



GEF/C.41/03  
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GEF Council Meeting  
November 8–10, 2011  
Washington D.C.

Agenda Item 5

## **Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.41/03, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network to continue working with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their respective GEF programming and activities.

## **Executive Summary**

This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF Council under the following 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 (the Stockholm Convention), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the MP). The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat (the Secretariat) and other international conventions and institutions.

### **Highlights reported include:**

- (a) Current status of the preparations and submissions to the CBD Secretariat of the Fourth National Biodiversity Reports. A brief report on joint activities implemented with the CBD Secretariat, including support to countries provided, to revise the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and implementing decisions of the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10).
- (b) A brief summary of the report submitted to the UNCCD COP10 with details on financial support provided to countries including enabling activities. A brief summary of joint activities including publications with the UNCCD Secretariat is presented.
- (c) The annual progress report submitted to the seventeenth session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP17) describing a special section on the GEF partnership with Africa, funded projects and activities, and the results achieved. Progress of national communications, a brief summary of meetings attended and contributions provided including technical support and advice to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Transitional Committee.
- (d) A response to the COP5 guidance, progress of ratification and reporting to the Stockholm Convention is presented. A brief summary of COP5 meetings and other meetings attended by the Secretariat is also provided, including details of contributions.
- (e) A brief summary of the 64<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund (MLF) for the Implementation of the MP is presented with details of contributions from the Secretariat.
- (f) Brief summaries of events attended and recent developments in the area of International Waters (IW) are presented. Details of contributions and summaries of discussions including resolutions adopted are provided for meetings organized by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea to implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the highlights of the World Water Week (WWW).
- (g) Highlights and relevant details for the Adaptation Fund Board's 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings held during reporting period are presented. The report includes the summary of decisions taken, the projects approved and other decisions adopted that are relevant to the

operations of the Board.

- (h) A brief report on the participation in the events organized by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

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1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF occurring since the 40<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting in May 2011 within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the MP). The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's (the Secretariat) relations with other conventions and institutions.

## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

### *Ratification*

2. Morocco became a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.

### *National reporting*

3. By the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, 42 Parties of the Convention had signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD. Fifty ratifications are required for the Nagoya Protocol to enter into force.

4. As of the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, the CBD Secretariat has received 168 fourth national reports in their final version and 9 fourth national reports in advanced drafts. Reports can be found at <http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04>

### *Meetings and events*

5. The Secretariat participated in the Intergovernmental Committee of the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP-1), June 6-10, 2011 Montreal, Canada. The CEO delivered a speech on the establishment of the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF). The CEO reported that Japan had seeded the new fund, and that France, Norway, and Switzerland had made additional pledges to NPIF. The GEF was recognized for its significant contribution in support of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS). The Secretariat organized a side event on June 9, 2001, to present a summary of the portfolio of the ABS project, ongoing projects in support of the Nagoya Protocol, and sources of funding for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

6. The Secretariat continued to work closely with the CBD Secretariat to support countries' revisions of their NBSAPs and production of their second national reports on biosafety and their fifth national reports on biodiversity. Additionally, in response to a request by the CBD Secretariat, the Secretariat is contributing to the work of the Expert Group on the assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the CBD for the GEF-6 replenishment period. The Secretariat has provided information on GEF support to the CBD during the first meeting of the Expert Group and has attended all meetings as a resource for the Expert Group.

7. The Secretariat staff visited the CBD Secretariat on February 24, 2011 to follow up on the issues raised during the January retreat. The Secretariat agreed to collaborate with the CBD

Secretariat through a coordination committee. The goal was to ensure coherence between the support provided by the CBD and the GEF to countries that are revising their NBSAPs. The Secretariat provided inputs regarding the ongoing discussions at the CBD to implement decision X/3 and X/26 and will continue to do so at the request of the CBD.

