

54th GEF Council Meeting
June 24 – 26, 2018
Da Nang, Viet Nam

Agenda Item 16

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.54/15, *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 GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD meetings and events; on ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC negotiations; development and consultations on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for 2018 to 2022; on ratification, and progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports; and an annex with GEF's responses to COP23 decisions.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on the signing of the amended Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF Council and on the engagement with the UNCCD on the implementation and support of the land degradation neutrality concept.
- (d) Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol: Updates on ratifications, accessions, national reporting and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol.
- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on signatures, ratifications and on related meetings and events for the Minamata Convention.
- (f) Engagements of the Convention secretariats in the GEF-7 replenishment process and activities to facilitate synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements towards sustainable development.
- (g) A summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: The Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Green Climate Fund.

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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 an update on the engagement of the Convention secretariats in the GEF-7 replenishment process, and information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The document covers the period of October 2017 to May 2018.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

2. The GEF submitted to the CBD Secretariat on 30 April 2018 a report of the Global Environment Facility to the Second Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to be held from July 9-13, 2018. The report responds to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the GEF to provide a preliminary draft of its official report to the COP with a particular focus on the response of the GEF to previous guidance from the COP (decision XII/30, para. 8 (e)). A copy of the report can be found here: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-02> . The GEF responses to COP13 decisions are also presented in Table 1 of Annex I to this document.

3. The GEF participated in the first and second *Bogis-Bossey Dialogues for Biodiversity* (Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, November 12–14, 2017 and Chexbres, Switzerland, March 4–6, 2018). The GEF CEO and Chairperson attended the second dialogue, and contributed to the dialogue on the post-2020 global framework and strategy for the CBD. In addition, the GEF provided updates to participants on the replenishment process and the development of the programming directions for the GEF-7 period.

Ratifications and Accessions

4. The number of Parties under the CBD remains unchanged at 196 since the last Council meeting. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

5. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety remained at 171. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=1>.

6. The total number of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession have increased to 105, since the last Council meeting, for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources

and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, including one new ratification received from United Republic of Tanzania. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya Protocol may be found at:

<https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>.

7. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entered into force on March 5, 2018. With one additional ratification from Japan, there are 41 Parties to the Supplementary Protocol. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety can be found at:

<https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=3>.

National Reporting

8. Since the last Council meeting, the CBD Secretariat has received two new national reports, from Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea, making a total of 191 fifth national reports received as of May 9, 2018. The list of submissions received can be found at:

<https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

9. During the reporting period, the GEF participated in two rounds of UNFCCC meetings, which are the COP23 (November 6 to 17, 2017), and the Bonn Climate Change Conference with Subsidiary Body meetings (April 30 to May 10, 2018).

10. The 23rd COP to UNFCCC took place in conjunction with the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2) and Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 13) in Bonn, Germany from November 6 to 17, 2017. At COP23, the GEF highlighted its work to respond to COP22 guidance received in Marrakesh and efforts to support the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

11. At COP23, Parties reiterated their call to ensure a robust seventh replenishment of the GEF in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding, taking into consideration the Paris Agreement. Parties also welcomed the operationalization of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and projects approved during the reporting period, and requested the GEF to provide adequate support to assist developing country Parties, in line with the Paris Agreement decision (1/CP.21, paragraph 86), which urged and requested the GEF to make arrangements to support the establishment and operation of the CBIT as a priority reporting-related need.

12. The Bonn Climate Change Conference convened from April 30 to May 10, 2018, comprising of the 48th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 48), the

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advices (SBSTA 48), and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-5). Key outcomes of GEF relevance are summarized in the section below.

13. The development and consultations on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF took place during the reporting period, following initial discussions at the twenty-third LDCF and SCCF Council in November 2017. The GEF Secretariat took the following steps for the consultations and technical review of the strategy, which are to be finalized and discussed at the twenty-fourth LDCF and SCCF Council in June 2018:

- (a) Request at LDCF and SCCF Council to interest countries and stakeholders to express their willingness to engage to the GEF Secretariat;
- (b) Distribution of a tentative consultation schedule in mid-January 2018 requesting countries and stakeholders to confirm their interest to engage;
- (c) Informal bilateral consultations with interested representatives in March and April 2018;
- (d) Technical review of draft strategy, starting on April 13, 2018, to solicit comments from relevant adaptation-related funds, including the GCF, Adaptation Fund, and Climate Investment Funds, expert institutions on adaptation, Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), UNFCCC and UNCCD Secretariats, and select GEF Agencies;
- (e) Distribution of draft strategy on 17 April 2018;
- (f) Consultative meeting on April 29, 2018 in Bonn, Germany with donor representatives, Chair and members of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group, and UNFCCC representatives;
- (g) Consultations with LDC representatives on May 2, 2018, in Bonn, Germany; and
- (h) Consultation with donor and recipient representatives on May 23, 2018 over telephone/video conference.

14. During the reporting period, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Wallonia also pledged a total of \$95 million to the LDCF, and Switzerland further pledged \$0.5 million to the SCCF.

Ratifications and Accessions

15. As of May 9, 2018, there are 197 Parties to the Convention. On November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement entered into force. By May 9, 2018, 195 Parties have signed and 176 Parties ratified the agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

National Reporting and Contributions

16. The following is the total number of national communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of May 9, 2018:

- (a) Initial national communications: **151**
- (b) Second national communications: **134**
- (c) Third national communications: **48**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **4**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

17. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/national-communications-and-biennial-update-reports-non-annex-i-parties/national-communication-submissions-from-non-annex-i-parties> .

18. A total of 41 first Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and 16 second BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of May 9, 2018. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-convention/biennial-update-reports-0> .

COP23 and Outcomes

19. COP23 was held on November 6-17, 2017 in Bonn, Germany. The GEF CEO and Chairperson led the GEF delegation, and staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process.

20. During the COP, the GEF gave an intervention on GEF initiatives and achievements based on its annual report as well as an update on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports. The GEF delegation also participated in contact groups and other sessions as requested to provide briefings to Parties and to respond to questions on GEF activities, its support to Parties and its responses to COP guidance. The GEF CEO and Chairperson participated in the official launch of the Global Center of Excellence on Climate Adaptation, as well as in the launch of the InsuResilience Global Partnership to enhance financial protection against climate risks.

21. Additional engagements included two official GEF side events on: ‘Early lessons from GEF Integrated Approach Pilots: Increasing Impact in GEF-7’; and ‘Enhancing Transparency through the Capacity-building Initiative on Transparency’.

