2021)
- Informal Donor Consultations (September 27, 2021)
- Informal Recipient Consultations (October 14, 2021)

37. The first LDCF/SCCF programming strategy meeting was held on October 19, 2021. The draft programming strategy and operational improvements were presented to, and discussed with, contributing participants, recipient country and regional representatives, among others.<sup>7</sup>

38. Following the work carried out in the previous reporting period to define and communicate modalities of support provision for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), as requested by COP 24 and 25 decisions, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation. Support is being provided from this year to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. To date, the GEF has approved BTR support to 11 countries for 12 BTRs, and additional countries have expressed interest to start BTR preparations. The GEF Secretariat is working closely with these countries and GEF agencies to provide timely support.

39. The GEF Secretariat took part in the UNFCCC negotiation process and preparation for the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties. To comply with reporting requirements as stipulated in the Memorandum of

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<sup>5</sup> GEF, 2021, [\*Planning Note for the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements: July 2022 to June 2026\*](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.30/07.

<sup>6</sup> Documents prepared for the first programming strategy meeting can be accessed from [the GEF website](#).

<sup>7</sup> GEF, 2021, [\*GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries and Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements\*](#), Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF SM.1/01

Agreement between the GEF Council and UNFCCC COP, and given the postponement of COP 26, the GEF submitted its annual report to COP 26 in two instalments.

40. The first report, covering the financial year from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 was submitted to COP 26 on October 5, 2020, upon Council approval by mail.<sup>8</sup> The second portion, covering the financial year from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was submitted to COP 26 on August 5, 2021, upon Council approval by mail.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the GEF submitted to the UNFCCC an addendum to the COP report on the status of resources approved by the GEF for the preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on October 4, 2021, updating the addendum that had been submitted in conjunction with the first portion of the GEF Report to COP 26 on December 4, 2020.

41. Support from the CBIT progressed in the reporting period, with approval of seven national projects totalling \$10.4 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and project preparation grants (PPGs). As of October 31, 2021, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 80 projects covering 74 countries, one regional project and five global projects, totalling \$129.2 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs.

42. In the GEF-7 period, \$55.0 million of set-aside resources have been notionally allocated to the CBIT. As of October 31, 2021, \$69.4 million has been programmed to support 39 CBIT projects. Progress made on the CBIT including a portfolio analysis and outlook is presented to Council in an information document.<sup>10</sup> The GEF continues to accept and approve CBIT projects to respond to the Paris Agreement decision in the remaining GEF-7 period, exercising the flexibility to notionally allocate remaining unprogrammed set-aside resources.

43. The GEF Secretariat continued to advance on the efforts to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as this was identified as a priority by the GEF CEO since coming on board in September 2020. The GEF and GCF Secretariats collaborated to develop a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF, which was presented to the GEF Council at its 60<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2021 and to the GCF Board at its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2021.<sup>11</sup> Additional details on coordinated engagement and the development and implementation of the Long-Term Vision are provided below in the section on the relation with the GCF, as well as Council document on the summary of the presentation and discussion of the 26<sup>th</sup> GCF board meeting.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> GEF, 2020, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

<sup>9</sup> GEF, 2021, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Revised](#).

<sup>10</sup> GEF, 2021, *Progress Report of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency*, Council document GEF/C.61/Inf.15. Note that the reporting period of GEF/C.61/Inf.15 is from April 16, 2021 to September 30, 2021. Hence data reported here, which covers the period from April 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021, is slightly different than in GEF/C.61/Inf.15.

<sup>11</sup> GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council document GEF/C.60/08.

<sup>12</sup> GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility: Summary of the Presentation and Discussion at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board](#), Council Document GEF/C.61/Inf.05.

## Ratifications and Accessions

44. As of October 31, 2021, there are 197 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 192 ratified, the Paris Agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9444.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php).

## National Reporting

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

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **144**
- (c) Third National Communications: **86**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **14**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **2**
- (f) Sixth National Communications: **1**

46. As of October 31, 2021, a total of 69 first BURs, 35 second BURs, 18 third BURs, and six fourth BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

## Additional Meetings and Consultations

47. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has continued to actively consult with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the GEF-8 replenishment to ensure that the proposed GEF Programming Directions address UNFCCC and Paris Agreement priorities and recent COP guidance and facilitate synergies with other conventions towards greater effectiveness and impact. Input from the UNFCCC Secretariat has been sought through different channels and at various levels, including through, technical bilateral discussions, engagement of the UNFCCC Secretariat in the first and second GEF-8 replenishment meetings and through written comments on proposed Programming Directions.

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

- (a) 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on April 20-23, 2021;
- (b) 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) Advisory Board on April 26-29, 2021;
- (c) Task Force Meeting of the Adaptation Committee on April 30, 2021;
- (d) 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) on May 19-20, 2021;
- (e) Workshop of Koronivia joint work on agriculture: “Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security” on June 10, 2021;
- (f) 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance on September 6-8, 2021;

- (g) 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the TEC on September 7-13, 2021;
- (h) 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SCF on October 12-14, 2021; and
- (i) Workshop of Koronivia joint work on agriculture: “Strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances”, October 14, 2021.

## **UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

49. The Executive Secretary participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and highlighted the importance of achieving land degradation neutrality and helping countries to mitigate the effects of drought.

50. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, CCD COP15, which was due to be held in autumn 2021, has been postponed. In June 2021, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire confirmed its willingness to host COP 15. The Conference is now planned during the second and third weeks of May 2022 at a venue to be identified shortly.<sup>13</sup>

51. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide feedback to GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and Agencies on the GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) focal area strategy, LD-related Impact Programs and Enabling Activity support through country and constituency level outreach and engagement throughout the reporting period, including in regional annex meetings and workshops organized by the UNCCD Secretariat.

52. With regard to Enabling Support for countries to fulfil their reporting obligations to UNCCD, 86 countries have provided their letters of endorsement to UNEP to be submitted under the GEF umbrella project for UNCCD reporting. The submission of the first batch of funding requests to the GEF Secretariat by UNEP is planned for end of October 2021. In this context, UNCCD Secretariat, Global Mechanism, and UNEP organized regional annex meetings to inform countries about the process and access to funding.

53. UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism representatives participated actively in the process of further refining the GEF-8 Programming Directions by providing written comments.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

54. As of October 20, 2021, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union. The details can be found here:  
<https://www.unccd.int/convention/about-convention/status-ratification>

### **National Reporting**

55. The next reporting by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework will be due in 2022, which coincides with the end of the GEF-7 replenishment period. Enabling activity funding is

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/unccd-cop15-message-parties-and-observers>

available for all eligible countries in GEF-7 to build capacity for reporting and prepare the reports. GEF is making available \$100,000 each for GEF eligible countries for UNCCD Enabling Activities for national reporting and planning. This amount of \$100,000 is on top of the respective STAR allocations and includes GEF agency fees of 9.5 percent. Access to funding is provided through an umbrella project managed by UNEP. Countries wishing to receive funding need to submit a GEF OFP endorsement letter to UNEP. The deadline for accessing the funds is linked to the end of the GEF-7 period. However, to allow for adequate time for processing of the requests, parties have been urged to provide OFP endorsement letters as soon as possible, and by the end of 2021 at the latest. As of October 2021, 86 countries have provided their letters of endorsement.

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

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

57. The UNCCD Executive Secretary and GEF CEO had an in-person meeting at the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress on September 6, 2021 in Marseille, France, in which an update of the GEF-8 replenishment process and UNCCD-GEF collaboration towards a successful outcome was discussed.

58. The UNCCD Executive Secretary and key staff as well as GEF CEO and Secretariat staff organized a virtual meeting to inform on the status of the Great Green Wall Initiative, including the High-Level Dialogue on the financial mobilization for the Great Green Wall to be held on October 26, 2021 and various meetings and events on this topic at the UNFCCC COP 26. Further, a joint engagement on this topic during the EXPO in Dubai in February 2022 was discussed.

## **STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

59. The Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention attended and addressed the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2021 and participated in the relations with conventions discussion.

60. The Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BC COP 15, RC COP 10, SC COP 10) were held an online segment of the COPs from July 26 to 30, 2021.

61. The COP decided to transmit to the GEF, the report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism (annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/32) and the report of the full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for the period 2022–2026 (annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33). These were transmitted by the Convention Secretariat in August 2021. No new programming-related guidance was issued during the virtual segment of the Stockholm COP.

62. The meeting further decided to request the GEF to submit an updated report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties for consideration during the face-to-face segment of its tenth meeting, in 2022. Under preparation, this report will be submitted for Council approval in the first quarter of 2022.

63. The resumed face-to-face segment of the COP is scheduled from June 6 to 17, 2022 in Geneva Switzerland.

64. On September 14, the BRS Secretariat presented the findings of assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for the period 2022–2026 to the GEF CEO via an online meeting.

