



Global Environment Facility

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Agenda Item 5

RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Recommended Council decision for Relations with Conventions

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.34/3, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the proposed activities to implement the guidance and decisions that have been approved by the Conferences of the Parties to the global environmental conventions. The Council requests the Secretariat and the GEF agencies 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 reports on developments of interest to the GEF under the multilateral environmental conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund (the Montreal Protocol). The document also provides information on relations of the GEF with other conventions and international institutions.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) Report of the GEF participation and contribution to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD COP-9 held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 - 30 May, 2008.
- (b) Proposed response by the GEF to guidance provided by the fourth meeting of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4) held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 - 16 May, 2008.
- (c) Proposed response by the GEF to guidance provided by the ninth meeting of the Parties to CBD COP-9 held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 - 30 May, 2008.
- (d) A brief report on the twenty-eight session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to the UNFCCC held in Bonn, Germany, from 4 - 13 June, 2008;
- (e) A brief report on the 28th Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Bangkok, Thailand from 7 - 11 July, 2008.
- (f) A report on GEF participation in the high level policy dialogue implementing the UNCCD COP decision 3/COP.8 of The 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;
- (g) A brief note on further cooperation of the GEF with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
- (h) A report on the meetings and progress of the Adaptation Fund Board.

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1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF occurring since the GEF Council meeting in April 2008 within the context of the CBD, the UNFCCC, the Stockholm Convention, the UNCCD, and the Montreal Protocol. The report also provides information on GEF relations with other conventions and institutions.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ratification

2. On 27 July 2008, Brunei Darussalam became the 192nd Party to the CBD.
3. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety increased to 149 in 2008. The Republic of Korea became a Party on 1 January 2008, Guinea on 10 March 2008, Myanmar on 13 May 2008, Guyana on 16 June 2008, Suriname on 25 June 2008, Turkmenistan on 19 November 2008, and Kazakhstan on 7 December 2008.

Meetings and events

4. The GEF participated in the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4) that was held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 - 16 May 2008. The Conference adopted 18 decisions aimed at advancing the implementation of the Protocol, in particular with respect to liability and redressing risk assessment and risk management, as well as heightening awareness to capacity building.
5. The GEF participated in the ninth Conference of the Parties to the CBD COP-9, which took place in Bonn, Germany from 19 - 30 May 2008. Through their 36 decisions, the Parties moved clearly toward a more holistic approach to the implementation of the Convention, including agreeing on processes to revise the Strategic Plan, to conclude by 2010 the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, and to enhance the networks of protected areas through various programmes of work.
6. At COP-9, Parties conducted an in-depth review of the availability of financial resources and adopted a strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives. Parties resolved to substantially enhance international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity to reduce substantially the current funding gaps in support of effective implementation of the Convention's three objectives and the 2010 target. They also agreed to develop measurable targets and/or indicators addressing all relevant funding sources within the framework of the strategy for resource mobilization.
7. COP-9 concluded its third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, and agreed to a set of priority actions to improve it. In anticipation of the fifth replenishment of the financial mechanism and in order to improve the alignment of biodiversity priorities between the two processes, the Parties suggested a four-year framework of program priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity between the period of 2010-2014.

8. In additional guidance to the financial mechanism, COP-9 highlighted priority funding needs of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: technology transfer and cooperation, clearing-house mechanism (CHM), biodiversity strategies, ecosystem approach, Global Invasive Species Programme and protected areas. Parties also set the stage for consolidating the guidance to the financial mechanism at COP-10. The COP-10 draft decisions on financial resources and the financial mechanism are reproduced in Annex I.

National reporting & National communications

9. Since March 2008, the CBD Secretariat has received eight Third National Reports, and six National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP). The Fourth National Reports of the CBD provide very important source of information for reviewing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of the CBD, as well as the development of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. For this reason, the GEF approved in November 2007 a medium-sized project (MSP), with a fund for Phase I amounting to one million USD, to provide support to eligible countries in undertaking the assessment of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, as well as for the preparation of the Fourth National Report of the CBD. As of end of September 2008, Phase I has been completed with 49 country requests for financial assistance approved. In October 2008, Phase II of the project was approved, and a speedy approval and release of funds, including Phase III, are anticipated.

10. As part of implementation of this MSP, UNEP/UNDP, together with the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) and other partners developed a portal devoted to the Fourth National Report (<https://www.cbd.int/nr4/>), which makes available relevant tools and facilities to assist with the assessment of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the preparation of the Fourth National Reports. This portal also serves as a tool of project management by providing a database on the status of country requests and approvals.

11. Also with the support of this MSP, UNDP/UNEP, together with UNU IAS, SCBD, GEFSEC and other partners, developed a guide to assist countries in assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, with printed copies and CDs disseminated to many countries. The guide is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/nr4/guidelines/2010-guide.shtml>.

Capacity building and enabling activities

12. The SCBD organized:

- (i) Capacity building workshops on implementing NBSAP and mainstreaming biodiversity for Central America in Mexico City, Mexico from 26 - 27 March 2008;
- (ii) Workshop for Portuguese - speaking countries on Training and Implementation of Methodologies for Conservation of Biodiversity and Management of Protected Areas in Maputo, Mozambique from 31 March - 3 April 2008;

- (iii) Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity for South America in Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil, from 31 March - 4 April 2008;
- (iv) Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on Capacity-Building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 7 - 9 April 2008;
- (v) Capacity building Workshop on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Europe in Vilm, Germany, from 26 - 30 April 2008;
- (vi) Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) Training Workshop in Bonn, Germany, from 9 - 10 May 2008;
- (vii) Capacity building Workshop for Women on CBD Processes in Preparation for COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, on 17 May 2008;
- (viii) African Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, from 17 - 18 May 2008;
- (ix) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, from 17 - 18 May 2008;
- (x) Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, from 17 - 18 May 2008;
- (xi) Biodiversity Training Workshop for journalists attending COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, from 25 - 26 May 2008;
- (xii) The Mayors Conference - Local Action for Biodiversity: Parallel Event to COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, from 26 - 28 May 2008;
- (xiii) High Level Segment of COP-9 to the CBD in Bonn, Germany, from 28 - 30 May 2008.

Response to the CBD Guidance

13. Two key decisions were adopted at COP-9 that are particularly relevant to the GEF:
- (a) Decision IX/11, *Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21*, includes three parts: i) In-depth review of the availability of financial resources; ii) Strategy for resource mobilization in accompanying Annex I: “Strategy for Resource Mobilization in Support of the Achievement of the Convention’s Three Objectives for the Period 2008-2015.”; and iii) Message on biological diversity and finance to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

- (b) Decision IX/31, *Financial mechanism*, includes three parts: i) Third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism; ii) Input to the fifth replenishment of the financial mechanism and accompanying Annex I “Four-year Framework of Programme Priorities Related to Utilization of GEF Resources for Biodiversity for the Period From 2010 To 2014”; and iii) Additional guidance to the financial mechanism. The COP’s four-year framework of program priorities, outlined in Decision IX/31 reflects the current strategic thrust of GEF programming in the biodiversity focal area.

14. Table 1 demonstrates the linkage between the GEF biodiversity strategy and the program priorities agreed to by Parties. The linkage constitutes the first time in the history of the CBD and the GEF, where strategic synchronicity has been sought by both institutions to ensure the most effective and focused use of GEF resources to help countries meet their obligation under the Convention. The various outcomes identified by the COP under each of the six program priorities in Decision IX/31 are fully consistent with the GEF-4 Biodiversity Strategic Programs.

Table 1. Coherence between the 2010-2014 Four-Year Framework of Programme Priorities Agreed at COP-9 and the GEF-4 Biodiversity Strategic Programs

COP 2010-2014 Programme Priorities	Strategic Programs for GEF-4
<p>Programme priority area 1: Promote conservation of biological diversity, including through catalyzing sustainability of protected area systems</p>	<p>1. Sustainable financing of protected area (PA) systems at the national level 2. Increasing representation of effectively managed marine PA’s in PA systems 3. Strengthening terrestrial PA networks</p>
<p>Programme priority area 2: Promote sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p>Programme priority area 3: Mainstream biological diversity into various national and sectoral policies and development strategies and programs</p>	<p>4. Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity</p> <p>5. Fostering markets for biodiversity goods and services</p>
<p>Programme priority area 4: Improve national capacity to implement the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p>	<p>6. Building capacity for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p>
<p>Programme priority area 5: Promote the implementation of the Convention’s third objective and support the implementation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing</p>	<p>8. Building capacity in access and benefit sharing</p>
<p>Programme priority area 6: Safeguard biodiversity</p>	<p>7. Prevention, control, and management of invasive alien species (IAS)</p>

15. Additional requests that have been made to the GEF in regards to decisions IX/11 and IX/31 are currently being considered and acted upon. Table 2 below identifies the proposed or ongoing response.