22. During the COP, the first-ever joint GEF and GCF side event on ‘Strengthening Collaboration for Supporting Countries in Implementing the Paris Agreement’ was organized, co-chaired by the GEF CEO and Chairperson with the GCF Executive Director. The GEF CEO and

Chairperson and the delegation also participated in the first Annual Dialogue with Climate Finance Delivery Channels, organized by the GCF at the margins of the COP. This event was intended to provide a forum for the exchange of views and for the exploration of new areas of cooperation between providers of climate finance.

23. Furthermore, an event on 'Sub-national Action on Adaptation in and for Least Developed Countries: The role of the LDCF' was organized with Oxford Climate Policy, attended by the LDC Chair as well as high level representatives of the COP Presidency, donors, and LDCs.

24. Events coverage and news articles related to GEF participation in COP23 are available on the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/events/unfccc-cop23>

25. The GEF received guidance from COP23, which, along with GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 2 of Annex I to this document. Key decisions and COP outcomes are summarized below:

- (a) Parties reiterated their call to ensure a robust seventh replenishment in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding, taking into consideration the Paris Agreement;
- (b) Noting the importance of the existing allocation for climate change, Parties requested the GEF to further consider the needs and priorities of developing countries in the allocation for the climate change focal area in its seventh replenishment period;
- (c) Parties invited the GEF to allocate provisions in the climate change focal area of its seventh replenishment for supporting developing country Parties in undertaking technology needs assessments and piloting priority technology projects to foster innovation and investment;
- (d) Parties welcomed the operationalization of the CBIT and projects approved during the reporting period, and requested the GEF to provide adequate support to assist developing country Parties;
- (e) Parties also encouraged the GEF to further enhance engagement with the private sector, including in its technology projects.

26. The GEF will, in its report to COP24, elaborate on the steps taken to fully implement the guidance provided. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018, is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2018, upon approval by the GEF Council.

Bonn Climate Change Conference with Subsidiary Body meetings and Outcomes

27. The Bonn Climate Change Conference convened from April 30 to May 10, 2018, with SBI and SBSTA 48, and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-5). The main

objective of the meetings was to advance on the rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Agreement to be finalized by the COP in 2018. The meetings also held the first Talanoa Dialogue where parties and stakeholders shared stories responding to "Where are we?" "Where do we want to go?" and "How do we get there?". A synthesis report from the dialogue will be presented at COP24 in December 2018.

28. Topics of relevance to the GEF included: discussion on the provision of finance and technical support to continue in SBI 49, enhanced collaboration with the operating entities of the financial mechanism under the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, and continued elaboration of the Technology Framework under SBSTA.

29. On matters related to LDCs, the GEF was requested to provide in its report to COP24 information regarding treatment of LDCs in transition (recently graduated LDCs). The SBI also recommended a draft decision on the LDC work programme for consideration and adoption at COP24. The LDCF is mandated to support the LDC work programme.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

30. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has engaged closely with the UNFCCC Secretariat in the GEF-7 replenishment process.

31. The GEF Secretariat also arranged for a representative of the Secretariat of the GCF to observe the third and fourth GEF-7 replenishment meetings held on January 23-25, 2018 and April 25, 2018, respectively. This was in response to a request from the GCF Secretariat, to help facilitate the preparations for the GCF replenishment process in the future.

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

- (a) National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Support Program (GSP) Board meetings and partners meeting with the LDC Chair, UNDP, UNEP, IIED and Climate Analytics on integrated support to the LDC work program on February 1-3, 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand;
- (b) Thirty-third meeting of the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) on February 6, 2018 in Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe;
- (c) GCF Technical Workshop on Climate Adaptation Finance on March 5-6, 2018 in Songdo, Republic of Korea;
- (d) Sixteenth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on March 15, 2018 in Bonn, Germany;
- (e) NAP Expo on April 6-8, 2018 in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt;

- (f) Seventeenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) on April 10-12, 2018 in Bonn, Germany;
- (g) Second meeting of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform on April 24-26, 2018 in Berlin, Germany;

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

33. As reported previously, from September 6-16, 2017, the 13th UNCCD COP convened in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China, and adopted the “Amended Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility”. The two secretariats are making appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties. The GEF responses to COP13 guidance are presented in Table 3 of Annex I to this document.

34. As a follow-up to the establishment of the first global private sector fund dedicated to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund), the GEF announced its support, through a medium-sized project (MSP) titled: *“support for the LDN Fund by providing resources for technical assistance and de-risking”* and affirmed its commitment to continue working with partners to operationalize the LDN Fund. In this reporting period, the GEF CEO and Chairperson attended the launch of the LDN Fund, at the occasion of the One Earth Summit in December 2017. The GEF Secretariat personnel also took part in a technical meeting (London, April 2018) with the implementing agency WWF-US, UNCCD Secretariat, Mirova, and consultants for the LDN Technical Assistance Facility to provide advice for the development of the facility.

Ratifications and Accessions

35. As of October 25, 2017, the UNCCD was ratified or acceded by 196 countries.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

36. The GEF Secretariat representative had an informal meeting with representatives of the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism at the UNCCD Secretariat on April 11, 2018, to discuss collaboration between the two Secretariats, GEF Assembly planning, and progress on the GEF-7 replenishment.

37. From March 19 to 22, 2018 the GEF Secretariat attended the Africa regional workshop hosted by UNCCD and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), organized under the Global Support Program II at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This Africa regional workshop was attended by 90 participants from 43 countries. Each country was represented by the UNCCD Focal point and either a GIS/database expert in charge of the SDG report or from a national statistical

institute to play with default data provided for Land Cover, Land Productivity, Soil Organic Carbon, and estimation of degraded lands.

38. This regional workshop also provided the opportunity to take stock of several global Land Degradation projects that are complementary in view of the 2018 reporting, the integration of GIS information, and LDN targets:

- (a) The Global Support Program II, developed by UNEP and executed by the Global Mechanism of UNCCD, is an initiative financed by the GEF to enable Parties to effectively participate in the UNCCD reporting process, build technical expertise at national level to report, and strengthen national UNCCD-related monitoring systems;
- (b) The four Enabling Activity umbrella projects to finance capacity building and reporting in 108 GEF eligible countries;
- (c) The Land Degradation Monitoring Tool Box, called Trends.Earth, developed by Conservation International and the Vital Signs Program. Trends.Earth is a free, open-source tool to support analysis of datasets related to land degradation monitoring. It draws on globally available data and allows integration of national level datasets. It is a plugin for QGIS, a free and open-source GIS. Trends.Earth will be instrumental in helping the countries to incorporate data sets with better resolution than the default data.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

39. During the reporting period, one additional country has ratified the Stockholm Convention bringing the number of Parties to 182. Thirty-one new national reports were submitted by Parties to the Convention. The GEF responses to COP8 decisions are also presented in Table 4 of Annex I to this document.