8. Through the Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) of the Country Support Programme, the Secretariat collaborated with the CBD Secretariat in organizing a series of regional and subregional workshops on biodiversity and finance in Asia, Central and Western Africa, Eastern Europe, Central and Southern America. The workshops have brought both the CBD and the GEF focal points together to exchange funding information and experiences, receive updates on the CBD strategy for resource mobilization and innovative financial mechanisms, as well as reflect on priority funding issues under the CBD. The Secretariat's collaborative support was acknowledged and appreciated by the CBD Secretariat in numerous press releases.

## **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**

### *Reporting*

9. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNCCD and the GEF, the Secretariat prepared and submitted its Report to the tenth session of the UNCCD Conference of Parties (UNCCD/COP-10) to be held in Changwon, Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea, on October 10-21, 2011. This was the first Report to the COP after the GEF Instrument was amended to list the UNCCD among the Conventions for which the GEF plays the role as one of its financing mechanisms. The report follows the suggested format outlined in the MOU. It provided information on the GEF activities in sustainable land management, as they relate to the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA), specifically desertification and deforestation, between the period of July 2009 and June 2011. In accordance with the MOU, activities and other GEF focal and multifocal areas, including funding windows related to Sustainable Land Management (SLM), are also presented. Because of the transition from the Fourth (GEF-4) to the Fifth (GEF-5) replenishment phase during this period, the report also includes additional information on policy and programming reforms related to the GEF's role as the financial mechanism for the Convention.

10. A key highlight of the Report was the GEF financing for Enabling Activities under the Land Degradation Focal Area. For the first time ever, all GEF eligible and affected Parties by the UNCCD can access up to US\$ 150,000 each for enabling activities to support the implementation of the Convention and the 10-Year Strategy. Based on consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat, the GEF will only finance enabling activities related to reporting process, and formulation and alignment of National Action Programs (NAPs) within the 10-Year Strategy. Modalities have been put in place by the Secretariat for accessing the funds, and communicated to all the GEF Operational Focal Points. The modalities include three options: (i) Direct Access to the GEF resources, (ii) Through a GEF Agency or (iii) Through an umbrella project to be developed with a GEF Agency. For the first two options, standard templates have been developed jointly with the UNCCD Secretariat and posted on the GEF website. Parties are expected to take full advantage of these options as appropriate to their needs in order to progress on the priority activities for implementing the Convention.

11. The Report also complements information provided by the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS), which was included in the global synthesis submitted to the Committee for Review of Implementation of the Convention at its 9th Session (CRIC-9).

12. The Secretariat consulted the UNCCD Secretariat on options to expand the pilot initiative in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDs) countries of the medium sized GEF project “Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions” (FNR-Rio) and was advised to take advantage of the ongoing pilot tracking exercise on the full set of UNCCD impact indicators and to also explore options to use Web-based on-line reporting tools for the joint reporting initiative.

### *Joint Activities*

13. Along the lines of the Joint Plan of Action agreed upon between the two institutions in January 2011, the Secretariat in collaboration with the UNCCD Secretariat developed a new book entitled “Land for Life: Securing Our Common Future”, which conveys how sustainable land management (SLM) practices are helping shape a sustainable future for people and the planet. The book is illustrated with high quality photos (donated by the GoodPlanet Foundation and from other sources) that demonstrate how human ingenuity is largely driving innovations in soil, land, water, and vegetation management. The book describes how the process of harnessing natural, social, and cultural capital is addressing the fundamental needs for livelihood and well-being, food, water, energy, and wealth, while simultaneously delivering global environmental benefits. The book addresses seven key themes:

- Food Security - Diversifying farms, maintaining healthy soils, and increasing vegetative cover (environmental benefit) in production landscapes improves crop and livestock productivity (development benefit).
- Livelihood Assets – Integrating high-value trees in rural landscapes, which generates income (development benefit) while enhancing ecosystem services (environmental benefit) in production landscapes.
- Safeguarding water resources – Reducing sedimentation and sustaining flows in production systems (environmental benefit) enhance availability of, and access to, water resources for crop and livestock production (development benefit).
- Climate change mitigation – SLM options can harness investment and income opportunities (development benefit) while securing carbon stocks and flows (environmental benefit) in production landscapes.
- Climate change adaptation – SLM can increase resilience of vulnerable communities (development benefit) and promote sustained productivity of agricultural and rangeland systems (environmental benefit).
- Conservation of biodiversity – Successful conservation of species and habitats through SLM (environmental benefit) leads to multiple benefits for local populations (development benefit).
- Avoided deforestation – SLM underpins solutions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (environmental benefit) as a means of generating multiple livelihood benefits (development benefit) for rural communities.



14. The book includes a foreword from both the CEO and the UNCCD Executive Secretary. It also includes a preface from the Minister of Korean Forest Service, which generously offered to contribute to the cost of printing. The book will be formally launched at the UNCCD COP10.

15. The Secretariat participated in an online expert consultation organized by the UNCCD Secretariat, and its Awareness Raising, Communication and Education Unit, on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The goal of the consultation was to prepare a set of messages that are clear, concise and persuasive, and that will enable governments to discuss and make progress on the policy recommendations proposed in the UN Secretary-General's background document prepared for the General Assembly high-level meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2011. A series of inspirational policy recommendations were made and key messages were developed for use in public outreach/awareness-raising and the preparation of the media products and materials. The High-level meeting was attended by several heads of state or governments, over 60 ministers and other plenipotentiaries. The first interactive panel was co-chaired by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Vice-Prime Minister of Luxemburg while the second panel was co-chaired by the President of Austria and the Prime Minister of Fiji. Various speakers argued that sustainable land management should constitute one of the cornerstones of the green economy, insisted on the importance of science in the comprehending DLDD issues and engaged the world towards setting a target of zero net land degradation rates. They also called for enhancing and fostering the implementation of the UNCCD as a global policy and monitoring framework to address the issues of soils and land degradation.

16. The Secretariat was formally invited by the UNCCD Secretariat to participate in the regional meetings in preparation for COP10. Although the GEF Secretariat could not present, three presentations were prepared and submitted. The presentations focused on policies and programming activities under the Land Degradation Focal Area as a contribution to these important meetings. The Secretariat will participate fully in COP10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea. Amongst the contributions already planned are several events in the Rio Ecosystems Pavilion, which will showcase various programs and projects on SLM that demonstrate synergy in implementation of the Rio Conventions.

## **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

### *Reporting to COP*

17. The Secretariat prepared the annual report to the seventeenth COP of the UNFCCC. This report describes the achievements of the GEF, contains a special section on the GEF partnership with Africa, and one on convention guidance to the GEF during the reporting period from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The report also contains the GEF responses to several conclusions from the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

18. As per COP Decision 4/CP.16, the GEF provided in its report to the COP17 information on the implementation of paragraphs 2 (a-d) of decision 7/CP.7. In its response, the GEF highlights that it has developed programming directions for all four financing windows of the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and that, in accordance with priorities identified in Decision 5/CP.9, the GEF has successfully mobilized resources for the programs on climate

change adaptation and technology transfer. The decision's text can be retrieved at the following link:

[http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation\\_and\\_support/financial\\_mechanism/application/pdf/4\\_cp.16.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/application/pdf/4_cp.16.pdf)

19. With regard to the Least Developed countries fund (LDCF), the GEF provides a response to Decision 5/CP in its report to the COP17 as well as to other relevant conclusions and requests made by the SBI at its 34th session. The GEF notes that, projects and programs approved for funding under the LDCF, LDCs have successfully integrated several core elements of the LDC work program priorities. These include, in particular, public awareness, technology transfer, and hydro-meteorological services. Moreover, the GEF describes the steps taken to improve communications with the least developed country parties. As for the SBI request under agenda item 4, the GEF affirms that its mandate under the LDCF and the SCCF covers the activities in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7(a)(iv). The decision's texts can be retrieved at the following links: [http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation\\_and\\_support/ldc/application/pdf/decision\\_5\\_cp.16.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/ldc/application/pdf/decision_5_cp.16.pdf) and <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sbi/eng/07.pdf>.