Table 2. Responses to Requests Directed to the GEF in Decision IX/11 and IX/31

COP Decision	GEF Secretariat Response
IX/11. Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21 A) In-depth review of the availability of financial resources	
<i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to leverage financial resources to support the Convention’s objectives.	GEF Agencies continue to mobilize cofinancing as part of all projects, consistent with the principle of incremental costs and the generation of global benefits. These are key requirements of the GEF project review criteria. During GEF-3, on average, each GEF dollar leveraged three other dollars for each biodiversity project.
Urges Parties, the Global Environment Facility, and relevant organizations to include gender, indigenous peoples and local communities perspectives in the financing of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services.	The GEF policy on public participation, initiated from the beginning of the GEF, outlines provisions and policies on stakeholder participation including these groups, at all steps of the GEF project cycle. The GEF has recently conducted studies on both indigenous peoples and gender involvement in GEF projects, which identify opportunities to strengthen GEF approaches and engagement on these issues.
IX/11. Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21 B) Strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention’s three objectives of the Convention and accompanying Annex I: “Strategy for Resource Mobilization in Support of the Achievement of the Convention’s Three Objectives for the period 2008-2015.”	
The Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, is invited to consider how it can contribute to the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, and report back to the Conference of the Parties through the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, including consideration of a plan to address the strategy for resource mobilization, in consultation with the GEF implementing agencies.	GEF Secretariat, in consultation with the CBD Secretariat, is considering how to contribute to the implementation of the strategy, consistent with the GEF’s mandate.
IX/31, Financial mechanism B) Input to the Fifth Replenishment	
<i>Acknowledges</i> the GEF-4 strategy for biodiversity is a useful starting point for GEF-5 and <i>requests</i> GEF, for the fifth replenishment period, to build on the GEF-4 strategy based on the four-year framework of programme priorities in the annex to the present decision.	GEF takes note of the four-year framework approved at COP-9 and will use it, as well as the GEF-4 strategy, as the starting point for the GEF-5 strategy.
IX/31, Financial mechanism C) Additional Guidance to the Financial Mechanism	
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to consider the following guidance, submitted in its entirety in decision IV/5, paragraph 4, of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, noting that subparagraph (f) should be considered in the context of the programme priorities in decision IX/31 of the present decision, and to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;</p> <p>(a) <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office to assess the impact of the Resource Allocation Framework on the implementation of the Protocol, and</p>	<p>a) Addressed to the GEF CEO for further consideration and decision.</p>

COP Decision	GEF Secretariat Response
<p>propose measures that can minimize potential resource limitations that may affect the implementation of the Protocol including measures that facilitate consideration of regional and subregional projects developed by the countries of the region;</p> <p>(b) <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to make financial resources available with a view to enable eligible Parties to prepare their national report;</p> <p>(c) <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to extend the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Clearing-House project, in its current form as a global project with a view to ensuring sustainability of national Biosafety Clearing-House nodes and providing more capacity-building support, with special attention to targeted stakeholders (e.g., customs departments and phytosanitary inspectors), and to provide additional funding for these activities from sources other than the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) taking into consideration the global nature of the project;</p> <p>(d) <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, at the request of developing country Governments, to provide financial and other support to enable universities and relevant institutions to develop and/or expand existing biosafety academic programmes and provide scholarships to students from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition;</p> <p>(e) <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, to cooperate with and support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in their efforts to build their capacities in the area of sampling and detection of living modified organisms, including the setting up of laboratory facilities and training of local regulatory and scientific personnel;</p> <p>(f) <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider the following programme funding priority needs for biosafety during the period of its fifth replenishment (2010-2014), where appropriate, using the issue-specific approach and providing longer-term support for building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Implementation of legal and administrative systems for notification procedures; ii) Risk assessment and risk management; iii) Implementation of enforcement measures 	<p>b) This recommendation will be taken under consideration in the context of the programme priorities in decision IX/31 during the preparation of the GEF-5 strategy.</p> <p>c) Support to the project is under consideration.</p> <p>d) The GEF does not provide financial support for this kind of intervention under the Council-approved GEF Biosafety strategy. GEF has never provided this kind of support in the biodiversity focal area given that it is not consistent with the GEF mandate.</p> <p>e) This is currently eligible under the GEF biosafety strategy and is already a part of the ongoing National Biosafety Framework Implementation projects.</p> <p>f) the issue will be taken under consideration in the context of the programme priorities in decision IX/31, consistent with the COP guidance in this decision.</p>

COP Decision	GEF Secretariat Response
including detection of living modified organisms; iv) Implementation of liability and redress measures.	
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to assist with the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and <i>invites</i> Parties, other Governments and donors, to make timely financial contributions for the preparation and production of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and ancillary products. These funds should be provided as early as possible so that the Global Biodiversity Outlook can be finalized in advance of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in all United Nations languages, and with a draft available for review at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.	GEF will provide support in the way of information that can be gleaned from the GEF portfolio and be useful for the production of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to: (a) Provide support to developing country Parties in the preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention; (b) Continue to support ongoing national programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through improved access to and transfer of technology and innovation; (c) Consider possibilities to provide funding under enabling activities for the provision of capacity-building, where needed, on, <i>inter alia</i> : (d) Technologies for conservation and sustainable use; (e) Governance and regulatory frameworks associated with access and transfer of technology and innovation.	These recommendations will be taken under consideration in the context of the programme priorities in decision IX/31 during the preparation of the GEF-5 strategy.
<i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility and other donors to continue to provide funding to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, for the establishment and updating of their clearing-house mechanisms.	Under the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) countries have the option to allocate resources to support the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) as enabling activities.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, and <i>urges</i> Governments and other donors to provide funding to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the revision and implementation, through projects, of national, and where appropriate, regional biodiversity strategies.	Under the RAF, countries have the option to allocate resources to revise their biodiversity strategies as enabling activities. In addition, the GEF Biodiversity Strategy identifies eight strategic programs which cover the full gamut of responses available to parties to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and other funding institutions and development agencies to provide financial support for the implementation of the ecosystem approach by developing countries, particularly the least developed and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, and encourages bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to apply the ecosystem approach in providing aid assistance.	The vast majority of GEF-supported biodiversity projects partially or fully employ the relevant components of the ecosystem approach.

COP Decision	GEF Secretariat Response
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, and <i>invites</i> Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to support capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States and Parties with economies in transition, for engaging the business community in the implementation of the Convention.	The GEF welcomes engagement of the business community in the implementation of GEF biodiversity projects and GEF-4 has seen an increase of private sector engagement in both biodiversity mainstreaming projects and private sector support to generate increased revenue for protected area management.
<i>Reiterates</i> its invitation to the Global Environment Facility, Parties, other Governments and funding organizations to provide adequate and timely financial support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in many of its decisions.	The GEF has identified invasive alien species as a priority strategic program in GEF-4, Strategic Program 7: “Prevention, control, and management of invasive alien species (IAS)”. Ironically, in spite of the calls for support from the GEF, very few countries have prioritized investments in IAS prevention, control, and management during the GEF-4.
<i>Urges</i> Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and <i>invites</i> other Governments and international financial institutions including the Global Environment Facility, the regional development banks and other multilateral financial institutions to provide the adequate, predictable and timely financial support, to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states as well as countries with economies in transition, to enable the full implementation of the programme of work on protected areas.	The current GEF strategy on protected areas includes three strategic programs which allow countries to fully implement the programme of work on protected areas: Strategic Program One: Sustainable financing of PA systems at the national level; Strategic Program Two: Increasing representation of effectively managed marine PAs in PA systems and Strategic Program Three: Strengthening terrestrial PA networks.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Continue to provide, and facilitate easier access to financial resources for protected areas in its biodiversity focal area including projects such as the UNDP/GEF project “Supporting Country Action on the CBD programme of work on protected areas”, so as to extend support to developing countries, in particular the Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDC) among them, and countries with economies in transition, taking into account the goals and targets set in the programme of work; (b) To consider support for proposals that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change. (c) To ensure that protected areas remain a priority of the Global Environment Facility for the foreseeable future. 	<p>These recommendations will be taken under consideration in the context of the programme priorities in decision IX/31 during the preparation of the GEF-5 strategy.</p> <p>In the GEF-4 biodiversity strategy, as part of GEF support to protected areas under Strategic Objective One: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems, the strategy specifically identifies capacity building opportunities to help design resilient protected area systems that can continue to achieve their conservation objectives in the face of anticipated climate change. Hence projects that seek to address this issue are currently eligible under the strategy.</p> <p>c) The recommendation will be considered in the context of the programme priorities during the preparation of the GEF-5 strategy.</p>

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

16. The Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met from 2 - 13 June 2008 in Bonn, Germany. There were several discussions on issues that are relevant to the GEF as the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.