Ratifications and Accessions

40. During the reporting period, the State of Palestine ratified the Stockholm Convention. The total number of ratifications amounts to 182 as of May 1, 2018. 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

41. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavor 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

periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of May 2018, 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>	<i>Change since last report</i>
Initial NIP	168	3
NIP Update for COP4 amendments	63	12
NIP Update for COP5 amendments	54	9
NIP Update for COP6 amendments	25	4
NIP Update for COP7 amendments	11	3

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

Additional Meetings and Consultations

43. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) attended and participated in the replenishment meetings in Brasilia and Stockholm.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

44. During the reporting period, eight additional countries ratified the Minamata Convention. The GEF responses to COP1 decisions are presented in Table 5 of Annex I to this document.

Signatures and Ratifications

45. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was opened for signature and ratification in October 2013. As of May 1, 2018, the Convention has 128 signatures, and 91 countries have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

46. The GEF Secretariat has continued to bilaterally coordinate with the Minamata Convention Secretariat on the GEF-7 replenishment, preparations for the sixth GEF Assembly and for the Second Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

47. The Minamata Convention Secretariat participated in the fourth GEF Replenishment meeting, held in Stockholm in April 2018.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

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

SPECIAL PROGRAM

49. The GEF Secretariat participated in the third Executive Board Meeting of the Special Program, which was held from November 30 to December 1, 2017, in Nairobi, Kenya. The GEF Secretariat provided board members with technical observations of the cohort of projects being considered for funding.

SAICM and Strategic Approach and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020 - The Intersessional Process

50. The GEF Secretariat participated in the second Meeting of the Intersessional Process for the Strategic Approach and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020, which was held in Stockholm, Sweden, March 13-15, 2018.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CONVENTIONS TO FACILITATE SYNERGIES AND GEF-7 REPLENISHMENT

51. 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 Conventions. 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.

52. 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. The GEF has received decisions and guidance related to SDGs from UNCCD COP12 and COP 13 in 2015 and 2017, from the CBD COP13 in 2016, and also from the Stockholm COP in 2017. Additional decisions of relevance and guidance on synergy and integration have been given by recent COPs. These decisions and guidance underscore the increasing need for the GEF to engage across the Conventions to ensure consistency and effectiveness on cross-cutting themes and to facilitate synergy.

53. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat organized a Dialogue with MEA Secretariats at the margins of the 53rd GEF Council on November 27, 2017. The dialogue featured the Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions and senior representatives of the other MEA Secretariats. It included government representatives attending the GEF Council and participants from the GEF Secretariat. The dialogue provided an opportunity to exchange views on current thinking on the facilitation of private-public sector financing opportunities, and where the GEF can be helpful, along with additional considerations for integrated programming and addressing SDGs in GEF-7 from the Convention perspective. The summary of the MEA dialogue is available on the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/Summary%20MEA%20Dialogue-Jan%2026%202018%20Final%20docx.pdf>

54. Regarding the GEF-7 replenishment, the GEF Secretariat has been engaged actively with the five Convention secretariats individually and collectively to ensure that the proposed GEF programming and policy directions address Convention priorities and recent COP guidance, and facilitate synergy towards greater effectiveness and impact.

55. Inputs from all MEA secretariats have been sought on proposed initiatives to support integrated national planning for MEAs and SDGs, as well as initiatives and focal area strategies that are proposed based on national prioritization and Convention guidance and decisions of relevance.

56. Consultations with the Convention secretariats on the GEF-7 Programming Directions have taken place at multiple levels, including bilateral dialogues between the GEF CEO and Convention Executive Secretaries, technical level discussions, participation in the second GEF-7 replenishment meeting, and written contributions on proposed Programming Directions.

ADAPTATION FUND

57. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. In November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12) decided to renew the interim institutional arrangement for an additional three years, from May 30, 2017, to May 30, 2020.

58. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for an intersessional review cycle and for the thirtieth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board during the reporting period. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of March 31, 2018, the Adaptation Fund Board has approved 73 concrete projects amounting to \$476 million in total. As of March 31, 2018, funds available to support funding decisions were \$203.0 million.

59. The GEF Secretariat and Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender

mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. In addition, both secretariats have exchanged ideas on opportunities of gender-related collaboration such as holding joint gender trainings and jointly participating in a gender-related events. The GEF Secretariat supported the Adaptation Fund Board in successfully organizing its first gender training by sharing lessons and experiences from its gender training.

60. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund collaborated on the Adaptation Fund's campaign to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the launch of its operations through GEF's participation in a special commemorative video, anniversary publication and event prepared by the Adaptation Fund. The GEF CEO and Chairperson participated in a video interview conducted by the Adaptation Fund for its anniversary video, and prominently appears in the video, which was widely shared on the web, social media and at the Fund's exhibits for COP23. The Fund's anniversary event was held at the historic Old Town Hall in Bonn, Germany in November 2017, and the GEF CEO and Chairperson attended. The GEF CEO and Chairperson also contributed an article to the Fund's anniversary publication, and gave a speech at the anniversary event. Web and print versions of the publication and excerpts from it and the event were also shared on the Fund's website and social media channels and with key stakeholders and partners.

61. The GEF Secretariat collaborated with the Adaptation Fund at COP23 jointly convening, together with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the GCF as well as the Government of South Africa, the Day of Direct Access Entities (DAE) event in support of readiness, scaling up capacity building and enhancing collaboration through South-South cooperation to enhance Direct Access to climate finance. The Director of Programs of the GEF participated in the high level opening session of the event and the GEF also facilitated the group discussion on project preparation and development during the break-out sessions. The DAE day aimed to strengthen the engagement of Direct Access Entities as important and effective delivery channels of dedicated climate funds under the Convention.

62. The GEF Secretariat involved the Adaptation Fund in the GEF's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Operational Improvements initiative by incorporating inputs provided by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat in April 2018.

63. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat have coordinated closely in order to actively provide reflections and comments from the two Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs) for the ongoing process of the second phase of the World Bank's Trust Fund reform. It is currently reviewing existing stock of FIFs and will aim to improve corporate discipline and guidance for flow of FIFs.