65. The BRS Secretariat were invited to comment on the revised draft of the GEF 8 programming directions that were prepared for the second replenishment which was held Sept 28 – October 1.

66. The BRS Secretariat attended the second replenishment meeting.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

67. During the reporting period, there were no new ratifications, so the number of ratifications remains at 184. The status of ratifications is available at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### **National Reporting**

68. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention's entry into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of October 31, 2021, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and updates are as follows:

<i><b>NIP Phase</b></i>	<i><b>Number of Parties that have submitted</b></i>	<i><b>Change since last report</b></i>
Initial NIP	175	2
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	104	0
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	94	2
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	61	1
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	40	3
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	22	5
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	7	1

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

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

## **MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

### **Summary of Key Activities**

71. The Executive Secretary attended and addressed the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2022 and participated in the Relations with Conventions Agenda.

72. The Minamata Secretariat were invited to provide comments on the draft of the GEF-8 programming directions, prepared for the first and second replenishment meetings. The Secretariat participated also took part in the replenishment meetings as an observer.

73. The Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention will be held in two segments. The first was an online segment held from November 1 to 5, 2021 and an in-person segment is scheduled to take place from March 21 to 25, 2022.

74. The GEF CEO and Secretariat staff participated in the online segment. The GEF CEO presented his vision for GEF 8 including more integration and support to the priorities of the Minamata Convention. The COP discussed the GEF 8 replenishment and provided statements that will be included in the report of the segment. The COP agreed on the program of work and budget of the Minamata Secretariat and had initial discussions on the Bali Declaration on Illegal Trade of Mercury. The COP also had an initial discussion on the effectiveness evaluation mechanism of the Convention. The 4<sup>th</sup> COP is suspended and will reconvene in March 2022 as decided by the COP.

75. The GEF Secretariat and the Minamata Secretariat jointly held a side event on the financial mechanism of the Convention. Both the GEF CEO and the Executive Secretary of the Convention provided opening remarks.

76. The GEF council approved the report of the GEF in July 2021 and the report was transmitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat<sup>14</sup>.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

77. During the reporting period, four countries became Party to the Minamata Convention: Poland, Iraq, Zimbabwe, and Bahrain.

78. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention has 128 signatures and 135 Parties, as of October 31, 2021. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties>

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<sup>14</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/7 - [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.](#)

79. The Minamata Convention has updated its website and can be found at:  
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en>

### **National Reporting**

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

81. There are currently 64 MIAs submitted, 16 NAPs, 2 NIPs and 99 reports submitted under Article 21.

82. MIAs that have been submitted are available at this link:  
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/minamata-initial-assessments>

83. NAPs that have been submitted are available at this link:  
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-action-plans>

84. NIPs that have been submitted are available at this link:  
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-implementation-plans>

85. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at this link:  
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/reporting> . The deadline for the full reports is 31 December 2021

### **Specific International Programme**

86. The third round for proposals to be funded by the Specific International Programme (SiP) was announced on December 15, 2020 and closed on March 18, 2021. Twenty-four proposals were received. The cross-secretariat I task team, which comprises the Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Special Programme, the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership, and the GEF Secretariat, met and finalized the reviews June 23-24, 2021.

87. The Governing Board met 9-13 August 2021 and approved nine projects in the following countries, Burundi, Cuba, Gabon, India, Iran, Jordan, North Macedonia, Rwanda and Senegal.

### **Special Programme**

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

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

90. The internal task team which comprises the Secretariats of the Special Program, SAICM, Minamata Convention, BRS Conventions and the GEF met on September 13 and September 22, 2021 to consider the 22 proposals received for consideration.

91. The next meeting of the task team is tentatively scheduled for November 22-23, 2021.

#### **MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

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

#### **INTERNATIONAL WATERS FOCAL AREA**

##### **Summary of Key Activities**

93. The GEF occupies a critical niche in international finance, supporting countries to jointly manage their transboundary surface and groundwater basins, as well as shared marine ecosystems and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, to enable healthy ecosystems and the sharing of benefits from their utilization.

94. This report includes information on activities related to the International Waters focal area that have taken place since the 59<sup>th</sup> GEF council meeting, covering the period from November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021. This year's participation in global events continues to be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While some signature events have been postponed, including the GEF International Waters Biennial Conference, many have been held in an adapted online format. The GEF Secretariat participated in the following events and meetings:

95. The GEF Secretariat took part in the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP-9) to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on September 29, 2021, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was organized by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Government of Estonia. It was a milestone for reviewing and accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.5, discussing challenges and good practices related to transboundary water cooperation and the role of the Convention. Over 500 participants from more than 100 countries, both Parties and non-Parties to the Convention, as well as from joint bodies, international and non-governmental organizations, academia, and youth attended the meeting. More than 30 high-level participants (Ministers, heads of organizations and others) confirmed that transboundary water cooperation was crucial for peace and preventing conflict and often lead to benefits beyond water. The GEF secretariat participated and presented an information document on "Cooperation between the 1992 Water Convention and the Global

Environment Facility”<sup>15</sup>. The Meeting welcomed recent new Parties, while several African and Latin American countries expressed interest in studying the value added of acceding to the Convention.

96. The GEF Secretariat took part in a side event titled “Transboundary Cooperation from Source to Sea – Opportunities for Action”, on September 27, 2021. The event formed part of the run-up to the 9th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and was co-convened by the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform), IW:LEARN, Global Water Partnership (GWP), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and UNDP. The objective of the event was to exchange lessons learned from different experiences around the world and discuss needs for accelerating action to address source-to-sea issues as part of transboundary cooperation.

97. The GEF Secretariat was invited to present at the AMCOW webinar series on May 20, 2021, on “The Role of Groundwater in Advancing Africa’s Socio-Economic Development and achievement of the SDGs”. The focus was on the significance and contribution of groundwater to water security in terms of domestic supply for drinking and sanitation, agricultural and industrial productions as well as ecosystem services in Africa. The webinar was designed to raise the profile of groundwater aiming at high level of decision makers and greater recognition of the role of groundwater in the political agenda in Africa for the overall socio-economic development and achievement of the SDGs.

98. The GEF Secretariat staff took part in the 9<sup>TH</sup> SADC River Basin Organizations (RBOs) Meeting, September 22, 2021, and joined a panel discussion on “Collaborative Planning for Joint Financing of Sustainable Transboundary RBOs”. The regular SADC RBO meeting is designed to foster the exchange of experiences across river basin organizations in southern Africa.

99. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Stockholm World Water Week held virtually and organized by SIWI from August 23 to 27, 2021 under the theme of “Building Resilience Faster”. The virtual format allowed for a tremendous expansion of participation with 13,000 people from 168 countries attending the conference and over 400 sessions and events featured during the week. The annual event and this year’s digital format were designed to ensure that people across the world could collaborate to find solutions to the world’s greatest water-related challenges. The GEF secretariat co-hosted and presented in a number of sessions including on “Blended Finance for water and climate”, Source-to-Sea management, “Transboundary Cooperation for Resilient Basin Development”, the “AMCOW Groundwater Program – Spearheading a Vision on Groundwater Resilience in Africa” and on “Valuing Partnerships and Transformative Processes for Resilience from the Subsurface” marking five years of a the Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice (GRIPP) partnership.

100. The GEF Secretariat staff attended the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, jointly convened by the governments of Ecuador, Germany, Ghana and Vietnam, on September 1 and 2, 2021. The conference was designed to build momentum and political will to advance a coherent global strategy to end marine litter and plastic pollution with an aim to ensuring a future with clean seas. The conference provided a platform for informal consultations in the lead up to the in-person part of 5th meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), building on mandates (UNEA 3/7 and 4/6) from the 3rd and 4th sessions of UNEA related to tackling marine litter and microplastics. The decision to host the Conference was taken during UNEA 5.1, the virtual session of the

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<sup>15</sup> ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.7: [Cooperation between the 1992 Water Convention and the Global Environment Facility](#).

5th meeting of the UN Environment Assembly, in February 2021. There was a strong emphasis on public-private partnerships, the circular economy approach and city-level investments, which align with the GEF-8 strategy. During and following the conference over 60 countries signed onto a Ministerial Statement.

101. The GEF Secretariat staff has continued to follow the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP), a unique initiative of 14 serving Heads of State building momentum toward a sustainable ocean economy, where effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand-in-hand. The GEF Secretariat staff attended the Ocean Sherpa meetings organized by WRI and directly supported the HLPs work. Two years of work of the HLPs culminated in December 2020, when the Ocean Panel launched the new ocean action agenda. It is built upon knowledge and science, transformative recommendations, and action. The transformations document lays out the course towards a sustainable ocean economy. It was also the beginning of a call to action for national waters of all ocean and coastal states to be sustainably managed by 2030.

102. The GEF International Waters team continues to work towards addressing gender related issues. Among others should be highlighted the GEF Secretariat staff active participation in a panel in the October 2021 High-level EU Conference 'Accelerating Concrete Actions Towards Gender Equality in Water'. The Conference centred around supporting gender transformative strategies and actions that accelerate the pace towards gender equality in the water sector by 2030. The event discussed the role of international cooperation and financing in the water and gender sector, as well as experiences from EU and non-EU countries, new plans, and initiatives.