Non-Annex I National Communications

17. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) invited the GEF to continue to provide information, and to ensure that it is detailed and complete, on its activities relating to the preparation of National Communications process by Non-Annex I Parties, including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds, for consideration by the SBI at its next session. There was considerable discussion on the issue of National Communications and the RAF, with many countries expressing concerns that National Communications would have to be funded within the limit of the RAF allocation. The SBI also recalled the request by the COP in Decision 7/CP.13 for the GEF continue to ensure that financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Convention.

Financial Mechanism

18. Initial discussions occurred on the fourth review of the financial mechanism, on the basis of the guidelines contained in the annexes to decisions 6/CP.13 and 3/CP.4 of the UNFCCC. Further discussions will occur at the next Conference of the Parties (COP-14) in Poznan, Poland on the review of the financial mechanism. The outputs of this discussion will constitute an input into the fifth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

Matters relating to Least Developed Countries (LDC)

19. The SBI continues to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the National Program of Action (NAPA). Parties will review the guidance concerning the LDCF at the COP-14. The SBI endorsed the work programme of the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) for 2008–2010 and encouraged the LEG, in the implementation of its work programme, to seek to ensure the complementarity of its activities with related efforts by the GEF, its agencies and other relevant entities.

Development and transfer of technologies

20. The SBI noted the paper of the GEF (GEF/C.33/6) a strategic programme to scale up the level of investment for technology transfer. The Parties expressed their concerns on the paper and encouraged the GEF to have further consultations with Parties at the UNFCCC meeting in Accra, Ghana in order to elaborate the options related to a strategic programme on technology. The GEF participated in the Accra Climate Change Talks (Aug. 21 - 27) and held consultations in order to update the paper on a strategic programme to scale up the level of investment for technology transfer. The report will be considered again at COP-14.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

21. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention is scheduled from 4 - 8 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. Agenda items will include consideration of the listing of new chemicals under the Convention as proposed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC); effectiveness evaluation; and needs assessment. A further four chemicals will be considered by the fourth meeting of the POPRC, scheduled from 13-17 October 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, in addition to the five already proposed.

22. The GEF report to COP-4 will be circulated to Council for comment and for adoption in December 2008.

23. The status of implementation of the National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention and supported by the GEF are presented in the Annex II to this document.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

24. The GEF Secretariat attended the 28th Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held from 7-11 July 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. Amongst other things, the OEWG discussed the report of the Replenishment Task Force of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The report estimates total funding requirements in the 2009 - 2011 triennium at \$343 to \$640 million dollars. The contact group on replenishment co-chaired by Belgium and Mauritius mandated the TEAP to conduct further work, with a view, among other things, to reducing that range.

25. The forthcoming 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol is scheduled from 17-21 November 2008 in Doha, Qatar and is expected to conclude these replenishment negotiations.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

26. GEF activities in relation to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification continued to be focused on the follow up to decisions taken at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8) to the UNCCD that was held from 3-14 September 2007 in Madrid, Spain.

Participation of the GEF to the High Level Policy Dialogue

27. At COP-8, decision 3/COP.8, adopting the Ten-Year Strategy, called on the Executive Secretary "to consider engaging in policy dialogue on the strategy to foster awareness of and buy-in to the strategy among relevant policy decision makers, making use, inter alia of the opportunities provided by the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development". Heeding the call, the UNCCD secretariat in cooperation with the Government of Germany organized on 27 May 2008 in Bonn, Germany a High Level Policy Dialogue under the theme "Coping with Today's Global Challenges in the Context of the Strategy of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification", chaired by Mrs. Karin Kortmann, Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

28. The meeting identified conditions required and political commitment necessary for the implementation of the Strategy in the context of current global emerging challenges, including the linkages between desertification/land degradation and the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; the need for robust investments in sustainable land management in the dry lands;

and the need to promote knowledge management, science and technology for enhanced implementation of the UNCCD.

29. The Chairperson and CEO of the GEF participated in the High Level Policy Dialogue and discussed innovative financial mechanisms to foster the effective implementation of the UNCCD and improve the livelihood of people living in degraded land. In her address, the CEO, underscoring the GEF's financial support in the land degradation focal area, noted that sustainable soil management required a clear framework to coordinate an array of long term measures.

Participation of the GEF Secretariat in the Inter-Agency Task Force on reporting guidelines for the UNCCD

30. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) that was formed to support the review of reporting guidelines for the UNCCD. Reporting guidelines that are aligned to the newly adopted Strategy (decision 3/COP.8) and its impact indicators will form the basis for future reporting under the UNCCD. A new monitoring system, taking into consideration Results Based Management (RBM), an indicator approach, and an improved knowledge management at national and global levels will be discussed at COP-9, scheduled for 2009. Special emphasis in the proposals for UNCCD reporting was given to enabling synergetic reporting at national level by promoting environmental information systems servicing not only the UNCCD, but all Rio Conventions.

31. Currently, there are efforts being undertaken to harmonize, where possible, the emerging indicator approach by the UNCCD with the indicators of the GEF developed for its fifth replenishment. Proposals for reporting principles guiding Parties and stakeholders, including the GEF Secretariat in reporting to the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) will be discussed at the seventh session of the CRIC (CRIC-7). CRIC-7 is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the special intersessional session of the Committee for Science and Technology from 3 - 14 November 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey. Members of the IATF, including the GEF Secretariat, will participate in the deliberations with a view to further providing guidance to the UNCCD Secretariat with regard to substantive and institutional questions relating to UNCCD reporting.

Participation of the UNCCD Secretariat in the STAP meetings

32. The UNCCD Secretariat was invited to attend two STAP meetings held in Nairobi, Kenya and Washington DC, USA respectively from 9 - 12 April 2008 and 15 - 17 September 2008. In both meetings, points were made to strengthen the scientific basis of the UNCCD in the GEF land degradation focal area, to ensure that the next replenishment takes due account of the Ten-Year Strategy adopted by COP-8, and is consistent with the strategic objectives; namely to improve the living conditions of affected populations, to improve the conditions of affected ecosystems, to generate global benefits through the effective implementation of the Convention and to mobilize resources through building effective partnerships between national and international actors. In this respect, it was suggested that the STAP should be more involved in

the work of the scientific bodies of the Conventions for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism.

INFORMATION ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Enhancing cooperation between conventions

33. The Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, meeting in Rome, Italy from 25-28 March 2008, adopted an extensive decision¹ on the topic for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

- (a) This decision makes direct reference to the GEF in two instances. In the context of “the coordinated use of regional offices and centers:” “[the COP] *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, other relevant international financial institutions and instruments, the regional centre host countries and others from the donor community to provide financial support necessary for the regional centers to carry out projects aimed at cooperation and coordination in support of implementation of the three conventions;” and
- (b) in the context of “Resource mobilization:” [the COP] “*Encourages* representatives of Parties to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages from the Conferences of the Parties of each convention to the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions/instruments on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the implementation of the conventions.

34. The decision¹ was also adopted with only minor amendments by the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal held in Bali, Indonesia from 23-27 June 2008. The decision will be considered at the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, taking place in Rome, Italy from 27 - 31 October 2008; and at the Fourth Meeting of the Stockholm COP.

¹ http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch/documents/3rdmeeting/ahjwg03_03_REP.pdf

International Conference on Chemicals Management

35. The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is scheduled from 11-15 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Report on the Adaptation Fund Board

36. At the Third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), held in Bali, Indonesia from 3-14 December, 2007, the Parties requested the Adaptation Fund Board to develop a number of mechanisms and proposals that would enable the Fund to become operational. The Board has made significant progress and has established the necessary institutional infrastructure for the Fund to be ready for operations in 2009, should the proposals of the Board be adopted by the Fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

37. The Adaptation Fund Board held three meetings during the reporting period: March 2008, June 2008, and September 2008, all convened in Bonn, Germany. The agenda, the annotated agenda, including documentation supporting agenda items, and the reports of the Adaptation Fund Board meetings have been made publicly available on the Adaptation Fund website at <http://www.adaptation-fund.org/>.