#### *National communications*

20. During reporting period over twenty non-Annex I countries have submitted their National Communications. The non-Annex I National Communications can be accessed from the following link: [http://unfccc.int/national\\_reports/non-annex\\_i\\_natcom/items/2979.php](http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/items/2979.php)

#### *Meetings and events*

21. The Secretariat participated in the UN Climate Change Conference from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011 in Bonn, Germany. The 34th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), 6-16 June 2011, Bonn, Germany.

22. The Secretariat also participated in the second part of the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 14) and the second part of the sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), June 7-17 2011, Bonn, Germany. The GEF gave an oral report on the National Communications during the plenary and participated in relevant meeting and groups on adaptation, capacity building, finance, the LDCs, National Communications, and technology transfer. The GEF also provided an oral report on the progress of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer.

23. The Secretariat participated in the third part of the fourteenth session of the AWG-LCA held in Panama City, Panama on 1-7 October 2011.

24. The Secretariat has seconded a senior staff to the GCF Transitional Committee Technical Support Unit located in the UNFCCC Secretariat. The Secretariat has also participated in the GCF Transitional Committee meetings held in Mexico City, Mexico on April 28-29 2011; Tokyo, Japan on July 13-14 2011 and Geneva, Switzerland on September 11-13 2011. During

the GCF Workshop in Tokyo, the Secretariat gave a presentation on “Experiences from the Global Environment Facility.”

25. The Secretariat participated in the first Technology Executive Committee (TEC) Meeting held on September 1-3 2011 in Bonn, Germany. The Secretariat has also participated in regular telephone conferences to discuss the Technology Mechanism, organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2011.

#### *Joint activities with the UNFCCC Secretariat*

26. The joint retreat was held on May 19-20 2011 by video conference to discuss priority subjects including Sustainable Forest Management/Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (SFM/REDD+), mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, National Communications, and capacity development. Both heads of the Secretariats took part, underscoring the mutual commitment towards cooperation and communication. Both Secretariats agreed to continue organizing more frequent retreats in the near future. A summary of the retreat is available on the GEF website at: <https://www.thegef.org/topics/climate-change>.

27. The Secretariat is currently actively collaborating with the UNFCCC Secretariat on a task to develop a finance portal presenting information on the funding flows via the GEF as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, in order to assist the intergovernmental process. The Finance Portal pilot was launched at the sixteenth COP.

## **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

### *Ratification*

28. From May 2011 until September 2011, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of Suriname have ratified the Stockholm Convention. The status of ratifications can be retrieved at: <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### *National reporting*

29. Article 15 of the Convention requires each Party to the Convention to report to the COP on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. For the first reporting round, the Secretariat has received 48 national reports (including 1 from the EU) and for the second reporting round, as of the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, 86 national reports (including 1 from the EU). The national reports submitted online can be retrieved at: <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/NationalReports/tabid/751/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### *Reporting to COP*

30. As the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the GEF submits a report on its activities at each COP. As of September 2011, all reports on GEF activities have been provided prior to each COP of the Stockholm Convention. Two other reports on GEF activities in support of early convention implementation and the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Stockholm Convention have been submitted respectively.

### *Meetings and events*

31. The Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP5) was held on April 25-29 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. The CEO attended the meeting and conveyed to the plenary the reforms undertaken by the GEF and what this means for improving the work of the Convention. The CEO also provided an update on the GEF-5 strategy on chemicals which was agreed at the November 2010 Council Meeting, which consolidated the POPs focal area and broadened the scope of the GEF's engagement with the sound management of chemicals. A side event was organized at lunch time by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat, to discuss in particular issues related to the GEF-5 reforms, Chemicals strategy for the GEF-5, co-financing and synergetic programs in the chemicals and waste cluster.