## **RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **Adaptation Fund**

103. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. By decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, the Adaptation Fund started serving the Paris Agreement under the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) with respect to all Paris Agreement matters, from January 1, 2019. In accordance with decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, once the share of proceeds becomes available under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the Adaptation Fund will serve the Paris Agreement exclusively and no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol.

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

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

the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communications.

106. Following an invitation by the Chair of the AFB, the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF addressed and had a dialogue with the AFB at its 36th meeting on April 6, 2021. During his intervention, he shared updates on the GEF's 8th replenishment cycle and his views on how the GEF could leverage the impact of limited resources available, to achieve systemic change. He also addressed the topic of complementarity between environmental funds and, during the dialogue with the AFB, welcomed closer coordination between the GEF and the Adaptation Fund.

107. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide a service to the Adaptation Fund, supporting the technical review of project and programme proposals submitted for the thirty-seventh meeting of the AFB. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of October 21, 2021, the AFB has approved 12416 concrete projects amounting to \$861.8 million in total. In addition, five small grants for innovation were approved for a total amount of US\$ 1.2 million. As of September 30, 2021, funds available to support funding decisions were \$ 185.3 million.

108. The GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. The AFB Secretariat shared with the GEF Secretariat the updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan of the Adaptation Fund approved in March 2021. Both secretariats continued to collaborate with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme.

109. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the AFB Secretariat have coordinated closely to review and provide comments on any issues that may arise in connection with the ongoing process of the second phase of the World Bank's Trust Fund reform. The reform process is reviewing issues and opportunities for reform relating to the wide range of Trust Funds at the World Bank, including Financial Intermediary Funds, while respecting the governance and operational requirements for funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF. The secretariats continued exchanging information and prepared for a potential negotiation with the World Bank management on the new cost recovery measures for Trust Funds, Financially Intermediary Fund (FIF) Trustee Services, FIF Secretariats and Externally Financed Outputs released by the World Bank in March 2021.

110. The AFB Secretariat also attended the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council (virtually held) as an observer.

111. The AFB Secretariat attended, as observer, the second meeting of the GEF-8 Replenishment in September/October 2021, as well as four informal briefing sessions held on separate occasions in September 2021. The Manager of the AFB Secretariat also attended the Informal Consultations on GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund on September 16, 2021 and provided opening remarks in the topic

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<sup>16</sup> In addition, three regular single country projects and programmes were placed on the waitlist awaiting availability of funds under the Multilateral Implementing Entity cap.

“Identifying high-impact adaptation action” for the purposes of the informal consultations for the strategy for years 2022-2026.

112. As agreed among the multilateral climate funds (AF, GEF, GCF, and CIF) at the fourth annual dialogue in November 2020, all four funds have published, on their respective websites, a [joint forward-looking communique](#) highlighting a common message of support to developing countries facing mounting challenges induced by the pandemic. Through the joint statement published on July 26, 2021 and signed by heads of all climate funds, the funds agreed to promote complementarity and synergies that will help maximize the impact of their respective programmes in support of developing country recovery efforts with a set of priority actions including (i) identifying options for scaling-up and Blending Finance, (ii) strengthening partnership on Results, Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation, (iii) explore opportunities for knowledge sharing, (iv) continue to ensure the active engagement of diverse stakeholders, (v) highlighting programming of several key flagship initiatives by each fund.

113. The fifth Annual Climate Funds Dialogue will be held at the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November 2021 with the participation of all climate funds including GEF, AF, GCF and CIFs.

114. In addition, the secretariats of the GEF and AF have engaged on collaborations to discuss several operational matters including fiduciary standards, knowledge management and results tracking as well as joint events at COP 26.

115. The GEF and AFB communications units periodically exchange updates or ideas for potential collaboration, and share/repost social media or news releases on one another’s platforms, where relevant/appropriate.

116. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration, including on common events at COP 26 in Glasgow and participating in each other’s virtual events organized around different topics.

### **Green Climate Fund**

117. The GEF and GCF Secretariats continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance complementarity, collaboration and coordinated engagement throughout the reporting period. The GEF CEO and Chairperson, the GCF Executive Director, and the respective Secretariats held several discussions and joint engagements throughout the reporting period, including on articulating complementarity between the two funds, strengthening collaborations and shared support for major initiatives, and on further promoting joint efforts on communications, outreach and sharing of lessons learned through the implementation of the respective portfolios. The GCF also took part in the second GEF-8 replenishment meeting and the first LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy meeting, held on October 19, 2021, as an observer.

118. The Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration of the GEF and GCF was presented to the June 2021 GEF Council.<sup>17</sup> It was presented to the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GCF Board, held on June 29 to July 2, 2021, as part of the GCF Secretariat report. As requested by Council,

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<sup>17</sup> GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#).

the GEF Secretariat has submitted an information document that presents a summary of the presentation and discussion of the 26<sup>th</sup> GCF board meeting.<sup>18</sup> The LTV document identifies specific areas of cooperation where complementarity of action can increase efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the respective strategies and interventions.

119. During the reporting period, the GEF and the GCF Secretariats collaborated closely towards the operationalization of the LTV. The GCF Executive Director and the GEF CEO have discussed with the UN Secretary General about LTV's contributions to help address partnership and climate change priorities articulated in the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda on October 22, 2021. The LTV Steering Committee (SC) was formed, with four representatives for each institution serving on the body. Following an informal SC meeting, the first meeting of the SC took place on November 4, 2021 at COP 26.

120. The GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director jointly presented the LTV and reflected on on-going and future collaboration in a dedicated public organized during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September, 2021, in Marseille, France.

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

122. Finally, during the reporting period the GEF and the GCF collaborated closely in the preparation of their respective participation to COP 26. Based on the successful piloting of a joint Pavilion at COP 25, the two funds agreed to continue this experience at COP 26 and have worked together to coordinate the calendar of events, hosting several in tandem. Further details about the GEF participation to COP 26 and the joint activities with the GCF will be included in the submission of the Relations with Conventions document to the 62<sup>nd</sup> GEF Council.

### **UN Forum on Forests**

123. GEF Secretariat staff continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and contributing on issues related to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and on UNFF 16 (April 26 to 30, 2021). The GEF contributed to the finalization of the CPF work plan 2021-2024 and the elaboration of a CPF statement on Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation. The GEF also took part in two events during UNFF16:

- (a) The panel on Items 3 (a) Thematic priorities for 2021-2022 in support of the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests & 3 (d) Interlinkages between the GFGs and the SDGs under review by 2021 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable

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<sup>18</sup> GEF, 2021, [\*Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility: Summary of the Presentation and Discussion at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board\*](#), Council Document GEF/C.61/Inf.05.

Development, the work towards post-2020 GBF and other international forest-related developments;

(b) The CPF side-event “Turning the Tide on Deforestation” on April 27, 2021.

124. The GEF project “Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes” approved in December 2020 as a CPF Joint Initiative co-led by UNEP and CIFOR was launched on May 3, 2021. One of its first action was the establishment Good Food Finance Network, expected to become a multi-sectoral community for collaborative innovation, working to bring sustainable food systems to the heart of the finance agenda. The GEF is one the of the leaders of this network.

125. GEF Secretariat staff participated in one CPF meeting on July 1, 2021: the main topics of this meeting involving the GEF were the CPF inputs to UNFF17, including the 2024 mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests; the preparation of UNFCCC COP26 and in particular the CPF High-level Dialogue at COP26 “Turning the Tide on Deforestation – the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in Action”.

126. As member of the CPF Consultative Group in support of the XV World Forestry Congress since May 2020, the GEF participated in two meetings of the group on June 14, 2021 and on September 13, 2021.

#### **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

127. GEF Secretariat staff participated in various virtual meetings on issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including several events at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France where Indigenous Peoples Organizations were formally recognized as a category of member.

#### **SAMOA Pathway**

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

129. GEF Secretariat staff participated in a series of inter-agency meetings in April 2021, and subsequent briefings to Member States in May 2021, on development of a multidimensional vulnerability index for SIDS, organized by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

130. The GEF Secretariat provided responses in April 2021 to a questionnaire on ‘Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS’, requested of the GEF by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs. This questionnaire was developed to inform the Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

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

131. In its resolution 72/249 of December 24, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. Originally planned in August 2020, the fourth IGC session was postponed twice due to the COVID pandemic and is to be held on the earliest possible available date in 2022.

132. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat staff continued to monitor the negotiation process and to make itself available to clarify GEF's procedures, relations with Conventions it serves, and its work in areas beyond national jurisdiction to all negotiating Parties. GEF Secretariat staff notably provided background information and participated in the Informal Intersessional High Seas Treaty Dialogue devoted to the Financial mechanism(s), which was hosted on May 19, 2021 by the Governments of Belgium, Monaco, and Costa Rica, in collaboration with the High Seas Alliance. GEF Secretariat staff also continued to participate in the virtual intersessional work led by the President of the IGC.