38. Over the course of its meetings in 2008, the Board has approved and decided to forward to the CMP for its final approval:

- (a) Draft Rules of Procedure of the Adaptation Fund Board;
- (b) Draft Legal Arrangements for the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, including a Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the Council of the GEF regarding Secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund and to the Board of the Adaptation Fund;
- (c) Draft Legal Arrangements between the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) regarding the services to be provided by the Trustee for the Adaptation Fund, including Draft Terms and Conditions of Services to be provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as the Trustee for the Adaptation Fund; and
- (d) Draft Strategic Priorities, Policies and Guidelines of the Adaptation Fund.

39. The Board also recommended to the CMP for its approval procedures and a timetable for the reimbursement, if requested, of the contributions made by Parties to finance the administrative expenses for operating the Adaptation Fund in an interim phase, until the

monetization of the share of proceeds of certified emission reductions to meet the costs of adaptation is operational.

40. In addition, the Board has adopted the following documents:

- (a) Roles and Responsibilities of the Adaptation Fund Board
- (b) Roles and Responsibilities of the Adaptation Fund Secretariat
- (c) Roles and Responsibilities of the Implementing and Executing Entities
- (d) 2008 Work Plan of the Adaptation Fund Board
- (e) 2008 budgets for the Adaptation Fund Board and Secretariat

41. The Board has further agreed that endowing the Adaptation Fund with a legal status of some kind deserves further consideration and decided to commission a feasibility study. Recognizing that such an approach is likely to take considerable time, the Board also agreed to consider an alternative approach that would provide fiduciary risk management through legal entities established and/or existing at the national level to enable direct access to resources. For this purpose, the Board agreed to develop criteria and guidelines for the accreditation by the Board of such legal entities that would enable similar international fiduciary standards to be applied to the execution of programmes and projects approved by the Board.

42. On the monetization of the CERs of the Adaptation Fund, the Board agreed to commence as early as practicable after an agreement is finalized between CMP and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) regarding the services to be provided by the Trustee to the Adaptation Fund. The expectation is that this would be in the first quarter of 2009.

43. One of the immediate challenges facing the Board and the Fund is the availability of resources to support its work. There are significant costs associated with operationalizing this new fund – costs of staff, consultants, travel, etc. As indicated, early support from some countries was essential for the conduct of the first three meetings, and for supporting the work of the Secretariat. Without additional financial resources, the Secretariat is constrained from having more dedicated staff to support the work of the Board as well as additional meetings early next year prior to complete the monetization process.

44. The Board plans to hold its fourth meeting in December 2008 in Bonn, Germany, at the conclusion of the fourth session of the CMP. At this meeting, the Board expects to approve a Work Plan for 2009 to be carried out over the course of four meetings to be scheduled in 2009. Some of the major elements of the work plan for the future include:

- (a) Conclusion of legal arrangements with the Secretariat and the Trustee, upon approval by the fourth session of the CMP;
- (b) The launch of monetization of CERs, in 2009, to finance the Adaptation Fund;

- (c) Operationalization of an Adaptation Fund project cycle, including monitoring and evaluation, based on the strategic priorities, policies and guidelines, and operational policies and guidelines;
- (d) Accreditation with by the Board of legal entities to function as implementing and executing entities, to assist Parties with the preparation and implementation of concrete adaptation activities;
- (e) Putting in place measures to enhance the capacities of executing entities, including direct access; and
- (f) Consideration of proposals prepared by eligible Parties to undertake concrete adaptation activities, and approval of projects for support with resources from the Adaptation Fund.

ANNEX I RELEVANT DECISIONS OF THE CBD

IX/11. Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21

A. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 20 and 21 and related provisions of other Articles of the Convention,

Recalling that in decision VIII/13, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the availability of financial resources, including through the financial mechanism, at its ninth meeting,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/16),

Concerned that the lack of sufficient financial resources continues to be one of the main obstacles to achieving the Convention's three objectives, including the 2010 biodiversity target, as well as the Millennium Development Goals,

Underlining that effective national systems and a supportive international regime on access and benefit-sharing could support sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services, including through generating financial returns,

Recognizing that local communities and governments in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, may be subject to high conservation opportunity costs,

Resolving to significantly reduce the gaps in funding for biological diversity,

1. *Encourages* the Parties and relevant organizations to improve the existing financial information^{2/} through enhancing accuracy, consistency and delivery of existing data on biodiversity financing and improved reporting on funding needs and shortfalls for the Convention's three objectives, and, in this context, *requests* the Executive Secretary to regularly update and further develop the Convention's online network on finance;

2. *Encourages* the Parties and relevant organizations to intensify efforts to assess, as appropriate, the economic costs of the loss of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services and of the failure to take measures to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention, as well as the benefits of early action to reduce loss of biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services, in order to inform decision-making and awareness-raising, *inter alia* through contributing to the "Global Study on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity;"^{3/}

3. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to continue to mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and *requests* the Global Environment Facility to continue to leverage financial resources to support the Convention's objectives;

4. *Urges* Parties and Governments, where appropriate, to create the enabling environment to mobilize private and public-sector investments in biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services;

^{2/} Such as data from the national reports, the OECD Rio markers, funding to GEF, and a selection of the larger international conservation NGOs.

^{3/} This study is coordinated by the European Commission and Germany

5. *Recommends* that Parties and relevant organizations identify, engage and increase South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation to enhance technical, financial, scientific and technological cooperation and innovations, for biological diversity;

6. *Urges* the Parties and Governments to continue to enhance national administrative and managerial capacities, thus enabling more efficient resource utilization and enhancing positive impacts;

7. *Urges* Parties, the Global Environment Facility, and relevant organizations to include gender, indigenous peoples and local communities perspectives in the financing of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services;

8. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to request the Adaptation Fund Board to consider the co-benefits of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services in projects supported by the Adaptation Fund, where eligible Parties have identified it as a priority;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile existing guidelines and best practices for mainstreaming financing of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services into overall and sectoral planning as well as on financial needs assessment and make this information publicly available;

10. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to build on existing knowledge of biodiversity and poverty alleviation mainstreaming^{4/} to integrate biodiversity into national development policies and plans.

B. STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CONVENTION'S THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision VIII/13,

Noting the inputs on the development of the strategy for resource mobilization provided by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/14),

Taking note of the draft strategy for resource mobilization prepared by the Executive Secretary after informal consultations with the Parties and relevant organizations (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/16/Add.1/Rev.1, annex),

Having considered recommendation 2/2 of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation, regarding options and a draft strategy for resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4, annex I),

1. *Adopts* the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity annexed to the present decision;

2. *Also invites* the Parties and relevant organizations, including United Nations development system, the World Bank, regional development banks and all other relevant international and regional bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations and business sector entities to take prompt actions to

^{4/} For example, those that have been developed through the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the UN Poverty and Environment Initiative,

implement the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives;

3. *Invites* Parties to come forward with early commitments of additional funding in support of the strategy for resource mobilization in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention;

4. *Invites* Parties to come forward with new and innovative financing mechanisms in support of the strategy for resource mobilization in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, *requests* the Executive Secretary to support diffusion of such initiatives and *requests* the Global Environment Facility to support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of such initiatives that have proved to be successful;

5. *Decides* to review the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization at its tenth meeting, and that the Executive Secretary shall prepare the necessary documentation pertinent to these goals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Invites* Parties to submit views on concrete activities and initiatives including measurable targets and/or indicators to achieve the strategic goals contained in the strategy for resource mobilization and on indicators to monitor the implementation of the strategy;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a compilation of the information provided in accordance with paragraph 6 of the present decision, including options on monitoring progress towards the goals and objectives of the resource mobilization strategy, and make it available three months prior to the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention;

8. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Open Ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to prepare at its third meeting a list of concrete activities and initiatives to achieve the strategic goals of the strategy for resource mobilization and on indicators to monitor the implementation of the Strategy, and submit it for consideration of the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting;

9. *Decides* to adopt the following process in preparing for the implementation of goal 4 of the strategy^{5/}:

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a document on policy options concerning innovative financial mechanisms, with inputs from regional centers of excellence in a geographically balanced way and forward it to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention;

(b) *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to identify a series of options and policy recommendations concerning innovative financial mechanisms, based on the above information and the submissions received from Parties in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 6 of the present decision;

(c) *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention submit the results for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

^{5/} Germany offered to finance the operation of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Innovative Financial Mechanisms.

