



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 considered document GEF/C.35/3, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, and 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 Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol). The document also provides information on relations of the GEF with other international conventions and institutions.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) A brief report and list of joint activities planned by the CBD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat to celebrate International Year on Biodiversity in 2010.
- (b) Current status and progress of preparation of the Fourth National Biodiversity reports is presented as they are received by the CBD Secretariat.
- (c) A brief report on the seventh Meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UNCCD and the first session of the Commission on Science and Technology held in Istanbul, Turkey 6 – 17 November, 2008.
- (d) Proposed response by the GEF to guidance provided by the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC and the 4th session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Poznan, Poland 1-12, December 2008;
- (e) A brief note on further cooperation of the GEF with Stockholm Convention and a report of the fourth Meeting of the COP to the Stockholm Convention 4-8 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland;
- (f) A brief report on the 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Doha, Qatar 16-20 November 2008;
- (g) A brief report on progress of cooperation and participation in meetings organized by the United Nations Forum on Forests;
- (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 November 2008 within the context of the CBD, 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. From October 2008 to 31 March 2009, Burundi, Georgia, Honduras, Central African Republic, Malawi, Pakistan and the Comoros deposited with the United Nations Secretary General their instruments of ratification or accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Thus a total of 156 Parties to the CBD have acceded to or ratified the Protocol. The list of Parties is available on the website: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/signinglist.shtml>.

Meetings and events

3. The GEF Secretariat was invited by the CBD Secretariat to join the Task Force on the International Year on Biodiversity (IYB), which is planned in 2010. The Task Force has been formed to ensure coordinated implementation of the IYB strategy and action plan across relevant Agencies to: 1) enhance public awareness on the importance of conserving biodiversity and on the underlying threats to biodiversity; 2) promote innovative solutions to reduce these threats; 3) call on individuals, organizations, and governments to take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss; 4) raise awareness of the accomplishments by communities and governments to save biodiversity; and 5) initiate dialogue among stakeholders on necessary steps for the post-2010 period. The GEF plans to utilize this opportunity to increase global awareness on the continued and irreparable loss of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, and showcase innovative solutions through its programs and projects. The GEF Secretariat is in close communication with the CBD Secretariat and other partners for the initiative.

4. The GEF Secretariat attended the sixth Meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity Building for Biosafety, 12-13 March 2009 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The results of the meeting were: 1) the draft elements of the capacity-building component of the strategic plan for the Protocol, which the Secretariat will use to further develop the plan to be discussed at the next meeting of the Liaison Group; 2) the needs assessment framework, which will use the format of the revised set of indicators listed under the Annex of decision BS-IV/3, of the COP-MOP 4. The needs assessment should be carried out every four years, coinciding with the COP-MOP meeting. The countries should be requested to complete the assessment within 6 months prior to the meeting; and 3) the reporting format needs to be completed by the parties prior to the next meeting of the Parties in order to have baseline information to guide the discussions at COP-MOP 5 regarding the strategic plan for the Protocol.

5. The GEF Secretariat is also participating in the Interagency Task Force on Access and Benefit-sharing and will attend the negotiations of the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing as they unfold over the next two years before COP 10 in Nagoya.

National Reporting

6. On 30 March, 2009 (deadline set in decision VIII/14), a total of 26 fourth national reports were received. All of these reports have been posted on the CBD website at <https://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04> . Since then, another 13 fourth national reports have been received as of 18th of May, making a total of 39 completed reports. However, 10 of 39 are from countries that are not GEF funding eligible. Of the remaining countries, 20 reports are expected by the end of May 2009 and 45 reports by the end of June 2009. Fifty-five countries have informed the UNCBD Secretariat that report preparation is under way.

7. By 1 April 2009, 166 Parties had completed their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and, of this total, 21 Parties had completed revisions to their NBSAP while 15 have revisions in process. The Secretariat has received the large majority of available NBSAPs and made them available on the Convention's website at <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>. The Secretariat is also aware that 12 Parties are in the process of preparing their NBSAP.

8. The CBD Secretariat participates in the TAG meetings convened by the GEF Secretariat to revise the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy.

