

51st GEF Council Meeting
October 25 – 27, 2016
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 11

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.51/07/Rev.01, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Highlights reported include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the ratification of CBD protocols; on the submission of national reports; on the GEF's report to the Conference of the Parties (COP); on the GEF Secretariat's participation in events; and an annex with GEF's responses to decisions of the COP.
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on the Paris Agreement and its decisions as they relate to the GEF; on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in the May 2016 Climate Change Conference and other UNFCCC meetings and events; on ratification and progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports; on the GEF report to COP 22; and an annex with GEF's responses to COP decisions.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on key decisions of GEF relevance taken at UNCCD COP 12 held in October 2015; on the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF Council; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in key events; and an annex with GEF's responses to COP decisions.
- (d) Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol: Updates on ratifications, national reporting, and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol.
- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on follow-up action resulting from the seventh Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC 7).
- (f) International Waters: A report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in various meetings relating to the International Waters focal area, including the 8th International Waters Conference, the World Water Week and the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- (g) GEF Secretariat activities to facilitate synergies in implementing MEAs towards sustainable development.
- (h) A summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions, the Adaptation Fund and the UN Forum on Forests.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions. The document covers the period of April 2016 to September 2016. This report also includes information on activities relating to the International Waters focal area that have taken place since the 49th GEF Council, covering the period from September 2015 to September 2016.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Update Summary

2. The GEF Secretariat has commenced preparations for the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13), to be held from December 4 to 17, 2016. As part of the preparatory process, the GEF Secretariat held a retreat with the CBD Secretariat on June 27 and 28, 2016, and discussed a range of topics including implementation, draft guidance, needs assessment, programming, and vision.

3. The GEF report to the CBD COP, approved by the GEF Council in decision by mail, was submitted to the CBD Secretariat on 27 September 2016.¹ The COP report includes a summary of project activities to support implementation of the CBD, GEF response to guidance from CBD COP 12, a progress report on GEF-6 corporate results and targets, monitoring and evaluation results, and a list of all projects and programs approved during the reporting.

4. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide support to the expert team for a full assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols for the seventh replenishment period of the trust fund of the GEF.

Ratifications and Accessions

5. Since April 2016, eleven Parties to the Convention deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or accession to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): Germany, Czech Republic, Zambia, Finland, China, Belgium, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, France and Mali. Germany, Czech Republic, Zambia, Finland and China already became Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. The CBD Secretariat expects that additional six countries will become Parties to the Nagoya Protocol before the second session of the COP

¹ The report is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-cbd-cop-13>

serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, increasing the total number of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to 84 by the end of November 2016. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>.

6. The number of Parties to the CBD still stands at 196. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety remains at 170. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=1>.

7. Since the last report, Congo and Mali have been added to the list of ratifications of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and in total 36 Parties have deposited their instrument of ratification or accession. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=1>.

National Reporting

8. As of September 7, 2016, the CBD Secretariat has received 181 fifth national reports. The COP requested Parties to submit their fifth national report by March 31, 2014. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

Meetings and Events

9. The GEF Secretariat participated at a retreat hosted by the CBD Secretariat on June 27-28, 2016. Both the GEF CEO and the CBD Executive Secretary actively took part in the discussions.

10. The retreat covered discussions on topics including: collaboration between the CBD and the GEF secretariats, in response to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1) decision, on the framework for GEF-7 programming priorities to be discussed at COP 13; identification by the CBD Secretariat of countries with a critical gap in the development and implementation of biosafety frameworks; potential of supporting management frameworks within countries that can look at invasive alien species and biosafety; Nagoya Protocol and targeted strategic investments; GEF experiences in biodiversity mainstreaming; and exchange of lessons learnt as GEF works to fine tune and evolve its portfolio monitoring approach for GEF-7.

11. The retreat also was an opportunity to discuss collaboration and synergy across the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), highlighting the need for cross-MEA engagement. The CBD Secretariat shared experiences on collaboration among the Rio Conventions and with the other MEAs, including the other biodiversity-related conventions through the biodiversity liaison group. The two Secretariats agreed to discuss key cross-cutting themes across the MEAs, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and explore modalities to address them to help inform the GEF-7 replenishment.

12. A number of bilateral meetings were held on issues related to protected area management, marine biodiversity management, as well as other topics.
13. Table 1 in Annex I to this document contains guidance received by COP 12 along with GEF's responses, as contained in GEF's COP report.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Update Summary

14. At UNFCCC COP 21 in December 2015, 195 Parties reached an historic agreement to combat climate change. Since COP 21, the GEF focused its efforts on strengthening concrete action toward implementing the Paris Agreement. Early steps taken include, among others, the establishment of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Paris Agreement.
15. COP 21 guidance also requested the GEF to consider how to support developing country Parties in formulating policies, strategies, programs and projects to implement activities that advance priorities identified in their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), starting in 2016. As part of its response, the GEF is encouraging the alignment of the GEF project support with INDC priorities, and is sharing this information with the GEF Council and stakeholders.
16. The GEF report to the UNFCCC COP, approved by the GEF Council through decision by mail, was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on August 18, 2016.² Responding to COP 21 guidance, the GEF has also undertaken a Technical Review of the Program Priorities of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and shared it with Parties as an addendum to the COP 22 report.

Ratifications and Accessions

17. During the reporting period, there were no new Parties to the UNFCCC. As of September 2016, there are 196 Parties to the Convention.
18. The Paris Agreement was opened for signature at the High-level Signing Ceremony for the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016 in New York, United States, where 174 countries and the European Union signed. By October 2, 2016, there were 191 signatories to the Paris Agreement. Of these, 62 Parties to the Convention have also deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval accounting for 51.89% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. India was the latest Party to deposit its instrument of ratification. The European Union has

² The report is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

announced that it will deposit its ratification instrument once approved by the European Parliament during the first week of October 2016.

19. In accordance with Article 21 of the Paris Agreement, the Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting for at least an estimated 55% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depository. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php .

National Reporting and Contributions

20. The following is the total number of national communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of September 29, 2016:

- (a) Initial national communications: **147**
- (b) Second national communications: **123**
- (c) Third national communications: **26**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **1**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

21. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website at: http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/653.php.

22. A total of 34 first Biennial Update Reports (BURs) from non-Annex I countries has been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of September 29, 2016. Full details are available at: http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/reporting_on_climate_change/items/8722.php.

Paris Agreement and COP 21

23. The GEF received guidance from COP 21 as well as conclusions of relevance from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 43 and 44. Table 2 in Annex I to this document contains the relevant decision paragraphs and specific guidance and conclusions provided to the GEF during COP 21 and SBI 43 and 44, along with GEF's response. Key decisions and COP outcomes are summarized in the following paragraphs.

24. Parties agreed to establish a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) as part of the Paris Agreement. The CBIT aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Paris Agreement. Parties requested the GEF to support the establishment and operation of CBIT as a priority-reporting related need, including through voluntary contributions during the GEF-6 period.

25. Several countries, including Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have pledged to make voluntary contributions to CBIT. Other countries have also highlighted their intention to pledge.