**ANNEX I: DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES TO THE CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, AND MINAMATA CONVENTION AND GEF RESPONSES**

**Table 1: Decision Adopted by CBD COP 14 Decision 14/23 and GEF Responses**

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p><i>Welcomes</i> the successful conclusion of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and <i>expresses its appreciation</i> for the continuing financial support from Parties and Governments for carrying out the tasks under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in its remaining years, and for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its first two years;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><i>Notes</i> that the biodiversity programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Trust Fund reflect the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, which includes the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism and the four-year framework of programme priorities (July 2018 to June 2022), as well as further guidance;<sup>19</sup></p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility's process to review and upgrade its environmental and social safeguards and the related systems of its agencies, as well as its guidance to advance gender in its new gender implementation strategy, noting that the results will be applicable to all projects funded by the Facility, and <i>invites</i> the Facility to inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms in this important process;</p>	<p>The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018.<sup>20</sup> The updated policy is substantially consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines. The Secretariat is currently facilitating a process to review Agencies' compliance with the minimum standards contained in the updated policy.</p>
<p><i>Notes</i> the ongoing review and updating against criteria of best practice of the Global Environment Facility's policy on safeguards and rules of engagement with indigenous peoples;</p>	<p>The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018.<sup>21</sup> The updated policy is aligned with international best practice, including with respect to engagement with indigenous peoples</p>

<sup>19</sup> See decision XIII/21.

<sup>20</sup> GEF, 2018, [Updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), Council document GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 consistent with the GEF-7 Programming Directions and the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in line with the consolidated guidance provided in decision XIII/21, to continue to provide all eligible Parties with support for capacity-building:</p> <p>(a) On issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies;</p> <p>(b) On the use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, on the basis of experiences and lessons learned during the Project on Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and using resources under the biodiversity focal area;</p>	The GEF continues to support country driven projects that aim to build capacity in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy including the ABS Clearing House taking into account the current use of the Portal housed at the CBD Secretariat.
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue making funds available to assist eligible Parties in implementing the Cartagena Protocol, in particular:</p> <p>(a) To assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;</p> <p>(b) To support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol;</p> <p>(c) To support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;</p>	The GEF will continue to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy, including the fourth national reports. During the reporting period, the GEF approved one country-based project (Kyrgyz republic) to strengthen the required technical, legal, and institutional capacities to implement the Cartagena Protocol. GEF invested \$1.7 million and leveraged \$2.4 million in co-financing.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and other relevant funding agencies to provide funds for	The GEF will continue to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;</p>	<p>Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p>
<p><i>Expresses its appreciation</i> for the financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility for a number of eligible Parties to support the preparation of their interim national reports on the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, and notes the importance of timely availability of financial resources to support the preparation and submission of national reports by the reporting deadline;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements, and to make funds available to this end;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p>
<p><i>Considers</i> the sixth overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility, conducted by the Facility's Independent Evaluation Office and completed in December 2017, as a good basis for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as well as the related submissions received from Parties, and <i>invites</i> the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take the following action in order to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:</p> <p>(a) Continue to improve the design, management, and performance of the sixth-replenishment Integrated Approach Pilots, the seventh-replenishment impact programmes, other programmatic approaches, and multi-focal area projects in addressing drivers of environmental degradation;</p> <p>(b) Promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism;</p>	<p>As part of its ongoing support to the implementation of the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilots and the formulation, development and implementation of the GEF-7 IPs, and other programmatic approaches, the GEF remains committed to improving all elements of design, management and implementation performance.</p> <p>The GEF continues to make GEF-eligible countries aware of the processes and procedures that fall under the responsibility of the Conflict Resolution Commissioner.</p> <p>The GEF remains committed to ensure sustainability of all its projects and programs, and in particular GEF's support to sustainable financing of protected area systems, which remains a priority investment area in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>The GEF continues to improve the efficiency and accountability of the GEF partnership using</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>(c) Further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;</p> <p>(d) Continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;</p> <p>(e) Include the following information in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy;</li> <li>(ii) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies;</li> </ul>	<p>existing accounting and management mechanisms.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Executive Secretary to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>133. Since COP 14, the GEF has been actively engaged with the CBD on the transition to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and GEF aims to continue this collaboration. GEF Secretariat staff have participated in the Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean sharing GEF's experiences in supporting implementation of the CBD. GEF Secretariat staff have also attended all meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Executive Secretary attended the 57<sup>th</sup> (December 2019), 59<sup>th</sup> (December 2020) and 60<sup>st</sup> (June 2021) GEF Councils and presented an overview of the post-2020 framework discussions. One of OEWG co-chair also presented a summary of progress to date by the OEWG in developing the zero draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the 57<sup>th</sup> GEF Council. The CBD Secretariat has been consulted on the GEF-8 replenishment from the onset of the replenishment process, through participation in Technical Advisory Groups and review of draft programming directions. GEF Secretariat communicates and collaborates on an ongoing basis with the CBD Secretariat and the Executive Secretary in the context of this process.</p>

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

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

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<b>COP 25 DECISIONS</b>	
<b>Decision 7/CP.25 National adaptation plans</b>	
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Notes</i> that funding has been made available for developing country Parties under the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and that other channels of bilateral, multilateral and domestic support have also contributed to enabling developing countries to advance their work in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.</p>	<p>Support for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process has been made by the LDCF and SCCF.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the GEF has also continued to support NAP processes through projects.</p>
<b>Decision 8/CP.25 Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2019</b>	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among others, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in an effort to enhance developing countries' ability to assess their needs and priorities and to support them to both develop and implement NDCs. The GEF also engages with developing country Parties through the Country Support Program that includes a range of initiatives that during the pandemic year have been held virtually. These include Constituency Meetings, Stakeholder Empowerment Series (webinars), Introduction Seminar, pre- and post-replenishment meeting briefings and daily contacts based on requests from the GEF Focal Points. In providing capacity-building support to developing countries,</p>

<sup>22</sup> COP 25 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-25>

<sup>23</sup> CMA 2 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-2>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	the GEF continues to collaborate with relevant initiatives and other capacity-building providers, including through fostering coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as part of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as well as through the NDC Partnership, to enhance synergies and coherence of the respective work programs.
<b>Decision 11/CP.25 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance</b>	
Paragraph 13: <i>Looks forward</i> to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.	Noted.
<b>Decision 13/CP.25, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility</b>	
Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Paragraph 2: <i>Also welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019), including:  (a) The approval of climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund; (b) The approval of minimum requirements for Global Environment Facility Trust Fund agencies on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism;	Noted with appreciation of recognition of work undertaken.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>(c) The composition of the Private Sector Advisory Group;</p> <p>(d) The implementation of the gender equality policy and the approval of the gender implementation strategy;</p> <p>(e) The approval of the policy on monitoring and the evaluation policy.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 3:  <i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund during the reporting period, amounting to USD 184 million, and the contribution made by Switzerland to the Special Climate Change Fund during the reporting period amounting to USD 3.3 million, and <i>encourages</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds to provide support for adaptation.</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the LDCF contributions by Germany of €100 million and by the Netherlands of €20 million confirmed at the 30<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council meeting. In addition, the GEF appreciates additional contributions to the LDCF from Belgium, Finland, Qatar and Switzerland amounting to \$33.93 million in this reporting period, and is ready to continue to work with countries to support their climate adaptation priorities with additional contributions announced by Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland. The GEF also appreciates contribution announcement by Switzerland to the SCCF at the 30<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council meeting.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4:  <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects.</p>	<p>The GEF continues its efforts to strengthen efficiencies in the project cycle. As part of this effort, the GEF has instituted a maximum time period (12 months for Medium-sized Projects, and 18 months for Full-sized Projects) for the project to receive Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Endorsement after approval by the Council of the relevant Work Program, in line with the Project Cancellation Policy<sup>24</sup> approved by the Council in December 2018.</p> <p>As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2019, presented to the 57<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting in December 2019, the percentage of Full-sized Projects that were CEO-endorsed within 18 months of Council approval of the Project Information Form (PIF) increased to 35 percent in GEF FY19, from 28 percent in GEF FY18.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, the average time from CEO Endorsement to first disbursement decreased from 11.2 months in GEF-5 to 7.7 months in GEF-6. The GEF Monitoring Report 2019 provides further detailed explanation of additional measures</p>

<sup>24</sup> GEF, 2018, [Project Cancellation Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.55/04/Rev.01.