9. During the reporting period, the GEF participated in the seventh Meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (CRIC-7) which took place from November, 6-17, 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey.

10. CRIC-7 and the first special session of the Commission on Science and Technology (CST-S1) focused mainly on issues related to the UNCCD 10-year-strategy and its results-based monitoring and assessment system. It also discussed in detail the 4-year and 2-year work programs of the CRIC, the new CST, the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) as well as their joint work programme (JWP). The final days of the meeting were dedicated to the reporting guidelines for various stakeholder groups including the Parties, International Organizations and the GEF.

11. Three main issues were relevant for the GEF:

- (a) The UNCCD Secretariat is currently drafting the reporting elements that will make up reporting guidelines such as a consolidated list of performance indicators, the rationale for collecting and disseminating best practices, and information relevant to measuring investment flows. Pending the decision by Parties on the reporting elements, the reporting guidelines will be produced. That will include requirements to the GEF on its report to the COP in line with the concluded Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that already exists between the UNCCD and the GEF, based on the Impact and Performance Indicators for the 10-Year Strategy that will be adopted at COP 9.
- (b) GEF was requested to enhance its support to monitoring UNCCD implementation through a new indicator-based reporting approach. It was clarified that any request of the kind, can be accommodated within the Council decision, which is that these type of projects need to be developed in line with the incremental

cost principle. It was agreed to use the UNCCD 10-years strategy process and the drive for results-based management, to develop an approach to national reports that will link the UNCCD 10-year strategy with NAPs and the related national reports.

- (c) Continued interest was expressed in a strong collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD on the development of results indicators for the Convention implementation and projects and programs addressing land degradation. The renewed CST has made the indicator work one of its priorities. GEF will continue its collaboration with the CST on results indicators.

12. The GEF Land Degradation Focal Area had started its second full replenishment period since its introduction into the GEF system in 2002. At the intergovernmental level, there is an important political support to the replenishment of the GEF in general and to the land degradation focal area in particular. In its resolution 63/218 adopted on 19 December, 2008, the United Nations General Assembly invited donors to the Global Environmental Facility “to ensure that the Facility is adequately resourced during the next replenishment period in order to allow it to allocate sufficient and adequate resources to its six focal areas, in particular its land degradation focal area”. Further, the intergovernmental meetings, particularly the recently concluded seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, added their voice to that of the Assembly to support the increase of the envelope to be allocated to the land degradation focal area.

13. The GEF directly supports the implementation of the UNCCD as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention. The UNCCD Secretariat is an active member of the Technical Advisory Group for developing the GEF-5 strategy for the land degradation focal area and the Interagency Taskforce. Through this interactive process, it will be assured that GEF investments dealing with combating land degradation and desertification in particular, will be fully in line with the objective of the UNCCD and the action programs developed under the Convention.

14. The GEF has actively participated in the Inter-Agency Task Force on reporting guidelines to countries and organizations to the COP. These guidelines will be approved by the COP during COP-9. It was emphasized a close collaboration between the UNCCD processes on indicators (10-years strategy and CST) and the GEF related activities (LD FA strategy with indicators and the project *KM : Land* which is developing a full indicator framework for projects and programs dealing with sustainable land management as an approach to combat land degradation).

15. UNEP in collaboration with the UNCCD Secretariat advised by the GEF Secretariat on GEF policy-related matters are currently preparing a project proposal which will undertake a scientifically rigorous and credible assessment of the performance of the implementation of the UNCCD at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels and to build/strengthen capacity and knowledge management systems for subsequent assessments. This project will be submitted to Council for approval in a forthcoming GEF-4 work program and be financed consistent with the GEF incremental cost principle.

Upcoming COP-9 of UNCCD

16. The Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) to the UNCCD will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from September 21 until 2 October 2009.

17. As agreed in the MOU between the GEF and the UNCCD, the GEF will report to the COP on its contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD as an operating entity of the financial mechanism.