26. The CBIT has been established, in response to the request by the COP. The following is a summary of steps taken by the GEF Secretariat to establish and operationalize the CBIT:

- (a) The GEF Council, in June 2016, approved the establishment of a new CBIT Trust Fund along with programming and implementation modalities for CBIT;³ the establishment of the CBIT Trust Fund was approved internally in accordance with the World Bank's applicable trust fund establishment procedures, following the June 2016 GEF Council decision;
- (b) Updated templates for project submissions were posted on the GEF website;⁴
- (c) The GEF CEO formally notified GEF Operational Focal Points, GEF Partner Agencies and GEF Council members on August 30, 2016 on the CBIT establishment and invited countries to consider the support opportunities accorded through the CBIT Trust Fund;
- (d) The GEF Secretariat held a second consultative dialogue on CBIT with GEF Agencies, UNFCCC Secretariat, governments, and other initiatives on August 25, 2016, to discuss potential scope, modalities and approaches for initial CBIT programming, and to strengthen the dialogue with relevant existing and emerging initiatives;
- (e) Donor countries and the Trustee have been consulting on modalities for contributing to the CBIT Trust Fund, in particular on the contribution agreements, with a view to enabling the first set of projects to be approved prior to COP 22;
- (f) The GEF Secretariat participated in various meetings to raise awareness about the CBIT and facilitate partnership, including the Partnership Retreat of the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV, held on September 5 to 7, 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa;
- (g) The GEF Secretariat has consulted with interested recipient countries, upon their request, and with GEF Agencies, on initial concepts for CBIT programming.⁵

27. The COP 21 guidance requested the GEF to consider how to support developing country Parties in formulating policies, strategies, programs and projects to implement activities that

³ See document GEF/C.50/05 and GEF/C.50/06.

⁴ See: <http://www.thegef.org/documents/templates>.

⁵ Further information is contained in document GEF/C.51/Inf.06.

advance priorities identified in their INDCs, starting in 2016. As part of its response, the GEF is encouraging the alignment of the GEF project support with INDC priorities and clarification of such alignment in project concept development and reporting. The June 2016 Work Program and the proposed October 2016 Work Program include projects that support mitigation actions identified in the INDCs, as summarized in the Work Program cover notes.⁶

28. The COP also requested the GEF to carry out a technical review of the program priorities of the LDCF, focusing on: (i) undertaking pilot concrete climate change activities that are particularly relevant for the least developed countries; and (ii) enhancing longer-term institutional capacity to design and execute activities referred to above. The GEF Secretariat has taken a number of steps towards carrying out the technical review, including by: (i) consulting informally and formally with relevant stakeholders in least developed countries; and (ii) preparing a document on the technical review which has been shared with Parties as an addendum to the GEF's report to the COP 22.⁷

29. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat participated in SBI 44, the 44th Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBSTA 44), and the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1) on May 16 to 26, 2016 in Bonn, Germany. Highlights of GEF's activities during the Bonn Climate Change Conference include, *inter alia*, interventions at the stocktaking event on 'Ensuring coherence and assessing progress on the implementation of the work program post-Paris', participation in a mandated workshop on 'Linkages between the Financial Mechanism and the Technology Mechanism', and several Technical Expert Meetings on Value of Carbon, Transportation and on Adaptation. The GEF Secretariat also organized a special side event on CBIT.

30. The GEF Secretariat submitted its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC Secretariat on August 18, 2016. The document reports on GEF's activities from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 relating to its implementation of guidance by the COP. The document also presents GEF's initiatives relating to the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, CBIT, Technical Review of the Program Priorities of the LDCF, Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) and innovations in blended finance, and the results of its support for mitigation and adaptation.

Other Meetings and Events

31. On September 27, 2016, the GEF Secretariat and the UNFCCC Secretariat held a joint retreat via video-conference, to strengthen collaboration between the secretariats on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to discuss opportunities for cooperation toward helping Parties toward a successful COP 22. The UNFCCC Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO opened the retreat. Topics discussed during the retreat included expectations for and from the GEF vis-à-vis COP 22, whether and how linkages between the SDGs and the Paris Agreement

⁶ See documents GEF/C.50/11 and GEF/C.51/05.

⁷ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

would be explored and supported, and key developments at the GEF since Paris, including programming for mitigation and adaptation, as well as progress with the CBIT. The joint retreat also touched upon the upcoming GEF-7 replenishment and expectations from the UNFCCC related thereto.

32. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat also participated in the following meetings and provided updates on GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building among other topics:

- (a) Thirteenth meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on June 28 to 30, 2016 in Songdo, Republic of Korea;
- (b) NAP Regional Training Workshop for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia by the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)-funded Global Support Programme on June 28 to 30, 2016 in Chisinau, Moldova;
- (c) National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Expo on July 11 to 15, 2016 in Bonn, Germany, including special event on 'Support under the LDCF for the LDCs', jointly organized by the GEF, UNDP and UNEP;
- (d) Meeting of the NAP Task Force of the Adaptation Committee on July 12, 2016 in Bonn, Germany;
- (e) Thirteenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance on July 18-20, 2016 in Bonn, Germany;
- (f) NDC Regional Dialogue for Africa on September 5 to 7, 2016 in Tunis, Tunisia;
- (g) CARICOM Climate Change Negotiators and Ministers COP 22 preparatory meeting on September 5 to 7, 2016 in St. George's, Grenada;
- (h) Thirteenth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee on September 5-9, 2016 in Bonn, Germany; and
- (i) Eighth Climate Week on September 19 to 25, 2016 in New York City, United States.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Update Summary

33. The major activity of the UNCCD during this reporting period was the follow-up to its 12th COP, in which countries agreed and endorsed a definition of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), which is target 15.3 of the SDGs. Parties also agreed to aim for LDN through voluntary national targets, recognizing the interlinkages between the MEAs and SDGs.

34. As announced by the GEF CEO at the UNCCD COP 12, \$3 million of enabling activity funds were made available for the LDN Target Setting Project, implemented by IUCN. Furthermore, GEF staff participated in two out of four regional project inception meetings. A

total of 87 countries participated in these four workshops. The setting of LDN targets will be the first step towards viable investment plans to achieve LDN and sustainable land management in the countries and may also help countries to identify their GEF-7 portfolio with regard to investments on land degradation.

35. In follow-up of COP decisions, the UNCCD and GEF Secretariat met to discuss and draft amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF Council. The draft amendment document was sent to the COP Bureau for comments. The document is presented to the GEF Council.⁸

Ratifications and Accessions

36. As of May 18, 2014, the UNCCD was ratified or acceded by 195 countries, excluding Canada due to its withdrawal from the UNCCD on March 28, 2013 in accordance with article 38, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

Other Meetings and Events

37. The GEF Secretariat met with the UNCCD Executive Secretary at the margins of the June 2016 Council meeting to assess the progress concerning the Impact Investment Fund for Land Degradation Neutrality and on Enabling Activity support.

38. GEF also joined in celebrations of the World Day to Combat Desertification on June 17, 2016 and published a press release on its website under the title: Protect Earth. Restore land. Engage People. <http://www.thegef.org/news/protect-earth-restore-land-engage-people>

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Ratifications and Accessions

39. During the reporting period, no additional countries joined the Convention. The total number of ratifications amounts to 180 as of September 2016. The status of ratifications can be retrieved from the Stockholm Convention website:

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

National Reporting

40. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a

⁸ See document GEF/C.51/10.

periodic basis and in a manner specified by the COP. As of September 2016, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and the NIP Updates are as follows:

<i>NIP Phase</i>	<i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i>
Initial NIP	163
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	40
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	34
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	6

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

Meetings and Events

42. There were no meetings during the reporting period.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Update Summary

43. The Seventh Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 7) of the Minamata Convention has transmitted the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the GEF and the future Conference of the Parties. The document is presented to the GEF Council.⁹

Signatures and Ratifications

44. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was opened for signature and ratification in October 2013. To date the Convention has 128 signatures, and 32 countries have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention as of September 23, 2016. Antigua and Barbuda is the most recent country that deposited its instrument of accession. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after deposition of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

⁹ See document GEF/C.51/11.