Strategy for Resource Mobilization in Support of the Achievement of the Convention's three objectives for the period 2008-2015

I. The Urgency

1. The loss of biological diversity and the consequent decline in ecosystem services is increasing at an unprecedented rate, and the causes of this loss are mostly steady or even increasing in intensity in the coming decades.
2. The loss of biological diversity has led to far-reaching environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts, exacerbated by the negative effects of climate change, and its consequences are harshest for the poor.
3. The loss of biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services poses a significant barrier to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.
4. The Convention on Biological Diversity is the foremost international legal instrument to address the loss of biological diversity and ensure attendant ecosystem services. The lack of financial resources is a major impediment to achieve the Convention's three objectives.
5. To achieve the Convention's three objectives can be financially affordable and feasible. In a multitude of decisions, the Parties have acknowledged the urgent need for adequate financing.
6. The resource mobilization strategy aims to assist the Parties to the Convention and relevant organizations to mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources to support the achievement of the Convention's three objectives including the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.
7. The strategy considers the full range of possible local, national, regional and international funding sources, both public and private. It is geared towards implementation during an initial period up to 2015, coinciding with the international development planning cycle, including the Millennium Development Goals.

II. Mission

The target of the strategy for resource mobilization is to substantially enhance international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity in order to achieve a substantial reduction of the current funding gaps in support of the effective implementation of the Convention's three objectives and the 2010 target. This target for global resource mobilization should be viewed as a flexible framework for the development of measurable targets and/or indicators addressing all relevant funding sources, according to national priorities and capacities, and taking into account the special situation and needs of developing countries.

III. Guiding Principles

The strategy calls for special consideration to the following guiding principles during its implementation:

- a) Promote efficiency and effectiveness;
- b) Build synergies;
- c) Support innovation;
- d) Strengthen capacity;
- e) Raise awareness;
- f) Take into account gender and socio-economic perspectives.

IV. Strategic Goals and Objectives

Concrete activities and initiatives to achieve the following strategic goals should be developed as well as indicators to monitor the implementation of the Strategy, all within appropriate timeframes:

Goal 1: Improve information base on funding needs, gaps and priorities

1.1. To improve the existing financial information base-through enhancing accuracy, consistency and delivery of existing data and improved reporting on funding needs and shortfalls for the Convention's three objectives. Funding trends could be measured through the following indicators:

- a) OECD DAC Rio markers on biodiversity;
- b) National reports of Parties;
- c) Trends in funding to GEF;
- d) Funding flows through a selected number of the large international NGOs.

1.2. To assess economic costs of the loss of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services, of the failure to take measures to fulfill the three objectives of the Convention, and benefits of early action to reduce loss of biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services.

1.3. To improve priority-setting for guiding resource allocation to biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services.

Goal 2: Strengthen national capacity for resource utilization and mobilize domestic financial resources for the Convention's three objectives

2.1 To strengthen institutional capacities for effective resource mobilization and utilization, including strengthening capacities of relevant ministries and agencies to make the case for including biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services in discussions with donors and relevant financial institutions.

2.2. To prepare national financial plans in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans that can be implemented by local, national, regional and international stakeholders.

2.3 To strengthen capacity for integration of biodiversity issues and its associated ecosystem services into national and sectoral planning, and promote budgetary allocations for biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in national and relevant sectoral budgets.

2.4 To develop and implement economic incentives that are supportive of the Convention's three objectives at local and national levels, consistent and in harmony with the other relevant international obligations.

2.5 To consider the enhancement of existing, or the establishment of new, domestic funds and funding programmes through voluntary contributions, including for official development assistance, where biodiversity is identified as a priority by developing country Parties in poverty reduction strategies, national development strategies, United Nations development assistance frameworks and other development assistance strategies, that include innovative financing instruments to achieve the Convention's three objectives.

2.6 To establish enabling conditions for private sector involvement in supporting the Convention's three objectives, including the financial sector.

Goal 3: Strengthen existing financial institutions and, promote replication and scaling-up of successful financial mechanisms and instruments

3.1 To enhance efforts in mobilizing co-financing and other modes of project financing for biological diversity.

3.2 To strive to increase official development assistance associated with biological diversity, where biodiversity is identified as a priority by developing country Parties in poverty reduction strategies, national development strategies, United Nations development assistance frameworks and other development assistance strategies and in accordance with priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

3.3 To mobilize public sector investments in biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services.

3.4 To mobilize private sector investments in biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services.

3.5 To establish, as appropriate, new and additional funding programmes through voluntary contributions to support the three objectives of the Convention.

3.6 To fulfil the implementation of the provisions of the Monterrey Consensus on mobilizing international and domestic funding as related to biodiversity.

3.7 To continue to support, as appropriate, domestic environmental funds as essential complements to the national biodiversity resource base.

- 3.8. To promote biological diversity in debt relief and conversion initiatives, including debt-for-nature swaps.

Goal 4: Explore new and innovative financial mechanisms at all levels with a view to increasing funding to support the three objectives of the Convention

- 4.1. To promote, where applicable, schemes for payment for ecosystem services, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations.
- 4.2. To consider biodiversity offset mechanisms where relevant and appropriate while ensuring that they are not used to undermine unique components of biodiversity.
- 4.3. To explore opportunities presented by environmental fiscal reforms including innovative taxation models and fiscal incentives for achieving the three objectives of the Convention.
- 4.4. To explore opportunities presented by promising innovative financial mechanisms such as markets for green products, business-biodiversity partnerships and new forms of charity.
- 4.5. To integrate biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in the development of new and innovative sources of international development finance, taking into account conservation costs.
- 4.6. To encourage the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol to take into account biodiversity when developing any funding mechanisms for climate change.

Goal 5: Mainstream biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in development cooperation plans and priorities including the linkage between Convention's work programmes and Millennium Development Goals

- 5.1. To integrate considerations on biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services into the priorities, strategies and programmes of multilateral and bilateral donor organizations, including sectoral and regional priorities, taking into account the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
- 5.2. To integrate considerations on biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in economic and development plans, strategies and budgets of developing country Parties.
- 5.3. To integrate effectively the three objectives of the Convention into the United Nations development system, as well as international financial institutions and development banks.
- 5.4. To strengthen cooperation and coordination among funding partners at the regional and subregional levels, taking into account the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

5.5. To enhance financial, scientific, technical and technological cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations and public institutions for biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services.

Goal 6: Build capacity for resource mobilization and utilization and promote South-South cooperation as a complement to necessary North-South cooperation

6.1. To build local, national and regional capacities on resource mobilization skills, financial planning and effective resource utilization and management, and support awareness raising activities.

6.2. To identify, engage and increase South-South cooperation as complement to North South cooperation to enhance technical, technological, scientific and financial cooperation.

6.3. To promote exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.

Goal 7 Enhancing implementation of access and benefit-sharing initiatives and mechanisms in support of resource mobilization

7.1. To raise awareness and build the capacity of different stakeholders to implement access and benefit-sharing initiatives and mechanisms.

7.2. To promote exchange of experiences and good practices in access and benefit sharing.

Goal 8: Enhance the global engagement for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives

8.1. To raise public awareness of the importance of biological diversity and the goods and services that it provides at all levels in support of resource mobilization.

V. Implementation

The effective implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization will require an unremitting effort of all relevant stakeholders of the Convention at all levels. Political will and commitment to better recognize the importance of biological diversity in sustainable development must be reinforced in order to achieve the funding target.

The strategy for resource mobilization is intended to assist Parties in establishing national targets, goals and objectives as well as actions and timeframes, and in considering the establishment of financial mechanisms and other options, to implement the financial provisions of the Convention at all levels, based on success stories and good practices. Each Party should consider appointing a "resource mobilization focal point" to facilitate national implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization. National implementation should include, as appropriate, the design and dissemination of a country-specific resource mobilization strategy, with the involvement of key stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples

and local communities, environmental funds, businesses and donors, in the frame of updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, is invited to consider how it can contribute to the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, and report back to the Conference of the Parties through the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, including consideration of a plan to address the strategy for resource mobilization, in consultation with the GEF implementing agencies; The Conference of the Parties will review the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization at its regular meetings, with the following focus:

	Focus issues	Standing issues
COP 9	Adoption of the strategy	
COP 10	Goals 1, 3 and 4	Goals 6 and 8
COP 11	Goals 2, 5 and 7	Goals 6 and 8
COP 12	Comprehensive review of the implementation of the strategy	

The Executive Secretary should prepare periodic global monitoring reports on the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, and promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.