64. The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat is among the partners involved in the preparations of the GEF Assembly, taking place at the end of June in Da Nang, Vietnam. The GEF Secretariat and Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat are collaborating on a side event which will focus on complementarities and cooperation, particularly through the Small Grants Program, drawing on lessons from past experience and discussing options for the future.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Green Climate Fund

65. The GEF and the GCF focal points followed up on items of mutual relevance and the areas previously elaborated for potential enhanced collaboration¹ during several teleconferences.

66. The GEF Secretariat hosted a delegation from the GCF Secretariat in Washington DC for the GCF-GEF Technical Workshop on February 7, 2018 to further advance the action plan. Specifically, technical staff from both secretariats agreed on a list of nine next steps, as follows:

- (a) Organize expanded constituency workshops (ECWs)/structured dialogues together, or back-to-back, to raise awareness about different support opportunities and access process;
- (b) Identify countries where joint national dialogue/country programming frameworks could be held together;
- (c) Share dates and locations of country/regional outreach meetings between secretariats;
- (d) Identify additional countries for the joint programming pilot, and agree on a set of approximately five countries;
- (e) Identify current and possible pathways and operational roadmaps for joint programming and share with countries/agencies, as appropriate;
- (f) Set up a technical platform/group among the funds on indicators, results, methodologies;
- (g) Share portfolio-level updates, such as pipelines on NAPs or REDD+, through regular teleconferences every three to four months, or as decision points relevant to respective funds;
- (h) Explore feasibility to request countries/agencies to summarize GEF or GCF support (recent, ongoing, and planned) in project documents, so as to enable better tracking of complementary support and also to identify opportunities for linkages;
- (i) On private sector: Scale up GEF NGI projects, share outreach documentation such as Green Finance brochure, share ideas and experiences on innovative incubators.

¹ For the list of areas that emerged in terms of practical steps for potential enhanced complementarity and coherence, please see GEF Report to COP23, paragraph 53:
<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Final%20COP%2023%20Report%20August%203.pdf>

67. Upon request from the GCF Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat made arrangements to enable a GCF Secretariat staff to observe the third and fourth GEF replenishment meetings in January and April 2018 to help prepare for the GCF replenishment in the future. The GCF representative also observed the first and second GEF replenishment meetings.

68. The GCF Secretariat also provided comments on the *GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements (July 2018 to June 2022)* in April 2018, in response to the request from the GEF Secretariat as part of the technical review of the strategy document. The GEF Secretariat has addressed comments and suggestions provided, so as to ensure that GCF activities and inputs are reflected in the strategy to enhance complementarity and financial leverage. The GEF Secretariat also collaborated with the GCF Secretariat and other funds to develop a results framework to identify common sets of indicators and outcomes/outputs across the various adaptation-related funds to inform the above strategy.

69. The GEF and GCF Secretariats organized the first-ever joint side event at COP23 on ‘Strengthening Collaboration to Support Countries in Implementing the Paris Agreement’, co-chaired by the GEF CEO and Chairperson and the GCF Executive Director. A summary of the event can be found online.² The GEF also took part in the Annual Dialogue with Climate Finance Delivery Channel, organized by the GCF Secretariat during COP23, and collaborated with the GCF, AF, and UNFCCC Secretariats on the organization of a Direct Access Entity (DAE) event.

70. In addition to the above, since the beginning of 2018, two technical and informal GEF – GCF groups have connected through teleconference: one group facilitating discussions on adaptation and the other on forest and land issues. The objective of these discussions is to provide a fora wherein quarterly updates can happen and whereby duplicative actions can be minimized and synergies enhanced.

71. The GEF Secretariat representative participated in GCF’s Technical Expert Workshop on Climate Adaptation Finance on March 5 to 6, 2018, where lessons learned from the LDCF and SCCF support to adaptation were shared. The GEF and GCF personnel also held bilateral meetings on key subjects, including organization of an informal ministerial discussion at the GEF Assembly, partnership and collaborative programming potential, and preparations for Bonn UNFCCC meeting in April to May 2018.

² http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop23/enbots/16nov.html?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2017-11-17%20-%20COP23%20Bonn%20-%20ENBOTS%20-%20issue10%20SW&utm_content=2017-11-17%20-%20COP23%20Bonn%20-%20ENBOTS%20-%20issue10%20SW+CID_6fb11158be60188186231ffcc81cdca7&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Browser%20Version#event-3

72. The GEF and GCF staff continued to discuss items of mutual relevance on a regular basis, as needed.

UN Forum on Forests

73. The GEF continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in the reporting period, participating in three CPF meetings (November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, February 2018 in Rome, Italy, and May 2018 in New York, USA) and contributing to the implementation of its tasks such as the CPF Workplan.

74. On July 14, 2017, the GEF approved a new project supporting a CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) aiming at enhancing synergies in the global FLR process and assist countries and stakeholders to scale up and strengthen implementation of FLR at national and sub-national levels.

75. The GEF assisted the CPF to implement the International Conference "Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area - from Aspiration to Action", which was held from February 20-22, 2018, in Rome, Italy. The conference brought together approximately 300 participants from governments, international organizations, the scientific community, private sector, civil society and farmer organizations. They discussed the challenges of halting and reversing deforestation, and explored ways to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG target 15.2 on halting deforestation by 2020, and Target 1.1 of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF), which calls for reversing the loss of forest cover and increasing forest areas by three percent worldwide by 2030.

76. The GEF supported the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), by participating in an expert meeting from March 6-8 2018 in Sichuan, China. The expert meeting developed guidelines and recommended steps to further enhance the work of the GFFFN to be considered at the next meeting of the Forum in May 2018 (UNFF13).

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

77. In close coordination with the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG), the GEF participated in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in April 2018 and provided a statement on the GEF's engagement with indigenous peoples and updates on the GEF-7 replenishment process and policy processes.