18. COP-9 will set the stage for a new reporting framework and a monitoring process at national, regional and global level, including new Terms of Reference for the CRIC. Results based work programs and plans will be considered, to enhance the effectiveness of Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies in their attempt to provide services to Parties implementing the Convention and the 10-year Strategy.

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

19. The 14th session of the COP to the UNFCCC and the fourth session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) were held in Poznan, Poland, from 1 to 12 December 2008. Parties took a number of decisions, which require action from the GEF acting as one operating entity of the financial mechanism and the GEF Secretariat serving as the secretariat of the Adaptation Fund Board. Decisions by the COP and the CMP and the actions taken by the GEF secretariat are presented in the table below.

Decision	GEF Sec Actions
Development and Transfer of Technology	
<p>Request the GEF: (a) To promptly initiate and expeditiously facilitate the preparation of projects for approval and implementation under the strategic program referred to in paragraph 1 above in order to help developing countries address their needs for environmentally sound technologies.</p>	<p>With the facilitation of the GEF Secretariat, a global project for Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) has been launched, to be implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The project concept has been developed and is approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council in the April Intersessional Work Program.</p> <p>A call for proposals for technology transfer pilot projects was issued in March 2009 by the GEF CEO to all national GEF operational focal points and GEF Agencies.</p>
<p>(b) To collaborate with its implementing agencies in order to provide technical support to developing countries in preparing or updating, as appropriate, their technology needs assessments using the updated handbook for conducting technology needs assessments for climate change published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to be made available in early 2009 in collaboration with the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, the UNFCCC secretariat and the Climate Technology Initiative.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat convened a TNA stakeholder meeting in January 2009, following the decision from Poznan, to initiate the TNA operationalization.</p> <p>A project concept (Project Identification Form (PIF)) for the global TNA project was developed and submitted by UNEP, in close collaboration with the GEF Secretariat and in consultation with members from the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) and other stakeholders. The PIF was cleared by the GEF CEO on March 5, 2009 and is approved in April by the LDCF/SCCF Council.</p>
<p>c) To consider the long-term implementation of the strategic programme, including: addressing the gaps identified in current operations of the Global Environment Facility, that relate to investment in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies; leveraging private-sector investment; and promoting innovative project development activities.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat, through the Climate Change Technical Advisory Group, is developing the climate change strategy for the fifth replenishment of the GEF. The draft strategy includes technology transfer as a key strategic program for funding under GEF-5.</p>
<p>(d) To report on the progress made in carrying out the activities referred to in paragraph (a–c) above to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session, in addition to providing interim reports to the Subsidiary Body for</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat is preparing an interim report on the implementation of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer, and will submit it to the SBI 30 in early June. The GEF Secretariat will provide a more</p>

<p>Implementation (SBI) at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, with a view to assessing its progress and future direction in order to help inform Parties in their consideration of long-term needs for implementation of the strategic program.</p>	<p>detailed progress report on the implementation of the Poznan decision on the development and transfer of technology and submit to COP15 in due course.</p>
<p>Financial mechanism of the Convention: fourth review of the financial mechanism.</p>	<p>No specific action is required from the GEF.</p>
<p>Adaptation Fund</p>	
<p>At CMP 4, the CMP: <i>Adopted</i> the memorandum of understanding between CMP and the Council of the GEF regarding secretariat services to be provided to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), by the GEF Secretariat on an interim basis. The memorandum of understanding is contained in annex II of decision 1/CMP.4. <i>Requested</i> the Executive Secretary to inform the Council of the GEF of the adoption of the memorandum of understanding.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat will forward the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the GEF Council for its approval, and inform the UNFCCC Secretariat accordingly.</p> <p>In accordance with the MoU, the GEF Secretariat will continue to provide secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), on an interim basis.</p>
<p>Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund</p>	
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention operating the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).</p> <p>(a) To work with its agencies to improve communication with least developed country Parties and to speed up the process through, for instance, establishing a time frame within which least developed country Parties can access funding and other support for the preparation and implementation of projects identified in national adaptation programs of action.</p>	<p>The GEF is working with its Agencies to improve communication with the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the process of the preparation and development of the projects.</p>
<p>(b) To assist, as appropriate, and in collaboration with its agencies and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the remaining least developed country Parties that have not submitted their national adaptation programs of action, in completing and submitting their national adaptation programs of action as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The GEF is working with its Agencies to provide the relevant assistance to LDCs.</p>