<sup>25</sup> GEF, 2019, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2019](#), Council Document GEF/C.57/03, page 14.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p>for increasing the pace of preparation and implementation of GEF projects.<sup>26</sup></p> <p>As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF provided an initial automatic extension of three months in March 2020<sup>27</sup> and subsequently additional extension of a further three months in April 2020<sup>28</sup> (six months in total) to the standard deadlines applicable to the submission of CEO Endorsements or Approvals, as well as the actual CEO Endorsements or Approvals, in line with the Cancellation Policy approved by the Council in December 2018. The six-month extension applies to all projects and child projects under Programs approved after March 1, 2019 to address challenges and mitigate risks of the preparation of such projects.</p> <p><u>As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2020, presented to the 59<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting in December 2020,<sup>29</sup> the overall disbursement ratio of ongoing portfolio projects has improved from 18 percent in FY 2019 to 25 percent in FY 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the start of the projects resulting in a decline in the number of projects able to disburse in less than 18 months after CEO Endorsement/Approval from 78 percent to 47 percent.</u></p> <p><u>In December 2020, in light of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF Council approved an exceptional authorization for the CEO to grant exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy, as follows: a) the CEO may grant extensions to cancellation deadlines for all project types for a total of up to 24 months, replacing the references to extensions of 12 months and six months in paras 5(d) and 6(d) respectively of the</u></p>

<sup>26</sup> GEF, 2019, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2019*, Council Document GEF/C.57/03, paragraph 34.

<sup>27</sup> The information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-march-23-2020>

<sup>28</sup> The information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-april-23-2020>

<sup>29</sup> GEF, 2020, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2020*, Council Document GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p><u>Cancellation Policy; and b) this authorization is effective through the final day of the 60<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in June 2021.</u><sup>30</sup></p> <p><u>This provided Agencies and recipient countries with the extra time needed to prepare quality projects, as recipient countries continued to roll out several lockdowns and other restrictions to international travel, access to offices and gathering of people. The GEF Council has further requested that the Secretariat continue to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on GEF operations, report to Council and take necessary actions within its authority.</u></p> <p><u>On September 25, 2020 the GEF issued an internal guidance on "Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics"</u><sup>31</sup> <u>to provide clear guidance to enable countries address COVID-10 risks and create opportunities for green recovery.</u></p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to report to the Conference of the Parties any change or update to the eligibility criteria for accessing the Global Environment Facility resources, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to report to the COP should such change or update occur in the future.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, as part of the overall performance study of its seventh replenishment, to analyse any challenges faced and lessons learned by the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies in applying the updated policy on co-financing of the Global Environment Facility and to report back to the</p>	<p><u>A Progress Report on the Implementation of the Updated Co-Financing Policy</u><sup>32</sup> <u>was released at the 59<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting, in December 2020. The report found out that the implementation of the updated GEF Co-Financing Policy, together with the comprehensive GEF-7 policy framework on monitoring and results, has provided valuable new insight into co-financing mobilized by GEF projects. The following are the main findings of the report:</u></p>

<sup>30</sup> This information is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/impact-COVID19-project-preparation-and-implementation-overview-responses>

<sup>31</sup> The guidance is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/project-design-and-review-considerations-response-COVID-19-crisis-and-mitigation-future>

<sup>32</sup> GEF, 2020, [Progress Report on the Implementation of the Updated Co-Financing Policy](#), GEF/C.59/Inf.07.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of the study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF co-financing has become more diverse, both in terms of number of different sources, and types of co-financing, indicating broader reach in terms of partnerships and potential impacts;</li> <li>• Investments account for more than 70 percent of the co-financing mobilized by GEF project financing.</li> <li>• Loans from multilateral development banks continue to play a major role in co-financing GEF projects and they account for more than a third of the investments;</li> <li>• Based on the indicative information on private sector co-financing, it is mostly driven by private sector interest in non-grant instruments (NGIs) and impact programs (IPs);</li> <li>• Co-financing is documented more clearly and consistently throughout the GEF project cycle, facilitated by the GEF Portal;</li> <li>• Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting fiscal risks, there are potential impacts on the level and type of co-financing mobilized by GEF projects, but it is still too early to estimate any trends.</li> </ul> <p>1. Furthermore, the Seventh Overall Performance Study (OPS 7) is expected to be completed in FY22.<sup>33</sup> Relevant findings will be reported once they become available.</p>
Paragraph 7: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility country focal points, to promote the use of technology needs	The GEF continues to work with the respective focal points of GEF recipient countries to ensure that requests for GEF funding are in line with national priorities identified as part of UNFCCC processes, including technology needs assessments (TNAs), in

<sup>33</sup> GEF, 2019, [Four-Year Work Program and Budget of The GEF Independent Evaluation Office – GEF-7](#), Council Document GEF/C.56/03/Rev.01.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>assessments to facilitate the financing and implementation of technology actions prioritized by countries in their technology needs assessments, within the scope of its mandate and operational modalities.</p>	<p>line with the scope of its mandate and operational modalities. The GEF is ready to continue receiving country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the TNAs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider:</p> <p>(a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on technology needs assessments the least developed countries and small island developing States that have never undertaken a technology needs assessment and have not been included in the fourth phase;</p> <p>(b) Relevant recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Technology Executive Committee on the updated evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.</p>	<p>(a) The GEF has continued to work closely with partners to support the development of technology needs assessments for all developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), which choose to undertake them. In GEF-7, set aside resources continue to be available to LDCs and SIDS to support the development of TNAs. The GEF has worked in collaboration with the implementing agency of the fourth phase of the global TNA project to endeavor to include all LDCs and SIDS that wish to participate but: (i) have not yet undertaken a TNA and/or (ii) have not been included in the fourth phase.<sup>34</sup> As a result, two additional countries, Lesotho and Barbados, were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>(b) The GEF has and will continue to work with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer (PSP), as appropriate, consistent with the GEF's mandate and operational modalities.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Also invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its existing mandates and in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, to report on lessons learned in supporting developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support through the LDCF and SCCF to developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation, in collaboration with the GCF.</p> <p><u>Several LDCF and SCCF projects include focus on systems for generating, collecting and managing information and data to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, in coordination with the GCF. This also continues to involve support for</u></p>

<sup>34</sup> The fourth phase of the TNA project was Council-approved on June 13, 2019, and was in the process of GEF CEO endorsement at the time of the preparation of the GEF COP report submitted in 2020. The project was CEO endorsed in July 2020.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p><u>formulation of national adaptation plans and other adaptation planning processes, which includes collecting and managing information and data on adaptation. The application of lessons learned, including as it relates to adaptation, is an explicit objective of the Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the GEF and GCF, which has been developed jointly and presented to the GEF Council and the GCF Board. Reporting on lessons learned in collaboration with the GCF is carried out in various ways, including Council documents on the Relations with Conventions and Progress Reports on the LDCF and SCCF, through constituency workshops, country consultations, and at other events.</u></p>
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status by continuing to provide approved funding through the Least Developed Countries Fund until the completion of projects approved by the Least Developed Countries Fund Council prior to those countries' graduation from least developed country status.</p>	<p><u>The GEF proactively engaged with Vanuatu prior to its graduation from LDC status in December 2020 to ensure access to maximum amount available under the LDCF in GEF-7 (\$10 million per LDC). The country succeeded in doing so. The GEF made similar efforts with Angola, which was earlier expected to graduate LDC status during GEF-7 as well.</u></p> <p>Funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Takes note</i> of decision 7/CMA.2 and <i>decides</i> to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 12–13 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.</p>	<p>Please see the responses to the guidance transmitted from CMA to COP as included in related paragraphs 12 and 13 below.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 13:  <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.</p>	<p>The GEF is ready to support developing country Parties in preparing their biennial transparency reports (BTRs). The GEF has held consultations on how to meet the needs for the BTRs under GEF-7 with existing resources. The GEF also continues to provide support to developing country Parties in transparency-related capacity-building in accordance with the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions through the CBIT.</p> <p>On June 18, 2020, the GEF held a virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to discuss support needs, possible modalities, and timing with partners. The meeting was attended by 45 participants including country representatives, and representatives from the LDC Group, UNFCCC Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme. The discussion focused on considerations for costing BTRs, supporting BTRs in conjunction with National Communications (NCs), avoiding duplication of support in the transition to BTRs, preliminary options for supporting the first BTR based on existing modalities, and potential resource implications. Meeting information is available on the GEF website.<sup>35</sup> With the feedback provided, the GEF will further develop programming modalities and guidelines for BTRs and continue to seek feedback.</p> <p><u>A second informal consultations on financial support for BTRs was held in November 17, 2020,<sup>36</sup> with participation of national government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies. Discussions from these informal consultations helped inform the development of the modalities for supporting the first BTRs. As a result, the GEF published an</u></p>

<sup>35</sup> GEF, 2020. [Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#).