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

Table 1: Decision Adopted by CBD COP13 (Decision XIII/21) and GEF Response to Date

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>A. Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities (2018-2022)</p>	
<p><i>Adopts</i> the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism, including the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as contained in annexes I and II to the present decision, and <i>decides</i> to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, the recipient and non-recipient Global Environment Facility participants, relevant global and regional partner organizations, and the Executive Secretary to promote a successful implementation of the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;</p>	<p>The GEF-7 Programming Directions and Policy Agenda document prepared for the replenishment meetings has emphasized integrated programming to achieve synergies across the MEAs. The document presented to the fourth replenishment meeting can be found at: https://www.thegef.org/council-meetings/gef-7-replenishment-fourth-meeting</p> <p>Specifically, the proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy fully embodies an integrated approach to biodiversity management that comprehensively addresses the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, as contained in annexes I and II to CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/21. As currently formulated in the proposed GEF-7 Programming Directions, implementation of the GEF-7 Framework of Program Priorities from CBD COP13 is supported through the proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy along with three Impact Programs that seek to deliver impact at scale by addressing key underlying drivers of biodiversity loss as well as direct drivers/pressures. Together, they provide a comprehensive strategic response to the most prominent direct drivers/pressures of biodiversity loss.</p>
<p><i>Notes</i> the initial assessment of the accreditation pilot, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including</p>	<p>The GEF Council, at its 50th meeting in June 2016, having reviewed the Secretariat's analysis of the coverage and effectiveness of the GEF's network of 18 Agencies (GEF/C.50/07), and an evaluation of the expansion of the GEF Partnership carried out by the Independent</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities.</p>	<p>Evaluation Office (GEF/ME/C.50/06), decided to reassess, at the end of the sixth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-6), whether to launch a process to accredit a limited number of additional Agencies. The Council agreed that this assessment should build on the findings of the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6), expected in September 2017, and take into account the criteria set out in the Secretariat's paper.</p> <p>OPS6 notes that the latest expansion of the Partnership has contributed towards enhanced access by countries to a broader range of technical capabilities; greater choice among Agencies; and country ownership. The report also finds, however, that increased competition among Agencies has sometimes been counterproductive, and the expansion has resulted in efficiency trade-offs, with an increase in transaction costs for the Secretariat and country focal points.</p> <p>In view of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of OPS6, as well as an updated analysis presented by the Secretariat at the second meeting on the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-7) in October 2017, most Participants to the replenishment noted that the current network of 18 Agencies provide adequate geographic and thematic coverage, suggesting no imminent need to expand the GEF Partnership. That understanding is reflected in the Participants' latest draft policy recommendations, subject to final review and approval at the fourth replenishment meeting in April 2018.</p> <p>The final GEF-7 policy recommendations, including on the issue of accreditation and the GEF Partnership, will be transmitted for review and endorsement by the GEF Council at its 54th meeting in June 2018. At that meeting the GEF Secretariat will also present updated analysis on the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
	of the GEF Partnership pursuant to the Council's request in June 2016.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.	The GEF will include this information in future reports to the COP once GEF-7 is under implementation.
D. Second determination of funding requirement	
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to take the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the expert team's needs assessment report into consideration in the process of the seventh period of replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund but also noting the limitations identified by the expert team.	During the GEF-7 replenishment process, this has been taken into consideration by the replenishment participants. The proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy and the aforementioned impact programs all map their objectives and outcomes to their contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
E. Further guidance	
<i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention;	<p>GEF continues to act on opportunities for joint financing to achieve global environmental benefits and achieve the objectives of multiple Rio conventions.</p> <p>For example, the WB/GEF project, "Sustainable Low Carbon Development in Colombia's Orinoquia Region", (GEF biodiversity grant: \$5.9 million, co-finance: \$70.1 million), includes a \$20 million grant from the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes and will help achieve GEF strategy objectives of relevance to the CBD and the UNFCCC. The project will address current and projected direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss and Agriculture, Forestry and other Land-use (AFOLU) emissions in Orinoquia.</p> <p>The project aims to: a) strengthen territorial planning instruments with sustainable</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
	<p>(biodiversity and low-carbon landscape management) criteria including land-use planning, land tenure, and deforestation control measures; b) improve biodiversity protection in 494,901 hectares of protected areas; c) integrate biodiversity and ecosystem service values into land use planning that will cover an area of 4.6 million hectares; and d) design a large-scale Emission Reduction Program for the Orinoquia region including the establishment of a Monitoring and Verification System for Emission Reduction and the design of the future Results Based Payment program.</p> <p>Another example is the WB/GEF project, “Mai-Ndombe REDD+ Integrated Project” (GEF biodiversity and climate change mitigation grant: \$6.2 million, co-finance: \$32.4 million), in Congo DR which aims to improve forest management and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The project includes a \$14.2 million grant from the Forest Investment Program and \$18.2 million grant from the Central African Forestry Initiative. The project will help achieve GEF strategy objectives of relevance to the CBD and the UNFCCC and aims to improve management of biodiversity-rich areas totaling 250,000 hectares, improve sustainable land management in 100,000 hectares, and mitigate 1.45 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.</p>
<p><i>Takes note</i> of the projected shortfall of resources from sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements, and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda of the 51st meeting of the Council;</p> <p><i>Notes</i> the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the</p>	<p>The GEF has sought to minimize the consequences of the project shortfall consistent with GEF Council Decision GEF/C.51/04.</p> <p>Over the course of the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, participants have discussed options to manage the GEF's exposure to currency risks, based on information prepared by the GEF Trustee</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>domestic level and in support of the achievement of Aichi Targets, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 18 above for its support to developing countries, aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;</p>	<p>(GEF/R.7/16, <i>Financial Considerations for the GEF-7 Replenishment</i>; GEF/R.7/Inf.15, <i>Overview of the International Development Association's [IDA's] Experience of Hedging Donor Contributions</i>). As of March 2018, participants have not yet concluded those deliberations.</p>
<p><i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, including through public-private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access, do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries to access Global Environment Facility funds;</p>	<p>GEF and its partners will continue to help identify and mobilize co-financing to support the implementation of GEF projects. Table 9 presents a summary of all contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through various funding streams during GEF-6. In sum, \$1.543 Billion of GEF resources have leveraged \$7.986 billion of co-financing; a ratio of 1 to 5. This level of co-financing has resulted in a total of \$9.529 billion being invested towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p> <p>Of the \$1.543 billion of GEF resources invested, 50% comes from the biodiversity focal area STAR allocations, and the remaining 50% of resources come from the biodiversity focal area set aside and other funding streams within the GEF.</p>
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, to include in its</p>	<p>During the reporting period, all biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects using biodiversity resources submitted to the council were approved.</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding.	
Ecosystem restoration	
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and Parties in a position to do so and other donors, such as international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to provide support for ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication.	<p>In GEF-6, the GEF supported “The Restoration Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge” program with \$53 million of GEF resources which leveraged \$201 million of co-financing. The participating countries include: Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, DRC, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sao Tome & Principe, and Tanzania.</p> <p>In GEF-7, a proposed Impact Program entitled “Food Systems, Land-use, and Restoration” seeks to provide a programming window to support ecosystem restoration, in addition to support for forest restoration offered under the “Sustainable Forest Management” Impact Program.</p>
Strategic Plan	
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, and <i>invites</i> other development partners and donors in a position to do so, to continue to provide support in a timely manner, based on the expressed needs of Parties, especially for developing countries and, in particular, least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.	During GEF-5 and GEF-6, virtually all GEF-eligible countries have received support to revise their NBSAP. During GEF-7, GEF will support the very few remaining countries that have not revised their NBSAPs. In addition, GEF will respond to any further guidance that may be directed to the GEF on NBSAP development during the GEF-7 phase. Allowances are made for this support in the proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
Aichi Targets 11 and 12	
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area and other effective area-based conservation measures in its sixth and seventh replenishment periods with the national actions	GEF will continue to support implementation of protected area projects in support of Aichi Targets 11 and 12 in support of priorities identified in the NBSAPs and other relevant