INC 7 Follow up Activities

45. The INC 7 has transmitted, through the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the negotiated text of the draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between the GEF Council and the future Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

46. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the Montreal Protocol and its Open Ended Working group during the reporting period.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Update on multi-state cooperation frameworks

47. The GEF plays a pivotal role in catalysing cooperation in international waters and supports countries to jointly manage their transboundary coastal and marine systems, as well as surface and groundwater basins, to enable the sharing of benefits from their utilization.

48. On the marine side, the GEF is supporting activities in 23 of the world's 66 Large Marine Ecosystems, and continues to engage in a number of projects on the Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). On the surface water resources side, only 40 per cent of the 276 transboundary rivers and lake basins across the world are governed by agreements, with most existing agreements often not involving all the states that form part of the watercourse in question. The GEF continues to engage advancing the sound management of this shared resource and to date has financed work in 34 transboundary river basins. Within the context of sustainable use of aquifers, the GEF and its partners continue to call for countries to step-up action on improved governance and sustainable management of national and transboundary aquifers. To date, the GEF has financed work in more than eight transboundary aquifers advancing the sound understanding and management of this important resource.

8th International Waters Conference

49. In May 2016, the eighth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC) was held in Sri Lanka with representatives from over 80 countries. The week-long conference was themed "Scaling-Up Investments from Source to Sea in the Context of Achieving the SDGs" and presented a unique opportunity for the GEF International Waters portfolio of projects to come together to facilitate cross-sectoral and portfolio-wide learning.

50. At the conference the GEF launched the new "From Coast to Coast" publication, which celebrates 20 years of GEF IW transboundary management of our shared oceans. The conference also featured the launch of the GEF Small Grants Programme publication titled "Scaling up Community Action for International Waters Management."

Our Ocean Conferences

51. The GEF has actively participated in Our Oceans Conferences held in Washington, DC and Valparaiso, Chile in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The conferences bring together political leaders from around the world to commit to addressing the challenges facing oceans with emphasis on marine protected areas, climate, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution. Combined, the three conferences have gathered more than 600 leaders from government, academia and civil society committed to protecting the oceans. Participants have included President Obama of the United States, Prince Albert of Monaco, as well as numerous ministers and CEOs.

52. During these events the GEF CEO has highlighted GEF-6 commitments to ocean issues, including most recently in September, 2016 when she announced \$33 million toward marine protected areas worldwide, \$6 million toward the Meloy Fund, which is a non-grant instrument investing in coastal fisheries, and \$8 million toward marine pollution, including investments in addressing nitrogen inputs and marine debris.

World Water Week 2016

53. This year marks the 26th year anniversary of the World Water Week (WWW), which was held in Stockholm August 28 to September 2, 2016. Building on the landmark achievements in 2015, namely the adoptions of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, the thematic scope of this year's WWW was 'water for sustainable growth.' The GEF Secretariat participated in the event, along with 3,100 participants from over 120 countries. Implementation of the SDGs was one of the key issues discussed by high-level policy makers, development and water professionals, researchers, civil society and private sector representatives. The WWW 2016 concluded that water must be recognized as the enabler of successful implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda as well as calling for greater attention to water in the next Climate COP in Morocco as most impacts of climate change are felt through scenarios of 'too much or too little' water.

Collaboration with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

54. In 2016, GEF participated as an observer in the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 "Development of an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction", at the United Nations Headquarters. The sessions were held from March 28 to April 8, 2016 and 26 August to 9 September, 2016.

55. The following four themes were discussed for potential inclusion into the agreement: Marine Genetic Resources, including questions on benefit-sharing; Area-Based Management Tools including marine protected areas; Environmental Impact Assessments; and Capacity Building and Marine Technology Transfer. Cross-cutting issues and finance were also discussed.

FACILITATING SYNERGIES IN IMPLEMENTING MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

56. The GEF occupies a unique space in the global partnership for sustainable development by delivering global environmental benefits. GEF's contributions are anchored in its role as a/the financial mechanism for a number of MEAs. Many global environmental challenges are interlinked and share common drivers. Biodiversity loss, climate change, ecosystem degradation, and pollution often share common drivers and may demand coordinated responses. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, as embodied in the SDGs, countries are also increasingly interested in pursuing integrated, cross-cutting opportunities for sustainable development.

57. The GEF Secretariat organized an informal dialogue on the MEAs and the GEF at the margins of the 50th GEF Council on June 8, 2016. The dialogue, opened by the GEF CEO, featured senior representatives of the MEA Secretariats and included participants from the GEF Secretariat as well as government representatives attending the GEF Council. The informal dialogue focused on the implementation of major MEAs and related decisions for GEF-6 and beyond, including discussions on how the GEF can support the MEA implementation in an integrated and synergistic way. Based on feedback from the participants, the GEF Secretariat has decided to organize a similar dialogue at the margins of subsequent GEF Council meetings. The next MEA dialogue has been scheduled for October 24, 2016.

ADAPTATION FUND

58. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continue to collaborate on an ad hoc basis on joint events, project reviews and other matters as needed. The Adaptation Fund Board has approved 54 projects and programs for funding by September 9, 2016 amounting to \$355 million in total. As of September 9, 2016 funds available to support funding decisions were \$151 million. The GEF Secretariat also continues to provide cross-support to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by co-reviewing project proposals.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

UN Forum on Forests

59. In a follow up to a meeting of the GEF Secretariat with the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) on February 26, 2016 to discuss how the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) can assist countries in their efforts to design SFM projects and access available funding, GEF and UNFF secretariats initiated GFFFN support to Ecuador to develop a proposal for a SFM project in GEF-6. The proposal has been developed by Conservation International with participation of the GFFFN and has been submitted to the GEF Secretariat for review.

60. The GEF Secretariat continued its participation in the formulation of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) Strategic Plan through part-taking in the Ad Hoc Expert Group

(AHEG-1) in New York City, in April 2016 as well as virtual follow-up meetings. The Co-Chairs' summary of AHEG-1 expresses an aspiration of member states that the GEF will play an important role providing resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan through the GEF strategy for SFM, noting that the quadrennial program of work (4POW) cycles of the Strategic Plan 2017 – 2030 are ideally aligned with future GEF replenishments.

61. GEF also participated in a Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) meeting and a separately organized CPF retreat in which UNFF decisions related to CPF and follow-up action were discussed. The GEF continues to play an active role in the CPF and is seeking synergy with other CPF members in promoting the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the forest instrument of the UNFF.