<sup>36</sup> Information is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/events/second-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p><u>Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Report for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement<sup>37</sup> which further develops the programming modalities and guidelines for financing of BTRs. Specifically, GEF has made available three modalities for supporting the preparation of the first BTR: a) Modality 1 - countries can access up to \$484,000 for the preparation of a stand-alone BTR; b) Modality 2 - countries can access up to \$517,000 for the preparation of a combined BTR and NC; c) Modality 3 - countries can access additional (top-up) financing of \$200,000, maximum, to an ongoing enabling activity project.</u></p> <p><u>The GEF CEO officially informed the UNFCCC Secretariat, Council Members and Operational Focal Points (OPF) on the modalities for BTR financing on February 2021 and provided a visual aid in the form of a decision tree to help illustrate the options available and their timing.<sup>38</sup></u></p> <p><u>The GEF also provided an update to Parties on June 5, 2021 during UNFCCC subsidiary body meetings on the provision of financial and technical support and responded to questions from Parties.<sup>49</sup> In addition, the GEF has carried out awareness-raising and outreach activities on the support available for BTRs using various channels. For example, the GEF participated in a webinar organized by the Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC) and UNEP on the transition from the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework under the Convention to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement on March 11, 2021. The GEF also participated in a webinar organized by the Global Support Program (GSP) for NCs, biennial update reports (BURs) and NDCs on preparation of BTRs and related funding opportunities for the Western Balkan and Eastern</u></p>

<sup>37</sup> GEF, 2020, [Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Report for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

<sup>38</sup> Decision tree for choosing modality for first BTR support from GEF can be accessed from: [http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/events/GEF\\_Second\\_Informal\\_Consultation\\_BTR\\_Decision\\_Tree.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/events/GEF_Second_Informal_Consultation_BTR_Decision_Tree.pdf)

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<u>European countries on April 27, 2021, and in the virtual meeting of the Group of Friends on MRV/transparency framework for developing countries on May 10, 2021.</u>
Paragraph 14: <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the secretariat via the submission portal, no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2020), their views and recommendations on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the Global Environment Facility.	This is an invitation to Parties.
Paragraph 15: <i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 14 above when preparing its draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.	This is a request to the Standing Committee on Finance.
Paragraph 16: <i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.	The present report includes information on the steps taken to implement the guidance received from COP 25.
<b>Decision 14/CP.25 Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism</b>	
Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the engagement and collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and <i>encourages</i> their continued and enhanced collaboration.	The GEF continues to collaborate with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. An MSP, which is a part of the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation with CTCN as the Executing Agency is currently under review for CEO Approval
<b>CMA.2 DECISIONS</b>	
<b>Decision 2/CMA.2 Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 review</b>	
Paragraph 36: <i>Invites</i> Parties to make use of available support relevant for averting, minimizing and addressing impacts related to extreme	This decision is for Parties.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
weather events, slow onset events, non-economic losses and human mobility and for comprehensive risk management from a wide variety of sources, public and private, domestic bilateral and multilateral, under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to the extent consistent with their mandates.	
<p>Paragraph 37:  <i>Requests</i> the Executive Committee to further engage and strengthen its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance by providing input in line with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)(ii), to the Standing Committee on Finance when, in accordance with its mandate, it provides information, recommendations and draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the financial mechanisms under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate.</p>	This decision is for the Executive Committee.
<b>Decision 5/CMA.2 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance</b>	
<p>Paragraph 13:  <i>Looks forward</i> to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.</p>	This decision is for the Executive Committee.
<b>Decision 7/CMA.2 Guidance to the Global Environment Facility</b>	
<p>Paragraph 1:  <i>Recommends</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–3 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.</p>	This decision is for the Conference of the Parties.
<p>Paragraph 2:  <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the</p>	Noted with appreciation of recognition.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.	
Paragraph 3: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.	Please see the response to paragraph 13 of Decision 13/CP.25 above.
<b>CONCLUSIONS of SBSTA 51, SBSTA 50, SBI 51, and SBI 50</b>	
<b>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its fifty-first session, held in Madrid from 2 to 9 December 2019<sup>39</sup></b>	
<b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b> Paragraph 21: The SBSTA and the SBI further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.	The GEF continued to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC.  <u>The GEF participated in the following workshops of Koronivia Road Map: (1) "Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others" on November 24-25, 2020; and (2) "Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector" December 1-2, 2020.</u>
<b>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-first session, held in Madrid from 2 to 9 December 2019<sup>40</sup></b>	
<b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b> Paragraph 33:	Please see the response above.

<sup>39</sup> The report of SBSTA 51 is available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019\\_05\\_adv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_05_adv.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> The report of SBI 51 is available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019\\_20\\_adv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_20_adv.pdf)

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>The SBI and the SBSTA further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	
<p><b>Matters relating to the least developed countries</b>  Paragraph 48:  The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 160 million, made at the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, the financial pledge of 7.5 million Canadian dollars made by the Government of Canada at the 2019 G7 Summit, and the financial pledge of USD 16.6 million made by the Government of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund, and urged additional contributions to the Fund.</p>	<p><u>As mentioned in response to paragraph 3 of Decision 13/CP.25 above, the GEF appreciates the contributions made by Germany of Euro 100 million and The Netherlands of Euro 20 million at the Global Adaptation Summit in January 2021. In addition, GEF appreciates contribution of Belgium, Finland, Qatar and Switzerland amounting to \$33.9 million during this reporting period and would appreciate additional contributions to enable the LDCF to provide additional support to address adaptation priorities of LDCs in a timely manner.</u></p>
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b>  Paragraph 64:  The SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 25 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b>  Paragraph 65:  The SBI also welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer on approval by the GEF Council of 8 proposed projects with technology transfer elements for climate change mitigation and 18 proposed projects</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
for adaptation during the GEF reporting period.	
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b> Paragraph 66: The SBI further welcomed the approval by the GEF Council of the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs, whereby support is being provided to 15 LDCs and SIDS for conducting or updating their TNAs. The SBI noted that some LDCs and SIDS have not been included in the fourth phase of the project.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition. Opportunities were provided for all LDCs and SIDS which had not yet undertaken a TNA to join the fourth phase. The fourth phase involving 17 LDCs and SIDSs was CEO-endorsed in July 2020 <u>and has since begun implementation.</u></p>
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b> Paragraph 67: The SBI noted the importance of implementing the technology action plans resulting from the TNA process, and encouraged Parties to consider using the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for implementing the outcomes of TNAs and technology action plans.</p>	<p>Please see the response to paragraph 8 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above.</p>
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b> Paragraph 68: The SBI noted and considered the progress, challenges and lessons learned in relation to the global CTCN project supported by the GEF.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b> Paragraph 69: The SBI welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the CTCN and the pilot regional climate technology and finance centres supported by the GEF, and encouraged the CTCN to consult with the GEF and relevant multilateral development banks to find ways to harness the lessons learned in a manner that benefits future projects.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition. <u>Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in person meetings have been limited. As such, the last in person meeting the GEF had with the CTCN was at COP 25 for the 5<sup>th</sup> CTCN-GEF Project Steering Committee meeting, during which the two entities discussed the possibilities for harnessing lessons learned and further developing partnerships. The GEF continues to attend the CTCN Advisory Board meetings, as appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>The GEF approved an MSP with CTCN engagement titled <i>Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities</i> from the LDCF and the SCCF through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation during FY2020. The project has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but is expected to be</u></p>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<u>submitted for CEO endorsement by the end of this year.</u> <sup>41</sup>
<p><b>Poznan strategic program</b> Paragraph 72: The SBI recommended that the COP invite the GEF to consider:</p> <p>(a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs the LDCs and SIDS that have never undertaken a TNA and have not been included in the phase;</p> <p>(b) Relevant recommendations contained in the evaluation report referred to in paragraph 70 above, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.</p>	<p><u>The GEF worked with partners to support the development of technology needs assessments by LDCs and SIDS which chose to undertake them.</u></p> <p>Two additional countries were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>The GEF continues to work with the TEC and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the PSP. Please see the response to paragraph 8 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above for more detailed information.</p>
<p><b>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its fiftieth session, held in Bonn from 17 to 27 June 2019<sup>42</sup></b></p>	
<p><b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b> Paragraph 42: The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b> Paragraph 44:</p>	<p>Please see the above response to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 Report.</p>

<sup>41</sup> The GEF Agency, UNIDO, submitted an extension request to submit the CEO endorsement by May 2021.