<p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in parallel to supporting the ongoing implementation of the national adaptation programs of action, to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the least developed countries work program.</p>	<p>The GEF is working to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDCs work programme. The GEF is in the process of completing the Step-By-Step Guide to the LDCF. An advanced draft was presented by a GEF representative at the 15th Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) meeting, which was held in Cotonou, Benin, 3-5 March, 2009.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to inform its agencies of relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties on the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), in order to allow the agencies to take these into account in fulfilling their Global Environment Facility obligations.</p>	<p>The GEF through its adaptation Task Force is providing the relevant information to the Agencies.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to consider the views of, and any concerns expressed by, Parties regarding their experiences with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies in relation to the provision of financial and technical support for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action and related elements of the least developed country work programme, as contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2007/32, FCCC/SBI/2008/14 and CCC/SBI/2008/MISC.8.</p>	<p>The GEF is taking into consideration the relevant views expressed by countries and is informing its Agencies.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to raise awareness of the need for adequate and predictable resources under the Least Developed Countries Fund to allow full implementation of the least developed country work programme, in particular national adaptation programmes of action.</p>	<p>The GEF will work with the donor countries to improve the adequacy and predictability of resources under the LDCF.</p>
<p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include, in its reports to the Conference of the Parties, information on steps it has taken to implement this decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at subsequent sessions.</p>	<p>The GEF will include the relevant information in the report to the COP.</p>

Matters Related to the Least Developed Countries

<p>The SBI invited the LEG to assess, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies, the support needed to implement NAPA projects. The SBI noted the ongoing development of the Quick Guide to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) by the GEF and of the step-by-step guide for NAPA implementation by the LEG as part of its work programme for 2008–2010. It encouraged the LEG to provide, based on these guides, technical support and training in development of NAPA projects for implementation, as mentioned in its work programme, as soon as possible, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with the GEF and its agencies.</p>	<p>The GEF is in the process of completing the Step-By-Step Guide to the LDCF. An advanced draft was presented by a GEF representative at the 15th LEG meeting, which was held in Cotonou, Benin, from the 3 to the 5 of March, 2009..</p> <p>On behalf of the GEF Secretariat, a presentation was done in two parts with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the main elements of the GEF project cycle, summarized in the quick guide and 2) the status of NAPA implementation. The presentation was welcomed by LDC and Annex 1 members of the LEG countries (Austria, Canada, and the Netherlands).
<p>Additional Guidance to the GEF</p>	
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility: (a) To fully address issues raised over the implementation of the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF).</p>	<p>The GEF through consultation via the Country Support Programme and regional constituency meetings is addressing issues raised over the implementation of the RAF.</p>
<p>(b) To provide information on a regular basis on the composition and objective of the co-financing for projects funded by the Global Environment Facility.</p>	<p>This information will be included in the GEF report to the COP.</p>
<p>(c) To continue to enhance action on mitigation and, as appropriate, adaptation, in developing country Parties, including to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how.</p>	<p>Through the programme for technology transfer and other programmes such as the West Africa Programme and the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability the GEF continues to enhance action on adaptation and mitigation.</p>
<p>(d) To continue to improve access for all developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, to Global Environment Facility resources.</p>	<p>The GEF is developing specific targeted initiatives to those countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change. The <i>GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability</i> is underway to assist small island states in the Pacific region. The West Africa Program is also underway.</p>
<p>(e) To continue to encourage its implementing and executing agencies to perform their functions as efficiently and transparently as possible, in accordance with guidance of the</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to work with Agencies on these issues.</p>