32. The GEF report to the Convention was presented and welcomed by the Parties. The continuing cooperation between the GEF and the Stockholm Convention Secretariat was highly appreciated. The GEF held a series of side events during the COP5. An overview of these events can be retrieved at: <https://www.thegef.org/news/gef-events-cop5-stockholm-convention>

33. The fourth meeting of the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Waste was held on May 4-5 2011 in New York, USA. As one of the four financing options being discussed, the GEF has been requested to provide an information paper on the trust funds managed by the GEF and the ways in which chemicals and waste management can be accommodated within the structure of the GEF for discussion at the final meeting in October 2011.

34. The fifth meeting of the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Waste is scheduled to be held on October 6–7 2011, Bangkok, Thailand. The GEF provided guidance to the paper submitted to the meeting.

35. The third session of the INC to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury was held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2011. The GEF participated in the contact group on the proposals for a financial mechanism of the Proposed Convention.

36. *Endosulfan* was added as a POP in annex A (elimination) of the convention with some specific exemptions. It is expected that parties take into account the addition of *endosulfan* when reviewing their National Implementation Plans (NIPs). The Seventh Meeting of the POPs

Review Committee is scheduled to be held on 10-14 October 2011, Geneva, Switzerland. The GEF will participate in this meeting to follow up any nomination of new chemicals as potential POPs.

*Response to the COP5 Guidance to the GEF*

37. The COP provided additional guidance to the GEF which is found in decision SC-5/25 of the draft report of the COP available at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/COP/Meetings/COP5/tabid/1267/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/870/EventID/109/xmid/4351/Default.aspx>

38. The following is a list of actions requested by the COP and the proposals of the Secretariat to address them:

Decision	Convention Guidance	GEF Proposal
SC-5/22 Needs Assessment		
Para 12	Invites parties, the Global Environment Facility and relevant international and non-governmental organisations to provide information to the Secretariat on their views of and experiences in applying the methodology used to undertake the needs assessment, including information on priority setting in national implementation plans as appropriate, for continuous improvement of the methodology.	The Secretariat will provide its experience gained from 5 replenishments. This will help improve the methodology used by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat for the Needs Assessment requested under their decision. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention will officially invite the GEF Secretariat to comment on the methodology used for the assessment of funding needs in 2012.
SC-5/23 Additional Guidance to the financial mechanism		
Para1	Requests the Secretariat to prepare consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;	Noted. The GEF welcomes a consolidated guidance which will help in responding to the needs to the Convention.
Para 2	Decides to update the consolidated guidance every four years starting from the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an input of the Conference of the Parties to the negotiations on the	Noted

	replenishment of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility	
Para 3	Requests the financial mechanism of the Convention and invites parties and observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support for country-driven training and capacity-building activities related to activities of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network;	The country driven approach is a key criterion of the GEF process so that the GEF will continue reviewing projects that keep in with the principles of the country-driven approach.
Para 4	Also requests the financial mechanism of the Convention to support activities in respect of the newly listed chemicals and invites other international financial institutions to do so;	The GEF Council has already approved funding in the GEF 5 to provide assistance to parties to update their NIPs to include the nine chemicals added to the Convention at COP4. It is expected that parties take into account the addition of <i>endosulfan</i> (at COP 5) when updating their NIPs.
Para 6	Requests the financial mechanism of the Convention to provide funding to parties to enable them to implement best available techniques and best environmental practices to support the reduction or elimination of unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants;	This is already a priority in GEF5.
Para 7	Also requests the financial mechanism of the Convention and invites parties and observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable regional centers to implement their work plans;	The GEF supports projects from Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Implementing Agencies, in collaboration with Parties to the Convention may wish to utilise Regional Centres to execute regional or sub-regional projects.
Para 8	Further requests the financial mechanism of the Convention and invites other donors to provide financial support to permit further step-by-step capacity enhancement, including through strategic partnerships, to enable the collection of data on all indicators stipulated in the effectiveness evaluation framework set out in the annex to the	Noted. The GEF has developed tracking tools for POPs which will provide data on the effectiveness of the convention which will aid not only the monitoring and evaluation of the projects but also future effectiveness