<sup>42</sup> The report of SBSTA 50 is available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019\\_02E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_02E.pdf)

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	
<p><b>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fiftieth session, held in Bonn from 17 to 27 June 2019<sup>43</sup></b></p>	
<p><b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b> Paragraph 44: The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to: Welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><b>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</b> Paragraph 46: The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the</p>	<p>Please see the response above to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 Report.</p>

<sup>43</sup> The report of SBI 50 is available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019\\_09E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_09E.pdf)

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered LDCF, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	
<p><b>Matters relating to the least developed countries</b> Paragraph 71: The SBI took note of the information note on LDCF support for graduating LDCs prepared by the GEF.</p>	<p>An information document was prepared for the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the LDCF/SCCF Council held in December 2019, which further specified LDCF support for graduating LDCs.<sup>44</sup></p>
<p><b>Matters relating to the least developed countries</b> Paragraph 72: The SBI decided to recommend that in its decision on guidance to the GEF, COP 25 request the GEF, in administering the LDCF, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status by continuing to provide approved funding through the LDCF until the completion of projects approved by the LDCF Council prior to those countries' graduation from LDC status.</p>	<p>Funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.</p> <p><u>As mentioned in response to paragraph 10 of Decision 13/CP.25 above, the GEF proactively engaged with Vanuatu prior to its graduation from LDC status in December 2020 to ensure access to maximum amount available under the LDCF in GEF-7 (\$10 million per LDC). The country succeeded in doing so. The GEF made similar efforts with Angola, which was earlier expected to graduate from the LDC status during GEF-7 as well.</u></p>
<p><b>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</b> Paragraph 78: The SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 24 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p><b>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</b> Paragraph 79:</p>	<p>The GEF continues to collaborate with the regional centers and the CTCN, , to support in assisting developing countries, on technology-related needs and activities for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action.</p>

<sup>44</sup> GEF, 2019, Updated Information Note on [Least Developed Countries Fund Support for Graduating Least Developed Countries](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/Inf.05.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision <sup>22</sup> / CMA 2 Decision <sup>23</sup> /SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>The SBI welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer, including innovation. It also welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the regional climate technology transfer and finance centres and the CTCN. It encouraged the GEF, the regional centres and the CTCN to continue to collaborate with a view to providing further support to developing country Parties for scaling up their technology-related action for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action, in a balanced manner.</p>	
<p><b>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</b> Paragraph 80: The SBI noted the information provided in the report referred to in paragraph 78 above on the collaboration between the GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer in response to an invitation from SBI 47,49 and encouraged strengthened collaboration so as to enhance coherence between the support provided by the GEF and that provided by the CTCN for technology transfer activities. It also encouraged the GEF and the CTCN to facilitate the collaboration, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to respond to invitations to consult with the CTCN on the identification of ways to enhance information-sharing among national designated entities and GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs). The GEF stands ready to continue to receive and share information on collaboration between GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer and provide this information in its reports to the COP. The GEF has also invited the CTCN to find ways to participate in GEF Extended Constituency Workshops and other meetings to engage with GEF OFPs on this matter.</p> <p>The GEF has also approved a MSP titled <i>Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities</i>, as part of the Challenge Program on Adaptation Innovation, <u>the CEO endorsement of which is currently delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</u></p> <p>The Implementing Agency of this project is United Nations Development Agency (UNIDO), which is also the co-host of the CTCN. The Executing Entity for this project will be the Network Members / Consortium Partners of the CTCN.</p>

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

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
Welcomes the signature and the entry into effect of the new memorandum of understanding concluded with the Global Environment Facility Council;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Also welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and acknowledges the increase in the focal area allocation, focus on land-based actions through Impact Programs, and opportunities to enhance synergies;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Global Environment Facility Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;	The GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. GEF Secretariat is also encouraging project proponents to use the "Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes" for GEF-7 project design.
Requests the Global Mechanism to continue its collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF continues to collaborate with the Global Mechanism in the context of GEF-7 through various means and activities.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting Parties to meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and encourages the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate financial resources in a timely manner;	Reporting, voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and capacity-building for implementation is being supported in the context of GEF-7 UNCCD enabling activities. Global support projects have been approved and are being implemented. GEF Secretariat also informed parties during CRIC 19 on the availability of funding for national Enabling Activities and procedures to access the funding. Up to date, 86 OFP letters of endorsement to request funding for the UNCCD reporting exercise in 2022 have been submitted to UNEP for subsequent submission to the GEF.
Invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention;	In the context of the GEF-7 programming directions, and within its mandate, the GEF provides countries with options to financing relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought mitigation activities through the LD focal area funding window as well as other funding windows, including multi-trust

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	fund projects with the LDCF. An approved Enabling Activities project facilitate parties' active participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought.
Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;	Within the context of the GEF-7, the GEF continues to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.	Noted. GEF will timely submit its report to the Conference of the Parties ahead of COP 15 and seek GEF Council approval of the report by mail in January 2022.

**Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP 9 Decision SC 9/15 and GEF Responses**

	<b>Stockholm COP 9 Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
1	Welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the report of the Facility to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;	Noted with appreciation.
2	Welcomes the inclusion in the programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund of measures with respect to marine plastic litter and microplastics and alignment between those matters in the strategies for the international waters and the chemicals and waste focal areas;	Five projects and programs approved during the reporting period (for the COP report) are addressing these important topics.
3	Recalls Articles 13 and 14 of the Stockholm Convention, and encourages the donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund, at the time of negotiations of its eighth replenishment, to increase significantly the allocation for the Convention, to assist recipient countries;	This will be taken into consideration by donors during the negotiations of the eighth replenishment of the GEF.
4	Reiterates its request to the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;	Noted. The GEF will continue to follow its operational guidelines, programming directions and guidance from the COP in the review of proposals for funding of the Stockholm Convention.
5	Adopts the terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism set out in annex I to the present decision;	Noted. The GEF will provide information when requested during the review process.
6	Requests the Secretariat to compile information relevant to the fifth review of the financial mechanism and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
7	Notes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention, and encourages them to further enhance effective inter secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	The GEF Secretariat will continue to work closely with the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) Secretariat in accordance with the MOU.

	<b>Stockholm COP 9 Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
	and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;	
8	Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;	The GEF Secretariat will work with the BRS Secretariat to prepare the report for the consideration of the tenth Conference of the Parties.
9	Invites developed-country Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action.
10	Invites other Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action.
11	Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions, such as development banks, and the private sector, to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the	Not for GEF action.

	<b>Stockholm COP 9 Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
	implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such contributions;	
12	Adopts the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026, as set out in annex II to the present decision;	The GEF will provide information when requested during the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026.
13	Invites Parties and others to provide, by 31 August 2020, the relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs referred to in paragraph 12 of the present decision;	Not for GEF action.
14	Requests the Secretariat:	
	(a) To prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 9 to 11 of the present decision, a report on the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility, and ways and means of mobilizing and channeling such additional financial resources in support of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
	(b) To compile information relevant to the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026 and submit the draft report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
	(c) To provide assistance to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, upon request, to facilitate their assessment of funding needed for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022 to 2026	Not for GEF action.

**Table 5: Response to the Guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention – Updated for COP 4**

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
<b>I. Eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources</b>	
<p>2 To be eligible for funding from GEF as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a country must be a Party to the Convention and must be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition.</p>	<p>The GEF's eligibility policy for mercury incorporates the criteria for funding enabling activities (EAs). The guidelines for EAs are found in the information document of the 45<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting held in January 2014.<sup>45</sup></p> <p>In GEF-5 and GEF-6, prior to the first COP, both signatory countries and Parties were eligible to receive funding from the GEF. In GEF-7, only Parties are eligible to access GEF resources, except for EAs. According to the COP guidance, signatories to the Convention are eligible for GEF funding from for EA, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party.</p>
<p>3 Activities that are eligible for funding from the GEF trust fund are those that seek to meet the objectives of the Convention and are consistent with the present guidance.</p>	<p>According to the GEF Instrument, paragraph 6 (e), the GEF shall: Operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, pursuant to its Article 13, paragraphs 5, 6, and 8. In such respects, the GEF shall operate under the guidance of, and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties, which shall provide guidance on overall strategies, policies, program priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources. In addition, the GEF shall receive guidance from the Conference of the Parties on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support; and shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some EAs, pursuant to</p>

<sup>45</sup> GEF, 2014, [Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), Council Document GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01

<b>COP Guidance</b>		<b>GEF's Response</b>
		Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
4	Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.	<p>Up to June 30, 2018, the GEF supported a total of 110 countries through GEF-5 and GEF-6 to implement Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and 32 countries to conduct their Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) National Action Plans (NAPs). Seventy-eight out of 89 signatories received funding for these EAs. Of the remaining eleven countries, six have become Parties as at June 30, 2018. Twenty-three countries that were non-signatory and non-Party have accessed EA resources; at the request of the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC 6) to allow non-signatory, non-Party States to access resources for EAs from the GEF, the GEF Council varied the eligibility criteria through a decision by mail on January 14, 2015. This variation of the eligibility for non-signatories, non-Parties is no longer applicable, as the COP 1 guidance only applies to signatories and Parties with respect to access of funding of EAs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: Up to June 30, 2019, the GEF supported a total of 111 countries to implement MIAs and 35 countries to conduct their ASGM NAPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 4: Up to June 30, 2021, the GEF supported a total of 117 countries to implement MIAs and 43 countries to conduct their ASGM NAPs.</p>
<b>II. Overall strategies and policies</b>		
5	In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate, and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of	This guidance was used to inform the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming in and was addressed in the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which were concluded in April