Conference of the Parties.	
(f) To ensure, as a top priority, that sufficient 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, noting and welcoming that a number of Parties not included in the Annex I (non-Annex I Parties) plan to initiate the preparation of their third or fourth national communications by the end of the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.	The GEF will continue to meet the full agreed costs related to the implementation of Article 12.1 of the UNFCCC.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environmental Facility to inform its implementing agencies of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties and of relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular its Article 4, paragraph 3, on the provision of new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.	The GEF will continue to work with Agencies on these issues.
<i>Reiterates</i> the following requests made by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session to the Global Environment Facility. (a) To 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.	The GEF will continue to meet the full agreed costs related to the implementation of Article 12.1 of the UNFCCC.
(b) To refine, as appropriate, operational procedures to ensure the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by those non-Annex I Parties that are in the process of preparing their third and, where appropriate, fourth national communications.	The GEF will examine the current procedures and refine them if appropriate.
(c) To assist, as appropriate, non-Annex I Parties in formulating and developing project proposals identified in their national communications in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 2.	The GEF will continue to work with Agencies on this issue.
(d) To work with its implementing agencies to continue to simplify their procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of	The GEF will continue to work with Agencies on these issues.

the process through which non-Annex I Parties receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations.	
<i>Also reiterates</i> the invitation made by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session to the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide information on funding for projects that have been identified in the national communications of non-Annex I Parties in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and subsequently submitted and approved.	The GEF continue to include the information in the report to the COP.
<i>Further reiterates</i> its request to the Global Environmental Facility to make continued efforts to provide adequate financial resources to support the implementation of capacity-building activities consistent with decision 2/CP.7.	The GEF will continue to provide financial resources for capacity building activities, consistent with 2/CP.7.
<i>Further requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to include, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties, information responsive to guidance of the Conference of the Parties.	The GEF will continue to include all of the relevant information in the report to the COP.
Provision of Financial and Technical support for National Communications from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention	
The SBI invited the GEF to continue to provide information, ensuring that it is detailed and complete, on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications 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 thirtieth session.	The GEF has prepared and submitted a report to the SBI on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.

The UNFCCC Secretariat participates in the TAG meetings convened by the GEF Secretariat to revise the GEF climate change focal area strategy.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

20. The fourth meeting of the COP to the Stockholm Convention met from 4 to 8 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. The GEF Secretariat will make proposals to the Council on responding to

new guidance developed by the COP, and to the challenges raised by the listing of new Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), in the context of the GEF-5 strategy under development and in the November 2009 Relations with Conventions paper.

21. Following the fourth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, 13-17 October 2008, Geneva, Switzerland, to which the GEF Secretariat participated, a total of 9 chemicals were being proposed to the COP for listing under the Stockholm Convention. This is the first time that the COP had to consider adding new chemicals under its control, and it took the historic decision to list all nine chemicals proposed.

22. The COP also discussed the second independent review of the Financial Mechanism, the "Needs Assessment" report, and the GEF report to COP-4 that was adopted by Council by circulation and submitted as official document to the COP.

Participation in meetings

23. The Secretariat participated in a number of awareness-raising and capacity building workshops organized by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, including the Stakeholders' meeting to review the draft Business Plan to promote a global partnership for developing alternatives to DDT, from 3 to 5 November 2008, Geneva, Switzerland; the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) sub-regional workshop, from 10 to 12 March 2009, Barbados; and the Regional capacity-building workshop on the guidelines on best available techniques (BAT) and provisional guidance on best environmental practices (BEP) for Francophone Africa, from 23 to 25 March 2009, Dakar, Senegal.

24. The Secretariat will continue to seek to participate in such workshops as this strengthens the relationship with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and maximizes opportunities to provide training to country focal points on GEF programs and procedures. The Stockholm Convention Secretariat, in addition to participating in GEF Operations Committee (GEFOP) meetings, has been a regular participant in the POPs Task Force and the Chemicals TAG.

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

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

26. The GEF Secretariat attended the 20th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol, 16-20 November 2008 in Doha, Qatar. Amongst other things, the MOP adopted a decision on the amount of the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the triennium 2009 - 2011 for a total of \$490 million, including \$400 million of new funding.

27. In the context of increased attention to linkages between the ozone and the climate regimes, the parties decided to hold a one day workshop back to back to the forthcoming Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) in July 2009 on Dialogue on high-global warming potential alternatives for ozone-depleting substances (decision XX/8).