62. The decisions taken by the Forum of relevance to the GEF, including GEF's responses to the substantial items, were presented in an Annex to the previous Council document on *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/relations-conventions-and-other-international-institutions-13>

ANNEX I: GEF RESPONSES TO DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE OF CBD COP AND UNFCCC COP.¹¹

Table 1: GEF’s Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by CBD COP 12 Decision XII/30

COP Decision	GEF’s Response
B. Fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism	
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to take the following action in order to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:</p> <p>(a) Enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals;</p> <p>(b) In collaboration with the Global Environment Facility agencies and Parties, continue to streamline the project cycle as suggested by the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility in the fifth Overall Performance Study;¹²</p>	<p>(a) GEF continues to enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing resources including the strategic use of multi-focal area investments to leverage resources from other partners. Usage of the biodiversity focal area country allocation has reached \$454.9 million which leveraged \$2.296 billion of cofinancing. Overall resource flow, (including the biodiversity focal area resources) to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as presented in Table 9 of the GEF’s report to COP 13, reached \$901 million which leveraged a total of \$4.889 billion of cofinancing for a total amount of \$5.79 billion.</p> <p>b) Streamlining the project cycle is an ongoing process. At the October 2014 Council Meeting decisions were made to streamline the Programmatic Approach and to implement a project cancellation policy.</p>
<p>(c) Coordinate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on how to better measure progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by initiatives supported by the Global Environment</p>	<p>(c) At a meeting with the CBD Secretariat (CBDSEC) in July 2015, the GEF Secretariat (GEFSEC) proposed that for the COP report, GEF would provide reports on resource programming</p>

¹¹ GEF’s responses to most recent COP guidance from UNCCD, Stockholm Convention and Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury were reported to the 50th GEF council, and can be found in: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/relations-conventions-and-other-international-institutions-13>

¹² See www.thegef.org/gef/OPS5.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p>Facility, taking into account the agreed GEF-6 portfolio-level indicators;</p> <p>(d) Explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;</p> <p>(e) Make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report;</p>	<p>that is mapped to the programs of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and the Aichi Targets.</p> <p>As GEF-6 is implemented, and projects are submitted for CEO Endorsement with the GEF tracking tools that measure progress against the GEF-6 portfolio level indicators, the GEF Secretariat will communicate with the CBD Secretariat on how the current GEF tracking tools will measure progress and contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p> <p>(d) GEF will streamline reporting for COP XIII, building on the most recent report for COP XII which itself was a streamlined report from previous COPs.</p> <p>(e) GEF provided a preliminary draft report to the SBI-1 meeting.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility to continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies;</p>	<p>The GEF CEO welcomes this guidance and will continue to strengthen cooperation with the CBD Secretariat. The first result of this cooperation has been the joint workshop delivery by CBDSEC and GEFSEC previously in 13 Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs) presented during 2015 that covered all regions and countries that are eligible for GEF support to implement the CBD. During these workshops, GEFSEC reviewed Programming Opportunities to Implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 through the GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy and other Programming Windows</p>

COP Decision	GEF's Response
	<p>during GEF-6. The GEFSEC objective of these meetings was to help participants, (CBD and GEF Focal Points) understand the full breadth of opportunities available within the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, as well as through other GEF program areas that will allow countries to implement their obligations under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and other recent COP decisions. CBDSEC reviewed financial reporting requirements, and progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In 2016, building on the relationship established in the collaboration in the 2015 ECWs, the CBD Secretariat, took the initiative to propose that a joint session on synergies and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation be presented in 10 ECWs this year. On the basis of this initiative GEFSEC has brought in the other Convention Secretariats to pilot an ECW session on synergy and integration in March 2016 with the participation of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and Stockholm Convention and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, marking the first time that these Secretariats are participating together within the ECW program.</p>
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to indicate in its report to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the first determination of funding requirements, noted in decision XI/5, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding;</p>	<p>The GEF will duly consider the report on the first determination of funding requirements in the context of the replenishment process for GEF-7.</p>
<p><i>Welcomes</i> the creation of programmes 5 and 8 in the GEF-6 biodiversity focal area strategy, reflecting the importance of the Cartagena and the Nagoya Protocols, and <i>invites</i> Parties to prioritize projects accordingly;</p>	<p>Noted. See references below to programming in these areas to date.</p>
<p>C. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety <i>Taking note of</i> decision BS-VII/5, <i>invites</i> the financial mechanism to implement the following</p>	<p>Program 5 of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, "Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", provides ample latitude for countries</p>

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p>guidance¹³ considered and adjusted by the Conference of the Parties for consistency with Article 21 of the Convention:</p> <p>(a) To support, in view of the experience gained during the second national reporting process, the following activities within the Biodiversity Focal Area Set Aside for eligible Parties, in particular those that have reported to the Compliance Committee difficulties in complying with the Protocol, with a view to fulfilling their national reporting obligation under the Protocol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Preparation of the third national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with paragraph 2 (g) of decision BS-VI/5; (ii) Preparation, by Parties that have not yet done so, of their first national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with decision BS-V/14; <p>(b) To support the following activities of eligible Parties within Programme 5 on Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety under the Biodiversity Focal Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in accordance with paragraph 2 (h) of decision BS-VI/5; (ii) Supporting capacity-building activities in the thematic work related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account the capacity- 	<p>to seek support for these activities (a-b, d-g) using resources from their country allocation.</p> <p>To date, only one project (Malaysia: Institutional Capacity to Enhance Biosafety Practices in Malaysia) totalling \$995,000 has been submitted for support in biosafety in GEF-6.</p> <p>GEF provided expedited support in May-June 2015 to three regional projects for all GEF-eligible parties totalling \$3.964 million of GEF resources for the preparation of the third national reports using funds from the biodiversity focal area set aside.</p> <p>During the course of the jointly-delivered CBDSEC and GEFSEC workshops that were part of the ECWs for 2015, the GEF SEC emphasized the biosafety programming opportunities for countries under Program 5.</p>

¹³ Guidance received from the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is contained in section II of appendix I of the decision.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p>building needs of eligible Parties;</p> <p>(iii) Supporting the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, including, inter alia, capacity-building, information sharing and awareness-raising activities;</p> <p>(c) To consider mechanisms for:</p> <p>(i) Supporting the updating and finalization of national biosafety frameworks;</p> <p>(ii) Facilitating access to Global Environment Facility funding for projects supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;</p> <p>(iii) Increasing the level of utilization of Global Environment Facility funding for biosafety;</p> <p>and report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;</p> <p>(d) To promptly address the need for capacity-building for the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House of all eligible Parties not yet supported;</p> <p>(e) To support Parties in the collection of national data and conducting consultations on the third national reports;</p> <p>(f) To provide support to implement the capacity-building activities referred to in paragraph 13 of decision BS-VII/12 on risk assessment and risk management;</p> <p>(g) To support capacity-building activities on socioeconomic considerations as specified in paragraphs 2 (n) and (o) of decision BS-</p>	

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p>VI/5 (appendix II to decision XI/5 of the Conference of the Parties);</p>	
<p>D. Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing</p> <p><i>Taking note of decision NP-1/6, invites the financial mechanism to implement the following guidance¹⁴ considered by the Conference of the Parties:</i></p> <p><i>Policy and strategy</i></p> <p><i>Takes note of the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism related to policy and strategy adopted in decision X/24, and invites the Conference of the Parties to review, and as appropriate, revise this guidance to</i></p> <p><i>take into account new developments such as the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol;</i></p> <p><i>Programme priorities</i></p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To support activities contained in the guidance that the Conference of the Parties provided to the Global Environment Facility in its decision XI/5, annex, appendix 1; (b) To make financial resources available with a view to assisting eligible Parties in preparing their national reports; (c) To support activities related to implementing the awareness-raising strategy for early action on Article 21 of the Protocol; <p><i>Sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 6)</i></p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to give due consideration to multi-focal area projects under the “integrated approach pilots” and other biodiversity focal area</i></p>	<p>Program 8, “Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on ABS”, provides ample opportunity for countries to seek support for these activities using resources from their country allocation.</p> <p>To date, a total of \$9.8 million of GEF resources has been programmed from the biodiversity focal area to implement the Nagoya Protocol through 3 projects in 3 countries: Nepal, Peru, and South Africa. These three projects leveraged \$33.9 million in cofinancing.</p> <p>In addition, the Non-Grant Instrument (NGI) pilot provided \$10 million for a regional project in Latin America “Impact Investment in Support of the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing”. This project leveraged \$48.3 million in cofinancing resulting in an overall investment of \$58.3 million.</p> <p>Therefore, to date, a total of \$19.8 million leveraging \$92.2 million in cofinancing for a total of \$112.05 million has been invested to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the reporting period.</p> <p>At such time when a national report is required GEF will provide expedited support for the preparation of the first national report using funds from the biodiversity focal area set aside.</p> <p>GEF duly considers any multi-focal area projects that incorporate access and benefit-sharing related activities; however, to date in GEF-6 requests to GEF have focused on targeted investments to implement the Nagoya Protocol.</p>