	note by the Secretariat on effectiveness evaluation	evaluations of the Convention
Para 9	Requests the financial mechanism of the Convention and invites other donors to provide financial support to permit further step-by-step capacity enhancement, including through strategic partnerships, to sustain the new monitoring initiatives, which provided data for the first monitoring report;	The GEF has approved a number of activities under the global monitoring plan and has approved a new project that UNEP will implement to expand the Global Monitoring Program to include the new POPs.
Para 10	Also requests the financial mechanism of the Convention, when providing financial support, to give priority to countries that have not yet received funding for the implementation of activities contained in their national implementation plans;	Noted. This request will be implemented as far as practical for achieving global reductions of POPs. The GEF through bilateral discussions or through its agencies encourages countries that have not yet received support to do so and facilitate the process. This has been the case in the Africa Region through the Africa LDC program.
Para 11	Encourages the Global Environment Facility and parties in a position to do so to provide funds necessary to facilitate the technical assistance and technology transfer to be provided to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition;	Noted. This is already being done in the GEF.
Para 12	Requests the financial mechanism of the Convention and invites parties and observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT.	Noted. This is already being done in the GEF.
SC-5/24: Effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility		
Para 3	<i>Recalls</i> that the Council of the Global Environment Facility is to provide regular reports to the Conference of the Parties, including information pursuant to paragraph 9	Noted. This is already being done in the GEF.

	(d) of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;	
Para 5	Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.	Noted. The GEF will as is practice will work with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat in the preparation of this document prior to the next COP.
SC-5/25 Review of the financial mechanism		
Annex to the decision para 4	The entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism are requested to provide to the Secretariat information relevant to this review in a timely manner.	Noted. The GEF will provide relevant information to facilitate this process.

## Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

### *Meetings and events*

39. The 64<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of the MLF for the Implementation of the MP was held on July 25-29 in Montreal, Canada. The 31<sup>st</sup> Open Ended Working Group of the Parties to the MP and the 46<sup>th</sup> Implementation Committee of the MP were held back to back from July 30 to August 8, 2011. During the meeting the GEF and the MLF agreed that co-destruction of Ozone Depleting Substances and POPs can be a potential area for future collaboration. The GEF participation at the meetings will enable a clear understanding of the policies and practices under the MP to better serve Countries with Economies in Transition and ensure a consistent approach with the MLF.

40. On the margins of the 2011 Spring Council the GEF Secretariat Climate and Chemicals initiated a dialogue with the Chief Officer of the MLF Secretariat for the Implementation of the MP to move towards increasing the cooperation of the GEF and the MLF in regard to financing projects that yield benefits for Ozone, Chemicals and Climate.



## **Relations with Other International Institutions**

### *International Waters*

41. The Secretariat participated in the two meetings hosted by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), in February 14-18 and June 27-28, 2011, at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA on the topic of a “regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects” (Regular Process). The main function on the GEF’s participation was to observe discussions on the development of the Regular Process and learn of potential synergies between the UN lead efforts and current and future GEF work that may exist. The GEF’s presence was also useful for explaining its potential in-kind contributions to the Regular Process as well as interacting with agencies and governments on GEF policies and programs.