28. The parties also adopted a decision on environmentally sound management of banks of

ozone-depleting substances (decision XX/7) that “[...] invite Parties, international funding agencies, including the Multilateral Fund and the Global Environment Facility, and other interested agents to enable practical solutions for the purpose of gaining better knowledge on mitigating ozone-depleting substance emissions and destroying ozone depleting substance banks, and on costs related to the collection, transportation, storage and destruction of ozone depleting substances [...]”; and to convene a one day workshop on the matter back to back to the OEWG.

29. The GEF Secretariat has responded to the Ozone Secretariat’s invitation to comment on its draft report regarding funding opportunities. GEF participation is expected at these two workshops.

30. The Ozone Secretariat participates in the TAG meetings convened by the GEF Secretariat to revise the GEF chemicals focal area strategy.

Strategic approach to international chemicals management

31. The Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2), took place in Geneva, Switzerland, 11-15 May 2009. Prominent on the agenda will be the issue of financial resources for implementation.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

United Nations Forum on Forests

32. In 2007, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) adopted a non-legally binding instrument (NLBI) on all types of forests with the aim of reaffirming international commitment to achieve the four shared Global Objectives on Forests. The fourth objective specifically addresses the issue of financial resources. It calls for reversing the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management (SFM), and for mobilizing increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM practices.

33. Over the past year, forests were brought into much sharper focus on the international environmental agenda due to increasing public awareness of their potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation. At the same time, the GEF and UNFF have increasingly joined forces to put emphasis on the multiple benefit character of forest ecosystems and highlighted the need for an integrated approach to SFM. Over the past months, GEF and UNFF interacted in three major meetings: the Paramaribo Dialogue - Country-led Initiative on financing for SFM in support of the UNFF, meetings related to the World Bank/Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)-organized meeting of the Committee on Forestry in conjunction with the World Forest Week conference.

34. The Paramaribo Dialogue Country-led Initiative on financing for SFM in support of the UNFF was discussed in a meeting organized in Paramaribo, Suriname on 8-12 September 2008. This meeting was intended to build upon the international commitments to SFM and particularly upon the outcome of UNFF-7. The GEF gave a presentation on “The Changing International Architecture for Environmental Finance and its Implications for Forests”. In the frame of this dialogue, the participating countries agreed that SFM can only be achieved if it is based on an

integrated approach. Further, they expressed the need for increased financing for SFM and criticized the proliferation of forest-related funding mechanisms. UNFF and the GEF emphasized the use of existing financial mechanisms to implement the NLBI.

35. UNFF and the GEF participated in three meetings dedicated to develop the design of the FIP, a program within the World Bank's Strategic Climate Fund under the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). During the meetings, both organizations underlined the common interests in achieving multiple benefits from managing forest ecosystems including strengthening the power of indigenous people and civil society within the meetings.

36. In the framework of conference of the Committee on Forestry/World Forest Week, 16-20 March 2009 in Rome, Italy, the GEF organized a special event focusing on its track record of work on forests with an emphasis on the SFM/Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) program. The Executive Director of the UNFF Secretariat praised the GEF's recent efforts in the field of SFM and invited a more formal mode of insertion of the UNFF in supporting the work of the GEF.

37. In March 2008, the GEF launched a publication on its efforts regarding SFM/LULUCF entitled "A New Climate for Forests". The publication emphasizes the role of the GEF and its increasing commitment to SFM. In addition, the Executive Director of the UNFF Secretariat commended existing cooperation between UNFF and the GEF and acknowledged the GEF's contribution to the preparations for the discussion on forest finance at the upcoming UNFF-8 meeting.

38. The eighth session of the UNFF held in New York, USA on 20 April – 1 May 2009 was mainly dedicated to the theme "means of implementation". On this occasion, a decision on the possible development of a voluntary global mechanism for SFM financing was expected. Since the parties could not agree on a resolution for "means of implementation" at this occasion, the decision on this topic was postponed and will be dealt with at a future UNFF meeting. The GEF is well positioned to assume a key role in providing funding for SFM in the future, under the UNFF framework.