C. Message on biological diversity and finance to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting General Assembly resolution 62/187 of 19 December 2007 on Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Highlighting the need for a full integration of financing for biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services at the above-mentioned Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development,

Having considered recommendation II/2, paragraph 3, of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention that, at its ninth meeting, the Conference of the Parties should mandate its President to transmit a message on biodiversity and financing for development to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development,

Taking note of the draft of the message prepared by the Executive Secretary after informal consultations with Parties and relevant organizations,

1. *Adopts* the message on finance and biological diversity annexed to the present decision, as an input of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008;

2. *Requests* the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to transmit the message on finance and biological diversity to the President of the United Nations General Assembly for consideration by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development;

3. *Instructs* the Executive Secretary to promote awareness of the message on finance and biological diversity and participate actively in the process of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

Bonn Message on Finance and Biological Diversity

We, the participants in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the foremost international legal instrument for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Deeply concerned by the unprecedented rate of loss of biodiversity and associated decline in ecosystem services of our planet and its far-reaching environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts, exacerbated by the negative impacts of climate change,

Deeply concerned also that the consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption are harshest for the poor and that biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystem services pose a significant barrier to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the urgent need to redouble efforts to meet the 2010 biodiversity target of achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity,

Emphasizing that the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention requires that biodiversity considerations be mainstreamed into national development and poverty-reduction plans, policies and strategies, as well as into development-cooperation planning,

Highlighting the need to integrate financing for biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services into the decisions of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Hereby declare that its elements should include the following:

1. Governments and relevant organizations should increase financial resources for the effective and efficient implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in particular to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target as part of Goal 7, on environmental sustainability, of the Millennium Development Goals, taking into account the strategy on resource mobilization in support of the Convention's three objectives, as adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Bonn;

2. The international development and financial cooperation system, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and bilateral development agencies, as well as the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, are invited to increase direct investment and technical assistance in biodiversity projects and strive to mainstream biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services considerations into their overall programme of work to maximize potential for synergy;

3. Governments and relevant organizations should integrate into their strategies for poverty reduction and development the contribution of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services, to poverty eradication, national development and human well-being, as well as the economic, social, cultural, and other values of biodiversity as emphasized in the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. Governments and relevant organizations should support the development and completion for adoption of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, by 2010, in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. Governments and relevant organizations should develop and implement effective and innovative mechanisms, at local, national and international levels to promote the three objectives of the Convention, taking into account the value of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it generates, and the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities in maintaining it, including their rights to use their natural resources;

6. The business community, including the financial-services sector, should be encouraged to fully engage in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

7. South-South cooperation should be encouraged as an effective complementary tool to North South cooperation, to promote the transfer of technology and new flows of technical and financial resources to achieve the three objectives of the Convention.

IX/31. FINANCIAL MECHANISM

A. THIRD REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention,

Recalling also the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility,

Having reviewed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/9),

Having considered the independent report on the third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism of the Convention,

1. *Notes* the reform measures introduced by the Global Environment Facility to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the financial mechanism;

2. *Decides* to continue to explore ways and means to improve the effectiveness of providing guidance to the financial mechanism, including the four-year framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, coinciding with replenishments of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Requests* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take the following actions in order to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:

(a) Improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing

(b) Report on implementation of the four-year framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Enhance the role of the Global Environment Facility in providing and leveraging resources for activities to achieve the Convention's objectives;

(d) Address capacity constraints in developing countries Parties, especially Small Island developing States and least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition with regard to the implementation of the Resource Allocation Framework;

(e) Improve the project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties;

(f) Promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity;

(g) Elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(h) Include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office;

4. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary, the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility and the Director of the GEF Evaluation Office to continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) To invite Parties to submit assessments of their future funding needs based on their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(b) To compile these national submissions;

(c) To prepare, in consultation with the Parties, draft terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention for the sixth replenishment period of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the GEF Council, a proposal on the terms of reference including cost options for the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B. INPUT TO THE FIFTH REPLENISHMENT OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the elements for the four-year (2010-2014) framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, which were based on the existing guidance, the Strategic Plan of the Convention, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, GEF-4 strategy for biodiversity focal area, as well as findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

Taking note of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/9),

Taking noting also of the terms of reference for the mid-term review of the resource allocation framework approved version from the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/17),

Welcoming the dialogue between the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Bureau of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Paris on 8 July 2007,

Noting that the Global Environment Facility is built on the principles of country-drivenness and country ownership,

Highlighting the important role of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) as a tool in identifying national needs and priorities for financing from the Global Environment Facility,

Taking note of the recommendations to enhance the process of formulating and consolidating guidance to the financial mechanism and *recognizing* the need to provide coherent and prioritized guidance to the Global Environment Facility,

Having considered recommendation 2/3 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation,

1. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to maintain and strengthen the dialogue with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility with a view to enhancing the implementation of the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties during the fourth replenishment period of the Facility and onwards;

2. *Encourages* collaboration at national level between national focal points for the Convention, for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including

through the projects supported by the Facility, and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to promote such collaboration, including through regional and national workshops for the focal points;

3. *Suggests* the the four-year framework of programme priorities, as annexed to the present decision, for consideration during the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as related to utilization of Global Environment Facility resources for biodiversity for the period from 2010 to 2014;

4. *Acknowledges* the GEF-4 strategy for biodiversity is a useful starting point for GEF-5 and *requests* GEF, for the fifth replenishment period, to build on the GEF-4 strategy based on the four-year framework of Programme priorities in the annex to the present decision.

Annex I-3

Four-year Framework of Programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity for the period from 2010 to 2014

Programme priority area 1: Promote conservation of biological diversity, including through catalyzing sustainability of protected area systems

Outcome 1.1: Financing gap is reduced to meet protected area management objectives by securing increased revenue and diversification of revenue streams to meet total expenditures.

Outcome 1.2: Coverage of marine ecosystems globally and in national protected area systems is increased.

Outcome 1.3: Ecosystem coverage of under-represented terrestrial ecosystems areas as part of national protected area systems is improved.

Outcome 1.4: Management of terrestrial and marine protected areas is improved.

Outcome 1.5: Resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change is maintained and enhanced.

Outcome 1.6: Conservation status of threatened species is improved.

Programme priority area 2: Promote sustainable use of biodiversity

Outcome 2.1 Pressures on biodiversity from habitat change, land-use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use are reduced.

Outcome 2.2 Sustainable use of biological diversity in terrestrial ecosystems including in forest ecosystems, dry and sub-humid lands, mountain ecosystems and islands, particularly Small Island Developing States is enhanced.

Outcome 2.3 Sustainable use of biological diversity in aquatic ecosystems, including in inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems, and islands, particularly small island developing States is enhanced.

Programme priority area 3: Mainstream biological diversity into various national and sectoral policies and development strategies and programs

Outcome 3.1 Policy and regulatory frameworks governing sectors outside the environment sector incorporate measures to achieve the three objectives of the Convention.

Outcome 3.2 Markets are created for ecosystem services as well as for locally value-added ecosystem goods derived from sources that are sustainably managed.

Outcome 3.3 Technically rigorous biodiversity standards are mainstreamed into certification systems for goods produced in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and other sectors.

Outcome 3.4 Sustainable use, trade and consumption related to biological diversity are promoted.

Outcome 3.5 Social, economic and legal incentive measures are supportive of the Convention's three objectives.

Outcome 3.6 Agricultural biodiversity is promoted in agricultural systems and practices, and genetic resources important for food and agriculture are conserved and sustainably used and associated benefits are shared equitably.

Outcome 3.7 Forest and aquatic biodiversity is promoted in forestry and fishery systems and practices, and genetic resources important for human well-being are conserved and sustainably used and associated benefits are shared equitably.

Programme priority area 4: Improve national capacity to implement the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety^{6/}

Outcome 4.1 National biodiversity planning is enhanced, including elaboration and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Outcome 4.2 National biodiversity action plans are mainstreamed into development strategies and programmes.

Outcome 4.3 Implementation of the programme priorities is strengthened including through science, technology and innovation, clearing-house mechanism, and communication, education and public awareness.

Outcome 4.4 Developing countries' knowledge on all components of biodiversity, in particular through taxonomy, is improved.

Outcome 4.5 National compliance with reporting obligations under the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is promoted.