¹⁴ The guidance received from the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing is contained in appendix II of that decision.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
programmes that include access and benefit-sharing related activities;	
<p>E. Other guidance to the financial mechanism</p> <p>Customary sustainable use</p> <p><i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments, international organizations, programmes and funds, including the Global Environment Facility, to provide funds and technical support to developing country Parties and indigenous and local communities for implementation of programmes and projects that promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity;</p> <p>Marine and coastal biological diversity</p> <p><i>Recalling</i> paragraph 20 of decision X/29 and taking into account paragraph 7 of Article 20 of the Convention, as appropriate, invites the Global Environment Facility to continue to extend support for capacity-building to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas;</p> <p>Biodiversity and tourism development</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and other donors, as appropriate, to continue to provide funding to support sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention;</p>	<p>GEF will provide funds for said activities when incorporated into and relevant for achieving objectives of projects aligned with the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>GEF-6 biodiversity strategy programs one, two, six and nine aim to support efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas for all GEF-eligible countries. Please see Tables 3, 6 and 8 of this GEF's report to COP 13, for the status of programming of resources to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.</p> <p>The Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) (GEF: \$33.7 million, cofinance: \$201.5 million) that was approved during the June 2015 Work Program has been developed to demonstrate and promote more holistic processes and integrated approaches leading to sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries complementing the GEF multi-country Large-Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach. Participating countries include Cape Verde (SIDS), Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Peru, and Senegal (LDC). The CFI will make a significant contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries, Target 10 on coral reefs, and Target 11 on protected areas. The CFI was supported with \$26.69 million from the International Waters Focal Area, and the remaining amount came from country STAR allocations in biodiversity focal area.</p> <p>In addition, the International Waters Focal Area, through its Program 7 on Sustainable Fisheries, has provided an additional \$27.9 million to projects focused on fostering sustainable fisheries which leveraged \$217.4 million in cofinance in GEF-6.</p>

COP Decision	GEF's Response
	<p>GEF-6 biodiversity program 9 on biodiversity mainstreaming provides the window for countries to mainstream biodiversity considerations into tourism operations impacting globally significant biodiversity. Only a few projects of this kind have been formally presented thus far in GEF-6, but upstream consultations have occurred with some countries on comprehensive national level projects on sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Projects approved in GEF-6 with significant tourism components include:</p> <p>1) Integrating biodiversity safeguards and conservation into development in Palau, GEF grant: Project total – \$4.38 million, Co-finance – 17.58 million.</p>

Table 2: GEF’s Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 21 and SBI 43 and 44 Conclusions

Note: The GEF has submitted its annual report to UNFCCC COP 22 in August 2016.¹⁵ The report includes further information on how the GEF is implementing COP guidance.

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF’s Response
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, COP 21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf</p>	
<p>Paris Agreement, Article 9, paragraph 8: The Financial Mechanism of the Convention, including its operating entities, shall serve as the financial mechanism of the Agreement.</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 58: <i>Decided</i> that the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, administered by the Global Environment Facility, shall serve the Agreement.</p>	<p>The GEF is committed to serve the Paris Agreement as its financial mechanism. Early steps taken include the establishment of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), described in further detail below.</p>
<p>Paris Agreement, Article 9, paragraph 9: The institutions serving this Agreement, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, shall aim to ensure efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island</p>	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, aims to ensure efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans.</p> <p>The GEF Council, at its 47th meeting in October 2014, approved an updated Project Cancellation Policy to further improve its project cycle.¹⁶ At its 48th meeting in June</p>

¹⁵ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

¹⁶ GEF Council document GEF/C.47/07, Improving the GEF Project Cycle, (https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/19_EN_GEF.C.47.07_Improving_the_GEF_Project_Cycle.pdf)

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>developing States, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans.</p>	<p>2015, the GEF Council approved additional measures to improve the project cycle¹⁷ by expediting the preparation of the stock of delayed projects. In particular, the Council approved a one-time cancellation by June 30, 2016 of overdue (i) full-sized projects (FSPs) whose Project Identification Forms (PIFs) were approved prior to the October 2014 Council meeting; and (ii) medium-sized projects (MSPs) whose PIFs were approved prior to the June 2015 Council meeting. In addition, the Council approved an amendment to the Project Cancellation Policy previously approved in the October 2014 Council meeting to include provisions for cancellation of overdue medium-sized projects that are approved after June 2015 Council, as set out in Annex II to that decision.</p> <p>The GEF will continue to report on steps taken to fully implement the guidance provided by the COP, in the course of its annual reports to the COP.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 15:</p> <p><i>Reiterated</i> its call to developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so to provide support for the preparation and communication of the intended nationally determined contributions of Parties that may need such support.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to make resources available for the preparation of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), and its Global Support Program continues to be operational.</p> <p>Leading up to COP 21, the GEF has made resources available for countries to prepare their INDCs, and has participated in various meetings and workshops to encourage countries to utilize available GEF resources for this purpose. A component has been added to the Global Support Program for National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to provide technical assistance to countries to prepare their INDCs.</p> <p>The GEF has provided support towards INDC preparations for 46 countries: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Eritrea, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka,</p>

¹⁷ GEF Council document GEF/C.48/04, Expediting the Preparation of the Stock of Delayed Projects (https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.48.04_Expediting_the_Preparation_of_the_Stock_of_Delayed_Projects.pdf)

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Forty-four countries of the 46 supported by the GEF to prepare their INDCs, or 96 per cent, have submitted their INDCs to the UNFCCC ahead of the Paris climate negotiations. Details of the GEF support for INDCs are available on the GEF website at: https://www.thegef.org/gef/INDC</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 54:</p> <p><i>Recognized</i> the importance of adequate and predictable financial resources, including for results-based payments, as appropriate, for the implementation of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks; as well as alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests; while reaffirming the importance of non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches; encouraging the coordination of support from, inter alia, public and private, bilateral and multilateral sources, such as the Green Climate Fund, and alternative sources in accordance with relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF supports activities for the implementation of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, as well as alternative approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.</p> <p>As at June 2016, recipient countries have utilized \$189 million of the sustainable forest management incentive¹⁸ available under GEF-6. Total GEF financing under GEF-6 for sustainable forest management therefore amounts to \$566 million by June 2016.¹⁹ The GEF has further invested \$35 million into sustainable forest management through its Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) and the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot, bringing the total GEF financing towards sustainable forest management under GEF-6 to \$601 million as at June 2016.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61:</p> <p><i>Recommended</i> that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p>

¹⁸ The sustainable forest management incentive, as approved by the GEF Council through the GEF-6 Programming Directions, also supports national strategies to reduce emissions from deforestation which foster intra-governmental and cross-sector integration, including those being developed through REDD+ readiness and support for REDD+ Phase II initiatives.

¹⁹ These projects and programs with sustainable forest management incentive are expected to lead to a reduction in GHG emissions of approximately 656 Mt CO2 eq.