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>implementation of the Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, including costs arising from activities that:</p> <p>(a) Are country-driven;</p> <p>(b) Are in conformity with programme priorities as reflected in relevant guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(c) Build capacity and promote the utilization of local and regional expertise, if applicable;</p> <p>(d) Promote synergies with other focal areas;</p> <p>(e) Continue to enhance synergies and co-benefits within the chemicals and wastes focal area;</p> <p>(f) Promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, including from the private sector, if applicable; and</p> <p>(g) Promote sustainable national socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and activities consistent with existing national sound environmental management programmes geared towards the protection of human health and the environment.</p>	<p>2018. The new strategy is included in the summary of negotiations of GEF-7.<sup>46</sup></p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>The projects approved in the reporting period follow this guidance. Throughout GEF-7, there has been a focus on synergies within the chemicals and waste focal area and with other focal areas. Private sector engagement is also a priority. In the reporting period, the 59<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting in December 2020 approved GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy (PSES).<sup>47</sup> The PSES is supported by an Implementation Plan that sets out actions and deliverables up to the end of the GEF-7 period. The <i>Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)</i> Program achieves synergies across the chemicals and waste focal area while the project <i>Integrated Watershed Management of the Putumayo-Içá River Basin</i> combines mercury and international water resources as a multi-focal area project in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.</p>
<b>III. Programme priorities</b>	
<p>6 In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.</p>	<p>This is reflected in the GEF strategies.</p> <p>In GEF-7, \$206 million is allocated for the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. The GEF has programmed resources for several projects that are aimed at early implementation, particularly in the ASGM sector.</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p>

<sup>46</sup> GEF, 2018, [Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council Document GEF/A.6/05/Rev.01

<sup>47</sup> GEF, 2020, [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/07/Rev.01

	COP Guidance	GEF's Response
		<p>In the reporting period, the GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. Other programmed resources for projects that are aimed at early implementation address several areas of priorities of the Minamata Convention that meet the agreed incremental costs of mercury reduction, such as chlor alkali, mercury products including medical devices and ASGM.</p>
7	<p>In particular, it should give priority to the following activities when providing financial resources to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:</p> <p>(a) Enabling activities, particularly Minamata Convention initial assessment activities and national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining;</p> <p>(b) Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, affording priority to those that:</p> <p>(i) Relate to legally binding obligations;</p> <p>(ii) Facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party;</p> <p>(iii) Allow for reduction in mercury emissions and releases and address the health and environmental impacts of mercury.</p>	<p>This guidance was used in the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming and was addressed in the priorities of the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area Programming Strategy. All projects and programs in GEF-7 that seek to implement the Minamata Convention have been designed consistently with this guidance.</p> <p>Update for COP 3:</p> <p>In the reporting period, four EAs, including one MIA and three ASGM NAPs, were approved in accordance with (a). All approved full-sized projects (FSPs) met the guidance under (b).</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>In the reporting period, 13 EAs, including 6 MIA and 8 ASGM NAPs<sup>48</sup> were approved in accordance with (a). All approved medium-sized projects (MSPs) and FSPs met the guidance under (b). For example, the project to address chlor alkali in Mexico, the <i>GOLD+</i> Program addressing ASGM in 15 countries, and the projects addressing mercury products, all support legally binding obligations that facilitate early implementation and address health and environmental impacts.</p>
8	<p>In providing resources for an activity, GEF should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its</p>	<p>In GEF-7, projects with potential for significant mercury reductions have been approved. The GEF continues to work with</p>

<sup>48</sup> One country opted to combine MIA and NAP under one EA.

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
costs in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Convention.	countries and Agencies to look at the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs.
<b>IV. Indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support</b>	
<b>A. Enabling activities</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minamata Convention initial assessments</li> <li>2. Preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 7 and Annex C</li> <li>3. Other types of enabling activities as agreed by the Conference of the Parties</li> </ol>	<p>This guidance was used to inform the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming and was addressed in the priorities of the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area Programming Strategy. In GEF-6 and GEF-7, all eligible EAs that were submitted to the GEF received funding.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: The GEF-7 notional allocation for Minamata Convention EAs was \$14 million.</p> <p>Update for COP 4: In the reporting period, all eligible EAs that were submitted to the GEF received funding.</p>
<b>B. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention</b>	
<b>1. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that relate to legally binding obligations</b>	
<p>9 When providing financial resources to eligible Parties for activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, GEF should afford priority to those activities that relate to legally binding obligations of Parties under the Convention and should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs. Such activities could include those related to the following areas, listed in no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury supply sources and trade;</li> <li>• Mercury-added products;</li> <li>• Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;</li> <li>• Artisanal and small-scale gold mining;</li> <li>• Emissions;</li> <li>• Releases;</li> <li>• Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury;</li> </ul>	<p>These have been included in the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area Programming Strategy. This guidance was used to inform the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: Projects approved in the reporting period follow this guidance. One project addresses mercury sources and trade. All projects include capacity building, and other projects, including the <i>ISLANDS</i> Program and the <i>Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facilitate Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in African LDCs</i> project, address mercury waste and mercury-containing products.</p>

	<b>COP Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury wastes;</li> <li>• Reporting;</li> <li>• Relevant capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer in relation to the above.</li> </ul>	<p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>Projects approved in the reporting period follow this guidance. All MSPs and FSPs include capacity building. There are projects on mercury-added products, manufacturing processes, ASGM, emissions, releases, environmentally sound storage, and mercury waste. The chlor alkali project in Mexico is the first addressing the sector and has the potential to serve as a model for other projects in the region and globally.</p>
<p><b>2. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party</b></p>		
10	<p>When considering activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force, GEF should also consider providing support for activities that, although they are not the subject of a legal obligation under the Convention, may significantly contribute to a Party's preparedness to implement the Convention upon its entry into force for that country.</p>	<p>This was addressed during the GEF-7 programming, to be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3:</p> <p>GEF projects primarily focus on implementing obligations of the Convention that reduce mercury. Other activities are considered on a case-by-case basis. Projects typically include technical assistance and capacity building that address a legally binding obligation. For example, training of customs officers in the <i>ISLANDS</i> Program will support the countries in meeting the phase-out date in Annex A for mercury-containing products and devices.</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>GEF-funded projects in the reporting period primarily focus on implementing obligations of the Convention that reduce mercury. Others are considered on a case-by-case basis. Projects typically include technical assistance and capacity building that address a legally binding obligation. For example, the knowledge-sharing and communication component of the <i>GOLD+</i> Program will support formalization, access to financing, and technology transfer within the sector leading to mercury reductions.</p>

	<b>COP Guidance</b>	<b>GEF's Response</b>
11	<p>Within the context of the GEF mandate, such activities could include, inter alia, support for:</p> <p>(a) With regard to emissions, the development by Parties with relevant sources of emissions of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(b) With regard to releases, the development by Parties with relevant sources of releases of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control releases and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(c) With regard to contaminated sites, capacity-building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds and, as appropriate, the remediation of those sites;</p> <p>(d) Information exchange;</p> <p>(e) Public information, awareness and education;</p> <p>(f) Cooperation in the development and improvement of research, development and monitoring;</p> <p>(g) Development of implementation plans following initial assessments.</p>	<p>This was addressed during the GEF-7 programming, to be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: GEF projects primarily focus on implementing legal obligations of the Convention and reducing mercury. Other activities are considered on a case-by-case basis. Activities that are not subject to legal obligations under the Convention were considered in projects funded in the reporting period, such as information exchange, public awareness, and development of implementation plans.</p> <p>Update for COP 4: GEF projects primarily focus on implementing legal obligations of the Convention and reducing mercury. Other activities are considered on a case-by-case basis. Activities that are not subject to legal obligation under the Convention were considered in projects funded in the reporting period, such as information exchange, public awareness, and capacity building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury and, as appropriate, their remediation. For example, the chlor alkali project in Mexico includes an assessment of the site contaminated with mercury and a plan for remediation.</p>
<b>3. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury</b>		
12	<p>Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury may encompass activities relating to both binding and non-binding provisions, with priority to the legally binding provisions discussed above, that accord with the GEF mandate to deliver global</p>	<p>This was addressed during the GEF-7 programming, to be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: The projects approved in the reporting period contributed to the reduction of 1,163 metric tons of mercury.</p>

<b>COP Guidance</b>		<b>GEF's Response</b>
	environmental benefits and reflect the GEF chemicals and wastes focal area strategy.	Update for COP 4: The projects approved in the reporting period will contribute to the reduction of 793 metric tons of mercury.
<b>V. Review by the Conference of the Parties</b>		
13	In accordance with paragraph 11 of Article 13, the Conference of the Parties will review, no later than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF as one of the entities entrusted with operationalizing the mechanism established under this Article and the mechanism's effectiveness and ability to address the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such review, the Conference of the Parties will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by updating and prioritizing as necessary its guidance to GEF.	At the request of the COP, the GEF has provided information that relates to the review described in paragraph 11 of Article 13 of the Minamata Convention.