42. The Secretariat participated in a third meeting hosted by the UNDOALOS, from June 20 till June 24, 2011, at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA for the 12th Session of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (ICP). The GEF’s continued presence at annual ICP meetings is important because the meetings serve as an essential means for interacting with the UN coastal and marine/oceans issues and developments. Understanding how parties to the Law of the Sea Convention view these developments is critical to the GEF. Perhaps of equal importance, the ICP meetings continue to be an excellent way to discuss on-going developments of the GEF IW portfolio with country delegates, Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) observers as it is the most heavily attended event related to oceans on the UNDOALOS Secretariat’s calendar. The Secretariat’s work with the UNCLOS has increased this year, largely due to the resource allocation and subsequent development of the IW program in marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). An ABNJ program, developed by FAO, UNEP, and the World Bank, is under consideration for the November 2011 GEF Council Meetings and has drawn guidance from agreements and commitments under UNCLOS. Currently, there is no financial collaboration between UNDOALOS and the Secretariat.

43. The Fourth meeting of the working group on marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (WG) was organized at HQ of UN in New York, USA, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May – to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2011. The focus of the meeting was on issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The meeting was attended by 200 participants representing governments, the UN agencies, IGOs and CSOs. The Working Group by consensus adopted a set of recommendations to initiate a process on the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, by identifying gaps and ways forward, including the implementation of existing instruments and the possible development of a multilateral agreement under the UNCLOS. The recommendations also include issues to be addressed as a whole in this process, i.e.: marine genetic resources, including questions on benefits-sharing; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas and environmental impact assessments; capacity development and the transfer of marine technology. Several developed and developing countries delegations mentioned the complementary nature of the proposed ABNJ

program, under the GEF-5 BD & IW strategies, to the work of the working group. In particular, they emphasized the need for the GEF to pilot approaches in ABNJ based on available information.

44. The Secretariat attended the World Water Week (WWW), August 21-27, 2011, Stockholm, Sweden. WWW has been the annual focal point for the globe's water issues since 1991, and serves as a key annual global forum on water and development. The last meeting, attended by more than 2,600 participants, provided a platform to exchange views and experiences in advancing the global water agenda. It focused on a new thinking and positive action towards water related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, climate, economic and poverty reduction agendas. It did so by exploring the interconnected problems of water, society, environment and the economy; by fostering proactive partnerships and alliances; by highlighting best practices and innovative policies and by reviewing implementation of actions and commitments. Within the current niche for 2009-2012 "Responding to Global Changes" the 2011's theme was "Water in an Urbanised World", addressing the challenges of rapid urbanization, need of provision of functioning water services to communities and the impact of extreme hydrological events, caused by climatic variability and change on provision of those services.

The speakers from the GEF funded projects and from the Secretariat discussed the links between trans-boundary, national, regional and local actions to improve basin and coastal management and importance of national reforms and nationally executed actions for shared water resources management frameworks. They also shared experiences on public/private partnerships leading to processes that improve access to water, support the well-being of communities in watersheds, promote conservation, support trans-boundary water assessment methodologies for freshwater basins, and build long-term partnerships. The Secretariat served on the panel for strengthening water diplomacy in trans-boundary basins, participated in a multi-stakeholders dialogue in the process of preparation for the upcoming 6th World Water Forum (WWF) and chaired one of the round tables discussing "solutions" to be presented at the WWF in Marseille, France next March. During the WWW, the Secretariat also participated in a dialogue with other donors at the informal donor meeting on trans-boundary waters to strengthen collaboration among donors on shared water systems and to identify opportunities to achieve better coherence among development and diplomatic initiatives that could support trans-boundary efforts in key regions.

The outcomes and recommendations from the plenary sessions and several high level panels focused on water services provision challenges in rapidly urbanized world, new approaches, policy initiatives and mobilizing investments in order to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the urban water and sanitation, to respond to increasing number of extreme events like floods and droughts, and how to provide targeted support to vulnerable urban communities without access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

The WWW Statement (also known as the Stockholm Statement) to the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20 Summit) was adopted by the WWW participants by acclamation vote at the closing plenary. The statement pointed out the fact that population growth, expanding cities, and accelerating economic activity increase the demand for energy and food and create unsustainable pressure on our water and land resources. It calls for a

universal provisioning of safe drinking water services, adequate sanitation and modern energy services by the year 2030 and calls on all decision makers and Rio+20 Summit participants to commit to achieving intervening measurable targets in water, land and energy use efficiency.