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and, as appropriate, through the regional workshops for the achievement of Targets 11 and 12, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to the implementation of the national action plans for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 and other related targets.</p>	<p>planning documents and this is included in the proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p>
<p>Sixth national report</p>	
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the light of the revised guidelines for reporting under the Convention and its Protocols, to assess the required funding levels for national reporting, and provide financial support to developing countries accordingly in a timely and expeditious manner.</p>	<p>The GEF undertook an assessment of required funding levels for the national report and, as a result, provided a fourfold funding increase to produce the sixth National Report when compared to funding of previous national reports. These projects were approved to support production of the sixth National Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Africa-1 and Africa-2) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD – (Global: Africa-3, plus Maldives, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Solomon Islands) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (LAC I and LAC II) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Europe, CIS and Mongolia) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Pacific) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report (6NR) to the CBD (Asia) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (6NR - North Africa, West/Central Asia and Mauritania)

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (6NR - Mixed regions)
Cross-sectoral mainstreaming	
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment <i>Facility</i> and other donor and financial institutions to provide financial assistance for country driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming when requested by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to support cross-sectoral mainstreaming, an area of the GEF portfolio that continues to increase relative to other conservation investment strategies prioritized by Parties. Opportunities for cross-sectoral mainstreaming are provided for in the proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p>
Traditional knowledge	
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, international financial institutions and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, as appropriate and consistent with their mandates to consider providing financial and technical assistance to developing country Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women within these communities, to raise awareness and to build their capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and to develop, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent”, depending on national circumstances, or “approval and involvement”, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.</p>	<p>GEF will support activities within relevant projects to respond to these capacity building requests.</p>
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide finance in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House;</p>	<p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy included Program 5 to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and support for these activities. A dedicated programming area</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p><i>Emphasizes</i> the importance of continuous and predictable support by the Global Environment Facility to eligible Parties to support their compliance with reporting obligations under the Protocol;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide financial support to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to further implement the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so to put in place a national biosafety framework and to make funds available to this end;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to provide eligible Parties with financial resources to facilitate effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide funding for capacity-building related to risk assessment and risk management in the context of country-driven projects;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility:</p> <p>To continue to make specific funding available to eligible Parties to put in place their national biosafety frameworks;</p> <p>To continue to fund projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and sub-regional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and</p>	<p>to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol is part of the proposed GEF-7 biodiversity strategy and responds to all past and current guidance presented to the GEF.</p>

CBD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies;</p> <p>To ensure that the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria adopted in annex I to decision I/2 of the Conference of the Parties are duly followed in an efficient manner in relation to access and utilization of financial resources.</p>	
<p>Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing</p>	
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to provide support to eligible Parties for interim national reports under the Nagoya Protocol.</p>	<p>GEF approved a global project to support 65 countries to produce an Interim National Report. The GEF invested \$1.4 million and leveraged \$1.1 million in co-financing.</p>

Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP23 and SBI 47 Conclusions and GEF Response to Date

UNFCCC COP23 Decision ³ /SBI 47 Conclusion	GEF's Response
COP 23 Decision on the Fiji Momentum for Implementation	
<p>Paragraph 17: Decides to convene a stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, which will apply the format of the 2016 facilitative dialogue and consider, inter alia:</p> <p>(a) The inputs of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the constituted bodies under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; [...]</p>	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, stands ready to provide input to the stock-take on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP 24.</p>
Decision 6/CP.23, Long-term climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requested</i> the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. For instance, the GEF continues to provide resources for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, Technology Needs Assessments, and other initiatives such as Expanded Constituency Workshops, in an effort to bolster developing country abilities to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action. The GEF is also a member of the NDC Partnership to this effect.</p>
Decision 8/CP.23, Review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Encouraged</i> Parties and other constituted bodies under the Convention to continue to provide submissions for the preparation of draft decisions</p>	<p>The GEF's report, covering the period from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018 is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat</p>

³ COP 23 decisions are available on the UNFCCC website:
<https://unfccc.int/decisions?f%5B0%5D=conference%3A4100&search=&page=1>

UNFCCC COP23 Decision ³ /SBI 47 Conclusion	GEF's Response
on guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, based on the reports of the operating entities, in a timely manner to the Standing Committee on Finance;	in August 2018, upon approval by the GEF Council.
Decision 10/CP.23, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomed</i> the decision of the GEF Council to begin the process of updating its minimum agency standards and fiduciary policies;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Also welcomed</i> the GEF Council's approval of the GEF's policy on ethics and conflict of interest;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Reiterated</i> its call in decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 2, to ensure a robust seventh replenishment in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding, taking into consideration the Paris Agreement as well as the request of the COP to the GEF contained in decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 3;</p>	In the reporting period, 29 countries jointly pledged \$4.1 billion to the GEF for its seventh replenishment (GEF-7).
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Requested</i> the GEF to enhance the consultation process with developing country Parties and other stakeholders in the context of the GEF replenishment process;</p>	The consultation process for the GEF-7 replenishment included active developing country representation and participation through regional constituency representatives covering all regions on this planet. In addition, several developing country Parties also participated as donors in the replenishment negotiations. The GEF Council is expected to endorse the GEF-7 Policy Recommendations, Programming Directions and Replenishment Resolution, at its 54 th meeting in June 2018.
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Noting</i> the importance of the existing allocation for climate change, <i>requested</i> the GEF to further consider the needs and priorities of developing countries in the allocation for the climate change focal area in its seventh replenishment period;</p>	The GEF-7 framework is structured to address seminal COP decisions for the Paris Agreement, and to further support developing countries' needs and priorities in line with the GEF's role as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.