Outcome 4.6 Protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices is improved, and the involvement of local and indigenous communities in the achievement of the Convention's three objectives is strengthened.

Outcome 4.7 Transfer of and access to technologies are promoted and facilitated from developed to developing countries as well as among developing countries and other Parties.

Outcome 4.8 National biosafety frameworks are established as appropriate in line with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

^{6/} The programme priority needs for biosafety for the period 2010 to 2014 can be found in part C of the present decision, taken from decision BS-IV/5 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Programme priority area 5: Promote the implementation of the Convention's third objective and support the implementation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing^{7/}

Outcome 5.1 Measures to facilitate access to genetic resources in accordance with national legislation and in harmony with the relevant CBD provisions and are promoted.

Outcome 5.2 Measures to encourage the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, on mutually agreed terms, arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in harmony with the relevant CBD provisions and in accordance with national legislation are promoted.

Outcome 5.3 Development and implementation of national systems on access and benefit sharing in accordance with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties are promoted.

Programme priority area 6: Safeguard biodiversity

Outcome 6.1 Threats to biological diversity from invasive alien species are controlled.

Outcome 6.2 Operational national biosafety frameworks contribute to the safe use of biotechnology and to the protection of the environment and human health.

C. Additional guidance to the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the compilation of the past guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/15),

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to identify obsolete, repetitive and overlapping guidance, and prepare an updated compilation of the existing guidance to the financial mechanism, which should incorporate all decisions related to the financial mechanism, as a working document three months prior to the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation;
2. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation at its third meeting:
 - (a) To review the updated compilation with participation of representatives from relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, as appropriate. This review shall provide recommendations on retirement, streamlining and consolidation of previous guidance;
 - (b) To propose a system for communicating a coherent, prioritized and clear set of programme priorities during the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties and leading up to GEF-6 replenishment negotiation.
 - (c) To submit the results of its consideration to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;
3. *Decides*, at its tenth meeting, to:
 - (a) Consider the recommendations of the Working Group on Review of Implementation at its third meeting;
 - (b) Consider requests for new guidance in light of the recommendations of the Working Group on Review of Implementation at its third meeting on streamlined guidance;

^{7/} Without prejudging the relevant decision of the Conference of the Parties on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

4. *Decides* to provide the following additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility in the provision of financial resources, in accordance with Article 20 and Article 21, paragraph 1 of the Convention and in conformity with decisions I/2, II/6, III/5, IV/13, V/13, VI/17, VII/20 and VIII/18 of the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, the Global Environment Facility should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and the small island developing States amongst them, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the mandate of the Global Environment Facility, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties;

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

5. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to consider the following guidance, submitted in its entirety in decision IV/5, paragraph 4, of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, noting that subparagraph (f) should be considered in the context of the programme priorities in decision IX/31 of the present decision, and to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting:

(a) *Requests* the Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office to assess the impact of the Resource Allocation Framework on the implementation of the Protocol, and propose measures that can minimize potential resource limitations that may affect the implementation of the Protocol including measures that facilitate consideration of regional and subregional projects developed by the countries of the region;

(b) *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to make financial resources available with a view to enable eligible Parties to prepare their national report;

(c) *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to extend the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Clearing-House project, in its current form as a global project with a view to ensuring sustainability of national Biosafety Clearing-House nodes and providing more capacity-building support, with special attention to targeted stakeholders (e.g., customs departments and phytosanitary inspectors), and to provide additional funding for these activities from sources other than the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) taking into consideration the global nature of the project;

(d) *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, at the request of developing countries Governments, to provide financial and other support to enable universities and relevant institutions to develop and/or expand existing biosafety academic programmes and provide scholarships to students from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition;

(e) *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, to cooperate with and support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in their efforts to build their capacities in the area of sampling and detection of living modified organisms, including the setting up of laboratory facilities and training of local regulatory and scientific personnel;

(f) *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider the following programme funding priority needs for biosafety during the period of its fifth replenishment (2010-2014), where

appropriate, using the issue-specific approach and providing longer-term support for building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity:

- (i) Implementation of legal and administrative systems for notification procedures;
- (ii) Risk assessment and risk management;
- (iii) Implementation of enforcement measures including detection of living modified organisms;
- (iii) Implementation of liability and redress measures.

Global Biodiversity Outlook

6. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to assist with the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and donors, to make timely financial contributions for the preparation and production of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and ancillary products. These funds should be provided as early as possible so that the Global Biodiversity Outlook can be finalized in advance of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in all United Nations languages, and with a draft available for review at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

Technology transfer and cooperation

7. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to:
- (a) Provide support to developing country Parties in the preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) Continue to support ongoing national programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through improved access to and transfer of technology and innovation;
 - (c) Consider possibilities to provide funding under enabling activities for the provision of capacity-building, where needed, on, *inter alia*:

Technologies for conservation and sustainable use;

1. Governance and regulatory frameworks associated with access and transfer of technology and innovation;

Clearing-house mechanism

8. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility and other donors to continue to provide funding to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, for the establishment and updating of their clearing-house mechanisms;

Biodiversity strategies

9. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, and *urges* Governments and other donors to provide funding to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the

revision and implementation, through projects, of national, and where appropriate, regional biodiversity strategies;

Ecosystem approach

2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and other funding institutions and development agencies to provide financial support for the implementation of the ecosystem approach by developing countries, particularly the least developed and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, and encourages bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to apply the ecosystem approach in providing aid assistance;

Engagement of stakeholders

11. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, and *invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to support capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States and Parties with economies in transition, for engaging the business community in the implementation of the Convention;

Global Invasive Species Programme

12. *Reiterates* its invitation to the Global Environment Facility, Parties, other Governments and funding organizations to provide adequate and timely financial support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfill the tasks outlined in many of its decisions;

Protected areas

13. *Urges* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and *invites* other Governments and international financial institutions including the Global Environment Facility, the regional development banks and other multilateral financial institutions to provide the adequate, predictable and timely financial support, to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states as well as countries with economies in transition, to enable the full implementation of the programme of work on protected areas;

14. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to:

(a) Continue to provide, and facilitate easier access to financial resources for protected areas in its biodiversity focal area including projects such as the UNDP/GEF project “Supporting Country Action on the CBD programme of work on protected areas”, so as to extend support to developing countries, in particular the small island developing States and least developed countries among them, and countries with economies in transition, taking into account the goals and targets set in the programme of work;

(b) To consider support for proposals that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change.

(c) To ensure that protected areas remain a priority of the Global Environment Facility for the foreseeable future.

ANNEX II

STATUS OF POPs ENABLING ACTIVITIES NATIONAL PLANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION: STATUS OF GEF APPROVAL AND SUBMISSION TO THE STOCKHOLM SECRETARIAT

Nbr	Country	Date of GEF approval	Date of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention	Date of NIP submission
1	Albania	25-Sep-03	04-Oct-04	12-Feb-07
2	Algeria	14-Nov-01	22-Sep-06	06-Oct-07
3	Angola	27-Mar-08	23-Oct-06	Not submitted
4	Antigua and Barbuda	03-Mar-03	10-Sep-03	Not submitted
5	Argentina	10-Feb-03	25-Jan-05	25-Apr-07
6	Armenia	14-Nov-01	26-Nov-03	29-Apr-06
7	Azerbaijan	25-Aug-04	13-Jan-04	Not submitted
8	Bahamas	27-Oct-05	03-Oct-05	Not submitted
9	Bangladesh	27-Mar-02	12-Mar-07	Not submitted
10	Barbados	29-Apr-02	07-Jun-04	10-Dec-07
11	Belarus	28-May-04	03-Feb-04	17-Jan-07
12	Belize	17-Feb-05	Not ratified *	Not submitted
13	Benin	22-Nov-02	05-Jan-04	Not submitted
14	Bolivia	22-Feb-02	03-Jun-03	19-Sep-05
15	Botswana	01-Jul-03	28-Oct-02	Not submitted
16	Brazil	28-Aug-06 (CEO end.)	16-Jun-04	Not submitted
17	Bulgaria	29-Apr-02	20-Dec-04	27-Sep-06
18	Burkina Faso	10-Apr-03	31-Dec-04	02-Apr-07
19	Burundi	20-Nov-02	02-Aug-05	28-Mar-06
20	Cambodia	24-Mar-03	25-Aug-06	03-May-07
21	Cameroon	10-Apr-03	Not ratified *	Not submitted
22	Cape Verde	18-Oct-05	01-Mar-06	Not submitted
23	Central African Republic	22-May-02	12-Feb-08	Not submitted
24	Chad	13-Jun-02	10-Mar-06	28-Apr-06
25	Chile	29-Apr-02	20-Jan-05	30-May-06
26	China	09-Sep-04	13-Aug-04	18-Apr-07
27	Colombia	10-Jun-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
28	Comoros	31-Jul-03	23-Feb-07	29-Jan-08
29	Congo, Rep of	19-Apr-02	12-Feb-07	26-Feb-07
30	Cook Islands	03-Mar-08	29-Jun-04	Not submitted
31	Costa Rica	10-Dec-04	06-Feb-07	Not submitted
32	Cote d'Ivoire	09-Oct-01	20-Jan-04	24-May-06