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>Parties to the Paris Agreement shall provide guidance to the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention on the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to the Agreement for transmission by the Conference of the Parties.</p>	
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 62:</p> <p><i>Decided</i> that the guidance to the entities entrusted with the operations of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including those agreed before adoption of the Agreement, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Agreement.</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 64:</p> <p><i>Urged</i> the institutions serving the Agreement to enhance the coordination and delivery of resources to support country-driven strategies through simplified and efficient application and approval procedures, and through continued readiness support to developing country Parties, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to work to enhance the coordination and delivery of resources to support country-driven strategies through simplified and efficient application and approval procedures, and through continued readiness support to developing country Parties, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, as appropriate.</p> <p>For instance, the GEF on a regular basis holds Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) that provide an opportunity for GEF political and operational focal points and other key partners, to discuss and plan GEF programming and strategy at the national and regional level. The GEF invites all its agencies, including the expanded network of agencies, to participate in these ECWs. In FY 2016, the GEF has held 14 ECWs²⁰ that covered 133 countries. The GEF provides resources to cover the cost of participation in ECWs by UNFCCC national focal points, along with other multilateral environmental</p>

²⁰ In the COP reporting period, the GEF held 14 ECWs in: Uganda (July 2015), Jordan (September 2015), Belarus (September 2015), Cook Islands (October 2015), Benin (November 2015), Botswana (February 2016), Trinidad and Tobago (March 2016), Montenegro (March 2016), Thailand (March 2016), Argentina (April 2016), Guatemala (April 2016), Sierra Leone (May 2016), Senegal (May 2016) and Kazakhstan (June 2016).

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>agreement (MEA) focal points, GEF operational focal points and political focal points, to enable their active participation in ECWs and to strengthen readiness of recipient countries to access and program resources.</p> <p>The GEF Council, at its 47th meeting in October 2014, approved an updated Project Cancellation Policy to further improve its project cycle.²¹ At its 48th meeting in June 2015, the GEF Council approved additional measures to improve the project cycle²² by expediting the preparation of the stock of delayed projects. In particular, the Council approved a one-time cancellation by June 30, 2016 of overdue (i) full-sized projects (FSPs) whose Project Identification Forms (PIFs) were approved prior to the October 2014 Council meeting; and (ii) medium-sized projects (MSPs) whose PIFs were approved prior to the June 2015 Council meeting. In addition, the Council approved an amendment to the Project Cancellation Policy previously approved in the October 2014 Council meeting to include provisions for cancellation of overdue medium-sized projects that are approved after June 2015 Council, as set out in Annex II to that decision.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84:</p> <p><i>Decided</i> to establish a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in order to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020; this initiative will support developing country Parties,</p>	<p>In response to this request by the COP, the GEF Secretariat has taken a number of steps to establishing CBIT (see GEF Report to COP 22²³), resulting in the approval by the GEF Council of the arrangements for the establishment of a new CBIT Trust Fund along with programming and implementation modalities for CBIT on June 7, 2016.²⁴</p>

²¹ GEF Council document GEF/C.47/07, Improving the GEF Project Cycle, (https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/19_EN_GEF.C.47.07_Improving_the_GEF_Project_Cycle.pdf)

²² GEF Council document GEF/C.48/04, Expediting the Preparation of the Stock of Delayed Projects (https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.48.04_Expediting_the_Preparation_of_the_Stock_of_Delayed_Projects.pdf)

²³ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

²⁴ GEF Council document GEF/C.50/05, Establishment of a New Trust Fund for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.50.05_CBIT_TF_Establishment_0.pdf); and GEF Council document GEF/C.50/06, Programming Directions for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.50.06_CBIT_Programming_Directions_0.pdf)

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement in a timely manner.</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86:</p> <p><i>Urged and requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to make arrangements to support the establishment and operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency as a priority reporting-related need, including through voluntary contributions to support developing country Parties in the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and future replenishment cycles, to complement existing support under the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 88:</p> <p>Requested that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties the progress of work in the design, development and implementation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency referred to in paragraph 84 above starting in 2016.</p>	<p>Specific steps taken toward the establishment and operationalization of CBIT by the GEF Secretariat include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A consultative dialogue on CBIT with entities engaged in various aspects of enabling activities and transparency-related activities was held on April 11, 2016 in Washington DC, United States, to ensure CBIT alignment with relevant work-streams and bodies under the UNFCCC, identify gaps in implementing transparency-related activities in general, and to strengthen the dialogue and assess collaboration potential with existing and emerging initiatives in the area of capacity building; (2) An informal consultation meeting to gather feedback from government representatives, including GEF Council Members and GEF focal points, on CBIT was held on April 13, 2016 in Washington, DC; the GEF Secretariat encouraged the GEF Council members and alternates to share the invitation with their respective UNFCCC capacity building negotiators; (3) A briefing session on the CBIT with Parties and stakeholders was organized during the UNFCCC climate meetings on May 19, 2016 in Bonn, Germany; (4) Council documents²⁵ to establish a new trust fund and related to Programming Directions have been prepared for presentation to the 50th GEF Council (June 2016), which approved the arrangements proposed for the establishment of a new CBIT Trust Fund along

²⁵ See documents GEF/C.50/05 and GEF/C.50/06.

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>with programming and implementation modalities for CBIT; and</p> <p>(5) Consultations with the Trustee and donor countries were held on modalities for contributing to the CBIT Trust Fund.</p> <p>Additional information on progress made in the operationalization of CBIT will be shared as an Addendum ahead of COP 22.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 109: <i>Resolved</i> to strengthen, in the period 2016-2020, the existing technical examination process on mitigation [...].</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 110: <i>Encouraged</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention to engage in the technical expert meetings and to inform participants of their contribution to facilitating progress in the implementation of policies, practices and actions identified during the technical examination process.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat has actively participated in the technical expert meeting during SBI 44 in May 2016.²⁶</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, COP 21, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a02.pdf</p>	
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 3: <i>Invited</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide finance to the activities referred to in paragraph 2 above [on sustainable forest management and activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70], also taking into account decision 9/CP.19,</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support activities referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 8/CP.21, on sustainable forest management and activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, also taking into account decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 8, and decision 16/CP.21, as appropriate.</p>

²⁶ Please refer to the UNFCCC website for audio recordings or presentations made at the Technical Expert Meetings on the Value of Carbon (http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/technical_expert_meetings/items/9629.php) and Transport (http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/technical_expert_meetings/items/9629.php).

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<p>paragraph 8, and decision 16/CP.21, as appropriate.</p>	<p>As at June 2016, recipient countries have utilized \$189 million of the sustainable forest management incentive available under GEF-6. Total GEF financing under GEF-6 for sustainable forest management therefore amounts to \$566 million by June 2016. The GEF has further invested \$35 million into sustainable forest management through its Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) and the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot, bringing the total GEF financing towards sustainable forest management under GEF-6 to \$601 million as at June 2016.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraphs 6 and 7:</p> <p><i>Noted</i> that the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility is carrying out a review of the Least Developed Countries Fund;</p> <p><i>Encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to include the conclusions of the review referred to in paragraph 6 above in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-second session (November 2016).</p>	<p>The results of the Program Evaluation of the LDCF by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office are reported in Part III, Section 4 of this document. The Technical Review of the Programming Priorities of the LDCF is presented in an Addendum to this document.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to carry out a technical review of the programme priorities of the Least Developed Countries Fund, taking into account the independent review referred to in paragraph 6 above, and to focus the technical review on, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Undertaking pilot concrete climate change activities that are particularly relevant for the least developed countries; (b) Enhancing longer-term institutional capacity to design and execute the activities 	<p>The GEF Secretariat has taken a number of steps towards carrying out the technical review, including by: (i) consulting informally and formally with relevant stakeholders in least developed countries; and (ii) preparing a document on the Technical Review. The Technical Review of the Programming Priorities of the LDCF is presented in an Addendum to the GEF Report to COP 22.²⁷</p>