Report on the Adaptation Fund Board

39. The Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) held three meetings during the reporting period: December 2008 and March 2009. All the meetings convened in Bonn, Germany, at the UNCCD headquarters. The agenda, the annotated agenda, including documentation supporting agenda items have been made publicly available on the Adaptation Fund website at <http://www.adaptation-fund.org>. The reports of two out of the three AFB meetings have also been made available on the website.

40. Over the course of the above mentioned meetings, the Board decided to approve:

- (a) Role and Responsibilities of the Adaptation Fund Trustee;
- (b) Certified Emission Reduction (CER) Monetization Program Guidelines;

(c) Draft provisional operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access funding of the Adaptation Fund; including a set up framework for the submission, review and approval of adaptation projects and programmes. It also clarifies the concept of “direct access” by developing countries to the AF resources, which will allow eligible Parties to submit projects directly to the Fund through a National Implementing Entity (NIE), as for example a national cooperation agency. The Parties can also submit projects to the Fund through a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE).

41. In addition, the Board also adopted the following documents:

(a) October 31 to December 31, 2008 Budget for the AFB and Secretariat.

(b) January 1 to June 30, 2009 Budget for the AFB and Secretariat.

42. As noted earlier, the UNFCCC CMP at its Fourth meeting also decided that the AFB be conferred such legal capacity as necessary for the discharge of its functions with regard to direct access by eligible Parties and implementing and executing entities, in particular legal capacity to enter into contractual agreements and to receive project, activity and programme proposals directly and to process them.

43. Following that decision by the CMP, the Board decided to send letters to the Permanent Representatives of all the Kyoto Protocol Parties inviting them to submit offers to host the AFB. No response has been received yet.

44. The Board of Directors of the World Bank approved in February 27, 2009 the Legal arrangements between the CMP and the World Bank regarding the services to be provided by the trustee for the Adaptation Fund.

45. AFB approved a CER Inaugural Sale Plan presented by the trustee, which should be implemented before June 2009.

46. Regarding the dedicated staff of the AFB Secretariat, the recruitment of its Manager was completed. Two more dedicated officials should be hired during the course of 2009.

47. The most important issues to be resolved by the Board before the CMP in Copenhagen in December 2009 include:

(a) Monetization of CERs;

(b) Adoption of the fiduciary criteria for the accreditation of implementing entities;

(c) Design of a capacity building facility for Parties whose NIE do not meet the fiduciary criteria for accreditation to the Adaptation Fund;

(d) Adoption of the templates necessary to implement the Operational Policies and Guidelines;

(e) Implementation of the AFB legal capacity; and

(f) Call for projects proposals from eligible Parties.

48. The Board will hold its seventh meeting in June 15 to 17, 2009 in Bonn, Germany. The agenda for the meeting includes among other issues, the report on fiduciary and management standards for implementing entities; the templates for the submission of project and programme proposals; the AFB Committees; and the invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit proposals for funding from the Adaptation Fund.

ANNEX I - 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	26-Nov-08
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	27-Oct-08
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	8-Oct-08
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	22-Oct-08	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	4-May-09
32	Cote d'Ivoire	09-Oct-01	20-Jan-04	24-May-06
33	Croatia	14-Nov-01	30-Jan-07	12-Mar-09
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	8-May-08
47	Gambia	22-May-02	28-Apr-06	27-Mar-09
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	11-Dec-07	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	25-Nov-08
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	20-Mar-08
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	25-Sep-08
74	Malaysia	29-Apr-02	Not ratified *	Not submitted
75	Malawi	03-Sep-02	27-Feb-09	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	29-Apr-09
91	Niue	28-Aug-02	02-Sep-05	25-Jan-05
92	Oman	31-Jul-03	19-Jan-05	3-Feb-09
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	10-Feb-09
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	23-Oct-08	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	23-Mar-09
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	5-Mar-09
128	Uganda	09-Mar-05	20-Jul-04	13-Jan-09
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	11-May-09
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.