#### *Adaptation Fund Board*

45. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) met in Bonn, Germany twice during the reporting period: the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on June 21-22, 2011 and the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on September 15-16, 2011. Both meetings were preceded by meetings of the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC).

#### *Accreditation decisions*

46. At its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board decided to accredit the National Environment Fund of Benin as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) and the West African Development Bank as the first Regional Implementing Entity, the South African National Biodiversity Institute was accredited between regular meetings. At its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board accredited its sixth NIE and first in Central America, the Protected Areas Conservation Trust of Belize. In addition, the Board also accredited the African Development Bank as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE), making the entity the Fund's ninth MIE.

#### *Project approvals*

47. At its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved grant funding for climate change adaptation projects from three Asian developing countries, with total value of US\$ 17.4 Million in the Maldives, Mongolia, and Turkmenistan. All three approved projects will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project in the Maldives focuses on freshwater resource availability, the project in Mongolia seeks to maintain the water provisioning services supplied by mountain and steppe ecosystems, and the project in Turkmenistan is planned to strengthen water management practices at national and local levels. In addition to the three fully-developed project proposals, the Board decided to endorse six project concepts in Djibouti, Argentina, Jamaica, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Seychelles. The concept for Jamaica was submitted by the NIE for Jamaica, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, utilizing the direct access modality. The Board also approved a project formulation grant request for this project, for US\$ 30,000.

48. At its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved a project in Mauritius with a total value of US\$ 9.12 million, which will be implemented by the UNDP, involving the protection of vulnerable coastal ecosystem and community features at three priority sites.

#### *Other decisions*

49. The Board approved the guidelines for project/programme final evaluations, the evaluation framework, the fund level effectiveness and efficiency results framework, and the Knowledge Management strategy.

50. The Board continued discussion on the cap on proposals by MIEs, and decided to maintain the general cap of 50% on all MIEs for funding as established in decision B.12/9, as well as the country cap of US\$10 million.

51. The Board continues its collaboration with the UNFCCC to organize regional workshops to familiarize countries with the accreditation process to support the direct access modality. The first workshop took place on September 5-6, 2011 in Mbour, Senegal for the African region. The next workshop is planned for the Latin America and Caribbean region in Panama in November 2011.

52. The Board also decided to amend its operational policies and guidelines at the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings to enhance clarity of its procedures.

#### *Resources and operations*

53. The Board continued discussion on allocation of its resources, particularly within the context of regional projects and programmes. The current amount of available funds after the new approvals is US\$162.5 million, expected to increase to US\$373 million by the end of 2012.

54. With the four new approvals, the cumulative funding decisions for projects submitted by MIEs represent 24.4% of the sum of cumulative project funding decisions and funds available to support funding decisions, or US\$249.92 million.

55. A new dedicated staff member of the Board Secretariat was recruited at level F and started on September 26, 2011.

56. The 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will take place back to back with the UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, on December 13-14, 2011.

#### *United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)*

57. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), retreat held June 22-24, 2011 in Orvieto. The CPF is a voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programs on forests. One of the main objectives of the CPF is to support the UNFF and its member countries. The CPF's mission is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthen long term political commitment to this end. The CPF provides major inputs to the UNFF and other important international forest dialogues, including the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It produces joint statements and papers on key forest issues on the international agenda. The statements can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/2087/en/>.

58. At the retreat, representatives from the CPF member organizations discussed the outcomes of the UNFF 9, the work program of the Advisory Group on Finance (which had been held previously on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2011, in NY) namely preparation of an update report on new and emerging financing initiatives, preparations for the Organization Lead Initiative and the

UNFF's Ad Hoc Expert Group-2 on forest finance, closing events in the International Year of Forests, Rio+20 preparations as well as other planned and ongoing CPF initiatives.