²⁷ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

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referred to in paragraph 8(a) above.	
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Urged</i> the Global Environment Facility to work with all its agencies and recipient countries to ensure that these countries can take full advantage of the expanded network of agencies.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat works with all its agencies and recipient countries to ensure that these countries can take full advantage of the expanded network of agencies. For instance, the GEF on a regular basis holds ECWs that provide an opportunity for GEF political and operational focal points and other key partners, to discuss and plan GEF programming and strategy at the national and regional level. The GEF invites all its agencies, including the expanded network of agencies, to participate in these ECWs. In FY 2016, the GEF has held 14 ECWs²⁸ that covered 133 countries. The GEF provides resources to cover the cost of participation in ECWs by UNFCCC national focal points, along with other MEA focal points, GEF operational focal points and political focal points, to enable their active participation in ECWs and to strengthen readiness of recipient countries to access and program resources.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Welcomed</i> the exploration of innovative non-grant instruments by the Global Environment Facility, and <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to work with its agencies, recipient countries and the private sector to submit proposals.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat continues to work with its agencies, recipient countries and the private sector to facilitate the submission of proposals that utilize innovative non-grant instruments.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat received formal requests for non-grant projects and numerous informal requests that were well in excess of the resources available under the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot. Project proposals have been innovative in their design and frequently address multiple GEF focal areas. Based on the diversity and high-quality of the submissions, it has become clear that recipient countries in partnership with GEF Agencies find it viable and worthwhile to develop creative and innovative approaches that make use of non-grant financial instruments.</p>

²⁸ In the COP reporting period, the GEF held 14 ECWs in: Uganda (July 2015), Jordan (September 2015), Belarus (September 2015), Cook Islands (October 2015), Benin (November 2015), Botswana (February 2016), Trinidad and Tobago (March 2016), Montenegro (March 2016), Thailand (March 2016), Argentina (April 2016), Guatemala (April 2016), Sierra Leone (May 2016), Senegal (May 2016) and Kazakhstan (June 2016).

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	<p>Since the beginning of GEF-6, the GEF has awarded eight non-grant projects covering multiple focal areas, including six projects that directly deliver climate change mitigation benefits, receiving a total of \$74.6 million in GEF financing and leveraging \$1.5 billion in co-financing. In the FY 2016, three non-grant projects with climate change benefits were approved by the GEF Council, drawing on \$43.7 million in GEF financing and leveraging \$1.2 billion in co-financing.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 11: <i>Also welcomed</i> the approval of projects by the Global Environment Facility to support 46 developing country Parties in preparing their intended nationally determined contributions,²⁹ and <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue providing such support.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation. The GEF continues to provide support to countries to prepare and update their INDCs. The Global Support Program is ongoing.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 12: <i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider how to support developing country Parties in formulating policies, strategies, programmes and projects to implement activities that advance priorities identified in their respective intended nationally determined contributions in a manner consistent with the operational policies and guidelines of the Global Environment Facility, starting in 2016.</p>	<p>The following elements are considered to support the implementation of activities that advance priorities identified in the INDCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Aligning national GEF programming with INDCs: The GEF is encouraging governments to consider aligning the GEF programming for GEF-6 with INDC priorities, through more explicit linkage between INDC/planning/reporting work and how GEF resources are programmed. The GEF is working with national governments towards this consideration, through national dialogues, bilateral discussions, expanded constituency workshops, as well as through project reviews; (b) Helping to enhance the quality of NDCs: The ongoing global support program provides capacity building, tools and methodologies for the refinement of INDCs. The GEF Secretariat

²⁹ As at 16 September 2015.

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	<p>will continue its efforts to assist countries in improving the quality of their reports, including NDCs;</p> <p>(c) Aligning with CBIT: The NDCs and Transparency are two key, interlinked elements of the Paris Agreement. The GEF's efforts on the (I)NDC support will be aligned with the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) in order to assist developing countries to effectively monitor and report their progress in national greenhouse gas emission reduction, and track progress made in implementation of NDCs. The CBIT will address such capacity needs to enhance transparency.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 14:</p> <p><i>Welcomed</i> the efforts to date of the Global Environment Facility to engage with the Green Climate Fund and <i>encouraged</i> both entities to further articulate and build on the complementarity of their policies and programmes within the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.</p>	<p>GEF's experiences with other climate funds and multilateral development banks may be useful to further articulate and build on the complementarity within the Financial Mechanism of the Paris Agreement. Collaboration with the multilateral development banks, Climate Investment Funds, Adaptation Fund, private sector entities, and others has highlighted different areas of engagement where the GEF can provide added value based on its unique role, strengths, and experience supporting programs and projects for over two decades. The GEF plays a unique role in several ways:</p> <p>(a) Early policy lock-in and regulatory reform to support governments in catalyzing partners to invest in low-emission, climate-resilient technologies;</p> <p>(b) Demonstrating innovative technologies and business models, with a view to unlock the market for low-emission, climate-resilient technologies or enable partners to conduct large-scale replication;</p> <p>(c) Strengthening institutional capacity and decision-making processes at the sub-national, national and regional level to improve</p>

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	<p>information, participation, and accountability in public and private decisions that enable partners to design and implement low-emission, climate-resilient plans and policies;</p> <p>(d) Building multi-stakeholder alliances to develop, harmonize, and implement sustainable practices to pursue integrated approaches that further the global commons through the promotion of synergies amongst sectors and the delivery of multiple benefits; and</p> <p>(e) De-risking partner investments by applying guarantees and equity instruments to re-direct private sector investments into low-emission, climate-resilient business models.</p> <p>The GEF stands ready to continue to engage with the GCF to further articulate the complementarity, responding to COP guidance, and to help countries meet their mitigation and adaptation needs as embodied in their NDCs in a coordinated way. For instance, during FY 2016, the GEF Secretariat has held several discussions with the GCF Secretariat on possible entry points for co-financing projects and programs, acknowledging that GEF and GCF financing is based on the principle of country ownership and recipient country demand.</p> <p>Please refer to the GEF Report to COP 22, Part III, Section 1c on 'Complementarity in Climate Finance' for further details.³⁰</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 16:</p> <p><i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to include, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>The GEF is herewith reporting on steps taken to implement the guidance provided in decision 8/CP.21 and other relevant decisions of the COP.</p>

³⁰ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

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<p>Decision 13/CP.21, COP 21, Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a02.pdf</p>	
<p>Decision 13/CP.21, paragraph 8: <i>Requested</i> the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to continue to consult on and further elaborate, including through an in-session workshop at the forty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (May 2016), the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to consult on the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism. To this effect, the GEF Secretariat participated in the twelfth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on April 5-8, 2016 in Bonn, Germany and consulted with TEC on the draft agenda of the in-session workshop that was held during SBI 44 in May 2016. The GEF also actively participated in the in-session workshop as a speaker and panelist.³¹</p>
<p>Decision 14/CP.21, COP 21, Capacity-building under the Convention http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a03.pdf</p>	
<p>Decision 14/CP.21, paragraph 8: <i>Invited</i> representatives of the relevant bodies established under the Convention, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and relevant experts and practitioners to integrate into their work programmes and activities the lessons learned at, and the main outcomes of, the meetings of the Durban Forum.</p>	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, is working to integrate lessons learned at, and the main outcomes of, the meeting of the Durban Forum, into GEF's work programs and activities. Capacity-building is supported as an integral aspect of GEF programming, including through the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF. For further details, please refer to Part III, Section 6. During calendar year 2015, the GEFTF, LDCF and SCCF portfolios supported 85 (55 mitigation and 30 adaptation) stand-alone and multi-focal area (MFA) projects with various capacity-building components as defined by the UNFCCC, in the form of technical assistance and investments. The total GEF funding towards supporting these capacity-building activities for 2015 amounts to approximately \$189.0 million.</p>
<p>Decision 14/CP.21, paragraph 10:</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat continues to provide information to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the capacity-building portal. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has submitted to</p>