33	Croatia	14-Nov-01	30-Jan-07	Not submitted
34	Cuba	08-Jul-03	21-Dec-07	Not submitted
35	Czech Republic	31-Jul-01	06-Aug-02	08-May-06
36	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	14-Feb-07	23-Mar-05	Not submitted
37	Djibouti	22-Nov-02	11-Mar-04	01-Jun-06
38	Dominica	03-Mar-05	08-Aug-03	Not submitted
39	Dominican Republic	30-Mar-06	04-May-07	Not submitted
40	Ecuador	29-Apr-02	07-Jun-04	06-Sep-06
41	Egypt	03-Sep-02	02-May-03	16-Mar-06
42	El Salvador	13-Mar-06	27-May-08	Not submitted
43	Eritrea	13-Feb-07	10-Mar-05	Not submitted
44	Ethiopia	29-Jul-02	09-Jan-03	09-Mar-07
45	Fiji	20-Dec-01	20-Jun-01	21-Jun-06
46	Gabon	20-Nov-02	07-May-07	Not submitted
47	Gambia	22-May-02	28-Apr-06	Not submitted
48	Georgia	10-Feb-03	04-Oct-06	Not submitted
49	Ghana	29-Oct-01	30-May-03	21-Jan-08
50	Guatemala	19-Apr-02	30-Jul-08	Not submitted
51	Guinea	29-Apr-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
52	Guinea-Bissau	07-Jul-04	06-Aug-08	Not submitted
53	Haiti	03-Sep-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
54	Honduras	22-Mar-04	23-May-05	Not submitted
55	Hungary	01-Aug-01	14-Mar-08	Not submitted
56	India	14-Jun-07 (CEO end.)	13-Jan-06	Not submitted
57	Indonesia	14-Nov-01	Not ratified *	Not submitted
58	Iran	13-Feb-02	06-Feb-06	02-Aug-08
59	Jamaica	22-Nov-02	01-Jun-07	Not submitted
60	Jordan	13-Jun-02	08-Nov-04	26-Dec-06
61	Kazakhstan	21-Dec-01	09-Nov-07	Not submitted
62	Kenya	09-Oct-01	24-Sep-04	14-Apr-07
63	Kiribati	22-Nov-02	07-Sep-04	Not submitted
64	Korea DPR	08-Dec-03	26-Aug-02	Not submitted
65	Kyrgyzstan	05-Aug-03	12-Dec-06	Not submitted
66	Lao PDR	19-Apr-02	28-Jun-06	Not submitted
67	Latvia	30-Jul-02	28-Oct-04	07-Jun-05
68	Lebanon	29-Apr-02	03-Jan-03	17-May-06
69	Lesotho	19-Apr-02	23-Jan-02	Not submitted
70	Liberia	27-Jan-03	23-May-02	Not submitted
71	Lithuania	10-Mar-03	05-Dec-06	6-Apr-07
72	Macedonia	14-Nov-01	27-May-04	02-Sep-05
73	Madagascar	24-Mar-03	18-Nov-05	Not submitted
74	Malaysia	29-Apr-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted

75	Malawi	03-Sep-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
76	Mali	29-Apr-02	05-Sep-03	09-Aug-06
77	Marshall Islands	10-Apr-03	27-Jan-03	Not submitted
78	Mauritania	20-Dec-01	22-Jul-05	Not submitted
79	Mauritius	03-Sep-02	13-Jul-04	11-Oct-06
80	Mexico	03-Jun-04	10-Feb-03	02-Feb-08
81	Micronesia	29-Apr-02	15-Jul-05	Not submitted
82	Moldova	25-Apr-02	07-Apr-04	25-Aug-05
83	Mongolia	30-Jul-02	30-Apr-04	08-Jan-08
84	Morocco	19-Apr-02	15-Jun-04	02-May-06
85	Mozambique	22-May-02	31-Oct-05	12-Aug-08
86	Nauru	03-Jul-03	09-May-02	Not submitted
87	Nepal	22-May-02	06-Mar-07	25-Sep-07
88	Nicaragua	13-Aug-03	01-Dec-05	29-Apr-06
89	Niger	06-May-02	12-Apr-06	Not submitted
90	Nigeria	14-Nov-01	24-May-04	Not submitted
91	Niue	28-Aug-02	02-Sep-05	25-Jan-05
92	Oman	31-Jul-03	19-Jan-05	Not submitted
93	Pakistan	28-Aug-02	17-Apr-08	Not submitted
94	Palau	06-May-03	Not ratified *	Not submitted
95	Panama	21-Apr-05	05-Mar-03	Not submitted
96	Papua New Guinea	29-Apr-02	07-Oct-03	Not submitted
97	Paraguay	12-Nov-03	01-Apr-04	Not submitted
98	Peru	19-Dec-03	14-Sep-05	19-Dec-07
99	Philippines	22-Oct-01	27-Feb-04	19-Jun-06
100	Poland	01-Aug-01	Not ratified *	Not submitted
101	Romania	04-Oct-01	28-Oct-04	12-Apr-06
102	Russian Federation	16-Nov-07 (Council app.)	Not ratified *	Not submitted
103	Rwanda	08-Jan-03	05-Jun-02	30-May-07
104	Samoa	18-Sep-01	04-Feb-02	21-Jun-07
105	Sao Tome and Principe	20-Nov-02	12-Apr-06	12-Apr-07
106	Senegal	24-Mar-03	08-Oct-03	26-Apr-07
107	Serbia	10-Apr-03	Not ratified *	Not submitted
108	Seychelles	20-Nov-02	03-Jun-08	Not submitted
109	Sierra Leone	07-Feb-06	26-Sep-03	Not submitted
110	Slovak Republic	04-Oct-01	05-Aug-02	12-Dec-06
111	Slovenia	29-Apr-02	04-May-04	Not submitted
112	South Africa	03-Sep-02	04-Sep-02	Not submitted
113	Sri Lanka	13-Jun-02	22-Dec-05	28-Sep-07
114	St. Lucia	08-Jul-03	04-Oct-02	10-Jul-07
115	Sudan	08-Jan-03	29-Aug-06	04-Sep-07
116	Suriname	07-Feb-06	Not ratified *	Not submitted

117	Swaziland	25-Mar-08	13-Jan-06	Not submitted
118	Syria	03-Sep-02	05-Aug-05	Not submitted
119	Tajikistan	13-Aug-03	08-Feb-07	14-Nov-07
120	Tanzania	14-Nov-01	30-Apr-04	12-Jun-06
121	Thailand	06-May-03	31-Jan-05	07-Aug-08
122	Togo	14-Nov-01	22-Jul-04	13-Oct-06
123	Tonga	22-Nov-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
124	Trinidad and Tobago	07-Feb-06	13-Dec-02	Not submitted
125	Tunisia	14-Nov-01	17-Jun-04	30-Jan-07
126	Turkey	17-Dec-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
127	Tuvalu	17-Feb-05	19-Jan-04	Not submitted
128	Uganda	09-Mar-05	20-Jul-04	Not submitted
129	Ukraine	06-May-03	25-Sep-07	Not submitted
130	Uruguay	13-Jun-02	09-Sep-04	01-Jun-06
131	Vanuatu	24-Mar-03	16-Sep-05	Not submitted
132	Venezuela	20-Nov-02	19-Apr-05	Not submitted
133	Vietnam	18-Sep-01	22-Jul-02	11-Sep-07
134	Yemen	22-May-02	09-Jan-04	Not submitted
135	Zambia	29-Apr-02	07-Jul-06	Not submitted
136	Zimbabwe	22-Nov-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted

* If 'Not ratified', country is not yet a Party and therefore not formally required to submit its NIP. However, these countries are eligible for GEF funding because they are signatories to the Convention.