³¹ The GEF Secretariat's presentation on 'GEF supporting activities for technology development and transfer including the Poznan strategic program', as well as the panel discussion participation, are available online: http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/bonn_may_2016/events/2016-05-21-10-00-in-session-workshop-on-linkages-between-the-technology-mechanism-and-the-financial-mechanism-of-the-convention

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<i>Invited</i> United Nations agencies and multilateral organizations to provide information to the secretariat for the capacity-building portal. ³²	the UNFCCC Secretariat information on activities which the GEF has financed in calendar year 2015 to build and/or enhance capacity of developing countries to implement the UNFCCC, in accordance with the 15 priority areas identified in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (decision 2/CP.7).
Decision 15/CP.21, COP 21, Terms of reference for the intermediate review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a03.pdf	
Decision 15/CP.21, paragraph 3: <i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on the progress made in providing financial support and implementing activities to contribute to the implementation of the Doha work programme.	<p>The GEF has taken significant steps toward implementing the Doha work programme, including by providing financial resources to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in particular African countries, LDCs and SIDS, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1, 6/CP.7, 4/CP.9, 7/CP.10, 3/CP.12, 7/CP.13, 3/CP.16 and 11/CP.17. The GEF Secretariat has reported on its support towards implementing the Doha work programme to the UNFCCC Secretariat ahead of SBI 44.</p> <p>In the period 2012-2015, at least \$67.7 million have been provided by the GEF in support of the Doha work programme towards education, training and public awareness.</p>
Decision 16/CP.21, COP 21, Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests; http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a03.pdf	
Decision 16/CP.21, paragraph 6: <i>Noted</i> that the financing entities referred to in decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 5, are encouraged to continue to provide financial resources, including through the wide variety of sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 65, for alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.	<p>Noted. The GEF continues to provide financial resources for alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.</p> <p>As at June 2016, recipient countries have utilized \$189 million of the sustainable forest management incentive available under GEF-6. Total GEF financing under GEF-6 for sustainable forest management therefore amounts to \$566 million by June 2016. The GEF has further invested \$35 million into sustainable forest management through its Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) and the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot, bringing the total GEF financing towards</p>

³² See <http://unfccc.int/capacitybuilding/core/activities.html>

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	sustainable forest management under GEF-6 to \$601 million as at June 2016.
<p>Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 43) Agenda Item 4(c): Provision of financial and technical support http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbi/eng/22.pdf</p>	
<p><i>Invited</i> the GEF to continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, including the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.</p> <p>[...] <i>invited</i> the GEF to continue to provide an approximate date for completion of draft national communications and an approximate date for submission of final national communications to the secretariat, for consideration at SBI 45 (November 2016).</p> <p>[...] <i>further invited</i> the GEF to continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including the dates of requests for funding, approvals of funding and disbursement of funds, and an approximate date for submission of BURs to the secretariat, for consideration at SBI 44.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for National Communications (NCs), and all requests to support NCs have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set-aside resources, separate from the country resource allocations (STAR), so that each country can access up to \$500,000 for NCs. In addition, through the Global Support Program, implemented in conjunction by UNDP and UNEP, the GEF is supporting technical backstopping, capacity building, and information sharing and knowledge management activities for NCs, BURs, and INDCs.</p> <p>Information on an approximate date of completion of the draft NCs and an approximate date for submission to the secretariat of the NCs will be provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat for consideration at SBI 45 (November 2016) in due course.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat has provided information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including the dates of requests for funding, approvals of funding and disbursement of funds, and an approximate date for submission of BURs to the UNFCCC Secretariat, for consideration at SBI 44.³³</p>
<p>Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 43) Agenda Item 10(b): Development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism; Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbi/eng/22.pdf</p>	
<p>[...] <i>invited</i> Parties, the CTCN and other relevant entities working on technology development and transfer to act upon the recommendations contained in the</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support technology transfer and innovation, encompassing mitigation and adaptation, as well as Technology Needs Assessments.</p>

³³ See document FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.2 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/inf02.pdf>)

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<p>report referred to in paragraph 75 above and <i>encouraged</i> the GEF and other relevant financial entities to consider them.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, 31 climate change mitigation projects with technology transfer objectives were approved with \$188.7 million of GEF funding and \$5.9 billion in co-financing. Please refer to Part III, Section 6 for further information.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat continues to share experiences and lessons learned in regard to the Poznan strategic program. The GEF Secretariat attended a workshop and a side event organized by the Agencies, and also organized a session at the eleventh meeting of the TEC together with the technology transfer and finance centres, on sharing experiences and lessons on the Poznan strategic program by the national executing organizations of pilot projects and the implementing agency of the public-private partnership project.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat also continues to support the dialogue and coordination among the CTCN and the regional centres, by organizing regular consultative meetings among the partners and CTCN at the margin of GEF Council meetings.</p> <p>The GEF has refined the technology transfer section in its report to COP 22. Please refer to the latter report, specifically Part III, Section 6 for further information.³⁴</p> <p>The GEF reports annually to the COP on progress made in carrying out the activities under the program, including as it relates to its long-term implementation.</p>
<p><i>[...] encouraged</i> the GEF to share the midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and pilot projects of the fourth replenishment of the GEF with the TEC and the CTCN as soon as available.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat shares the available mid-term evaluations with the TEC and the CTCN by incorporating information in the report to the COP, so that they can be shared with Parties.</p>
<p>Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 44) Agenda Item 4(b): Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention; Provision of financial and technical support. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/08.pdf</p>	

³⁴ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

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<p>[...] invited the GEF to continue to provide detailed information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including the dates of requests for funding, approval of funding and disbursement of funds and the approximate date of submission of BURs to the secretariat, for consideration at SBI 45 (November 2016).</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat will provide the information as an amendment to the GEF Report to COP 22.</p>
<p>[...] encouraged the GEF agencies to continue to facilitate the preparation and submission of project proposals by non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs and to respond to the project proposals.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat continues to coordinate closely with GEF agencies on the preparation and submission of project proposals for BURs. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat participated in outreach and capacity building events to disseminate information on accessing funds for BURs.</p>
<p>[...] noted with appreciation that the GEF had made good progress on the establishment of the Capacity-building Initiative on Transparency as requested at COP 21. It reiterated its request to the GEF to provide further information on this matter in its report to COP 22 (November 2016).</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation for acknowledgement of effort. Further information on the establishment of the CBIT is provided in the GEF's Report to COP 22, Part II, Section 2 on 'Capacity-building Initiative on Transparency'.³⁵</p>
<p>Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 44) Agenda Item 8: Matters relating to the least developed countries. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/08.pdf</p>	
<p>[...] invited Parties and relevant organizations to continue to provide support for the implementation of the LEG work programme.</p>	<p>The GEF, including through the LDCF, continues to provide support for the implementation of the LEG work programme. For further information on support provided under the LDCF, please refer to Part III, Section 3 of the GEF's Report to COP 22.³⁶</p>

³⁵ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

³⁶ <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>