UNFCCC COP23 Decision ³ /SBI 47 Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>The GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy aims to support developing countries in their efforts to shift towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways. To achieve this goal, the strategy continues to emphasize three fundamental objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs; • Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts; and • Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies. <p>In GEF-7 these objectives will be addressed through country driven investments in the focal area and specific impact programs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Requested</i> the GEF to continue implementing in its seventh replenishment period its established policies for grants and concessional funding, in support of developing country Parties, in line with the provisions of the Convention, relevant decisions of the COP and the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF;</p>	<p>The GEF continues implementing in GEF-7 its established policies for grants and concessional funding, in support of developing country Parties, in line with the provisions of the Convention, relevant decisions of the COP and the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Welcomed</i> the operationalization of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and projects approved during the reporting period, and requested the GEF to provide adequate support to assist developing country Parties, in line with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86;</p>	<p>The CBIT Trust Fund continues to provide support to CBIT projects in the GEF-6 period. Under the GEF-7 Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, countries will have access for Convention obligations and CBIT support from set-asides that do not draw on country allocations.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Noted</i> the GEF Council decision GEF/C.50/07 and its conclusions, and <i>invited</i> the GEF to further consider ways to improve its access modalities for developing country Parties, including small island developing States and the least developed countries;</p>	<p>The GEF-7 replenishment recognized the needs of all GEF recipient countries, particularly those of least developed countries and small island developing States. As such, the replenishment includes an increase in the weight of the GDP per capita index in the resource allocation system for GEF-7, which will ensure an</p>

UNFCCC COP23 Decision ³ /SBI 47 Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>enhanced emphasis on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. Upon request by the GEF replenishment participants, the GEF Secretariat is also presenting for Council consideration an updated results architecture, with a view to promoting simplification, with fewer, more relevant indicators and more streamlined reporting on project and program-level results. The GEF will further continue to support developing country Parties, including small island developing States and least developed countries in accessing funding from the GEF, through the Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) and regional/national portfolio and programming workshops during GEF-7.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requested</i> the GEF, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to follow its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Encouraged</i> the GEF to further enhance engagement with the private sector, including in its technology projects;</p>	<p>One of the three objectives of the GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area is to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs. In GEF-7, partnership with the private to promote technology transfer and deployment will be a key priority. Resources from the GEF play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster private sector engagement for technology and innovation.</p> <p>The objective to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs has four entry points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-centralized renewable power with energy storage; • Electric drive technologies and electric mobility;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and • Cleantech innovation. <p>These four entry points have been prioritized to be innovative, align with NDCs, and be complementary to other financial mechanisms.</p> <p>The proposed GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF also emphasizes the importance of engagement of the private sector.</p> <p>As noted by the IEO, “The GEF engages with a wide variety of private sector entities that vary in their industry focus, size, and approach to environmental issues using a mix of intervention models. The range extends from multinational corporations; through large domestic firms and financial institutions; to micro, small, and medium enterprises and smallholders/individuals.”⁴ GEF-7 therefore will create opportunities to involve the private sector in new programs through two pillars, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the use of non-grant instruments; and • Work with the private sector as an agent for market transformation.
<p>Paragraph 12:</p> <p><i>Invited</i> the GEF to allocate provisions in the climate change focal area of its seventh replenishment for supporting developing country Parties in undertaking technology needs assessments and piloting priority technology projects to foster innovation and investment;</p>	<p>One of the three objectives of the GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area is to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs. In GEF-7, partnership with the private sector to promote technology transfer and deployment will be a key priority. Resources from the GEF play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices,</p>

⁴ GEF IEO (GEF Independent Evaluation Office) 2017, *Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6): The GEF in the Changing Environmental Finance Landscape*; and GEF/ME/C.52/Inf.04, *Evaluation of GEF's Engagement with the Private Sector*

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	<p>supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster private sector engagement for technology and innovation.</p> <p>The proposed GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF also emphasizes the importance of engagement of the private sector.</p> <p>Under GEF-7, support for technology needs assessments will be made eligible for small island developing states and least developed countries in GEF-7.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Also invited</i> the GEF to include information in its report to the COP on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The collaboration between the GEF focal points and the national designated entities for technology development and transfer, as communicated by the CTCN to the GEF; (b) Whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for piloting the implementation of the technology needs assessment results; 	<p>The GEF's report, covering the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2018, upon approval by the GEF Council.</p>
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Also requested</i> the GEF to include in its annual report to the COP information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.</p>	<p>The GEF's report, covering the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2018, upon approval by the GEF Council.</p>
Decision 11/CP.23, Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Took note</i> of the efforts made by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance complementarity and coherence between them and between the operating entities and other sources of investment and financial flows;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Requested</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to continue to enhance complementarity and coherence;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to work closely with the Green Climate Fund to continue to enhance complementarity and coherence. Please refer to specific initiatives to this effect as outlined in</p>

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	the Section 'Relations with Other International Institutions', sub-section 'Green Climate Fund' in the main body of this document.
Decision 14/CP.23, Review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomed with appreciation</i> the support provided by Parties and the Global Environment Facility, and the financial and in-kind contributions from UNEP, UNIDO and other consortium partners of the CTCN in supporting the operationalization and activities of the CTCN;</p>	Noted.
Decision 15/CP.23, Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism	
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Welcomed</i> the engagement of the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the Global Environment Facility and multilateral development banks regarding collaborative activities, including the implementation of technical assistance requests with scalable investment potential;</p>	Noted.
Decision 17/CP.23, Fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Recognized</i> that:</p> <p>(b) Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the GEF, within its mandate, have provided adequate resources and assistance for the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition established under decision 3/CP.7;</p>	Noted.
Paragraph 3:	

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<p><i>Invited</i> Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the GEF, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector, or any further arrangements, as appropriate and within their mandates, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition that are currently receiving support;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition that are currently receiving support, including through regular projects and programs, as well as for National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development program. Further details on GEF's support for capacity-building will be included in the GEF's report to COP24.</p>
<p>SBI 47, Agenda Item 10: Matters relating to the least developed countries</p>	
<p>Paragraph 57: <i>Noted with appreciation</i> the financial pledge of EUR 50 million made by Germany to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the fund.</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the continued strong support from Germany as well as additional donors to the LDCF.</p>
<p>SBI 47, Agenda Item 11: National Adaptation Plans</p>	
<p>Paragraph 65: <i>Noted</i> the approval, as at 30 October 2017, by the GCF of 10 out of 38 funding proposals through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to support the formulation of NAPs, as well as the approval by the GEF of funding proposals from four countries to support the process to formulate and implement NAPs.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>SBI 47, Agenda Item 14(b): Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p>	
<p>Paragraph 86: <i>Welcomed</i> the report of the GEF, including the information on progress in relation to the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer (PSP) and related challenges and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 91: <i>Welcomed</i> the midterm evaluations of the pilot projects of the fourth replenishment of the GEF included in the report referred to in paragraph 86 above. It <i>reiterated</i> its encouragement to the GEF to share the midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and the aforementioned pilot projects as soon as</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to share midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and the pilot projects.</p>

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available in order to the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to update the evaluation report on the PSP.	
SBSTA 47, Agenda Item 8: Research and systematic observation	
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Recalling</i> its conclusions from SBSTA 45, the SBSTA: (c) <i>Encouraged</i> Parties and relevant organizations to take advantage of support available via the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism as well as other relevant organizations and channels, as appropriate, to support the Global Climate Observation System regional workshops and projects identified in the resulting implementation plans.</p>	Noted.

Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP13 and GEF Response to Date

UNCCD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>Welcomes the continued support for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Invites the Global Environment Facility donors to use the findings and lessons learnt, contained in the report on programming and priorities in the affected regions, to inform the programming directions for the focal area in the Seventh Replenishment phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 7).</p>	<p>Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.</p>
<p>Encourages developed country Parties and other Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility with the aim of achieving robust Seventh Replenishment, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area.</p>	<p>Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.</p>
<p>Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF 7, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3.</p>	<p>The GEF support for the Convention in the context of SDGs and target 15.3 was addressed in the context of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.</p>
<p>Also invites the Global Environment Facility, during GEF 7, to continue providing technical and financial support for capacity-building, reporting and voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation.</p>	<p>The GEF support for capacity-building, reporting, and voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and implementation was addressed in the context of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. GEF will continue to provide support, with enhanced level of finance.</p>
<p>Further invites donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the Global Environment Facility and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions during the GEF 7 replenishment process.</p>	<p>Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations by increasing the proportional share allocated to the Land Degradation focal area.</p>
<p>Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance means to harness</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage</p>

UNCCD COP13 Decision	GEF's Response
opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which will conclude in early 2018.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties.	The GEF will prepare a report on the implementation of the decision to be submitted to COP14.
Adopts the attached new Memorandum of Understanding [between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility on Enhanced Collaboration].	Noted.
Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties.	GEF Secretariat and UNCCD Secretariat have made appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties.
Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to implement the attached Memorandum of Understanding.	The GEF stands committed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.

Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP8 Decision SC-8/16 and GEF’s Response to Date

Stockholm COP8 Decision	GEF’s Response
<p>1. <i>Requests</i> the principal entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Convention, to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2018–2022 the following priority areas:</p>	
<p>(a) Development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to persistent organic pollutants;</p>	<p>Under the Industrial Program in the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area strategy the following areas of work are proposed that will specifically address development, deployment or either products, technologies, etc. to replace persistent organic pollutants and strive towards widespread use green chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable chemistry/eco-design/strategies encompassing the entire life-cycle of chemicals • Elimination of the use of mercury and persistent organic pollutants in products (Including brominated flame retardants, PFOS) as well as the use of mercury in products (as specified in Annex A of the Minamata Convention) by phasing our manufacturing of the pure chemicals and introduction of alternatives in the products with a preference to non-toxic chemicals. <p>Similarly, the Agricultural Program proposes to address this guidance as follows: “This program will address the agricultural POPs and agricultural chemicals that contain mercury or its compounds. Where the chemicals are in use, investments will be made to introduce alternatives with a preference given to non-chemical means.</p> <p>The program will target the reduction of Endosulphan, Lindane and highly/severely hazardous pesticides that enter the global food supply chain as well as address end of life, waste and obsolete POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals and management and safe disposal of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals.”</p>
<p>(b) Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization</p>	<p>The Agricultural Program in the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy specifically addresses this guidance on DDT as follows: “This</p>

Stockholm COP8 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention;</p>	<p>program will also address restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the Party in question."</p>
<p>(c) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025;</p>	<p>The Industrial Program of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy includes the following: "Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025" which responds to this guidance.</p>
<p>(d) Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p>	<p>The Industrial Program of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy includes the following:</p> <p>"Environmentally sound waste management/disposal of mercury/mercury containing waste or persistent organic pollutants including liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A of the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028" that responds to this guidance.</p>
<p>(e) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;</p>	<p>The Industrial Programs of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy includes the following: "Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced POPs and mercury from major source categories included in both the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions including, but not limited to, cement manufacturing, coal fired power plants, various metallurgical processes, waste incineration" and the Agricultural Program proposes to deal with safe handling of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPS and mercury based agricultural chemicals.</p> <p>Both programs directly respond to the introduction of BAT/BEP which minimizes unintentionally released POPS from the industrial and agricultural process.</p>

Stockholm COP8 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>(f) Development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;</p>	<p>The Industrial Program has been designed as follows: “This program is intended to eliminate or significantly reduce chemicals listed under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Pollutants • The Minamata Convention on Mercury • The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management • The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer <p>Through supporting projects and programs that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals and Waste at the end of life; • Chemicals that are used or emitted from or in processes and products. <p>In support of the above, this program will fund facilitation of enabling environments and strengthening of national legislation and regulatory capacity for meeting obligations with regard to POPs, mercury and other chemicals listed in the chemicals and waste conventions including the removal of barriers to market access of manufacturing of products containing GEF relevant chemicals, introduction of alternatives and reduction of production of the pure chemical using sustainable/ green chemistry approaches and that promotes a shift to a circular economy and that supports de-toxifying products and material supply chains.”</p>
<p>(g) Review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development</p>	<p>The Enabling Activities Program proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Support enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention, including National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and NIP Updates • Support enabling activities under the Minamata Convention, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and artisanal and small-scale gold mining National Action Plans (ASGM NAPs)

Stockholm COP8 Decision	GEF's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Monitoring of chemicals, related to effectiveness evaluation under the Chemical Conventions”
<p>2. Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the focal area of chemicals and waste and if appropriate its work on integrated programming as a means of harnessing opportunities for synergy in implementing the Stockholm Convention and contributing to the global efforts to attain the chemicals-and-waste-related Sustainable Development Goals with adequate and sustainable financial resources, taking into account the national priorities of developing countries;</p>	<p>The Chemicals and Waste focal area will support the Cities Impact Program and the Food Systems Impact program that are being proposed in the GEF-7 programming strategy. The focal area will help to minimize the inclusion of chemicals covered by Convention in new cities and will support phase out and management of Stockholm relevant chemicals and their waste in existing infrastructure, products, and materials. The focal area, will also where appropriate support the phase out of Stockholm Convention relevant chemicals for the global food supply through integration with the proposed Food Systems GEF-7 Impact Program.</p>
<p>3. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional agencies from developing countries;</p>	<p>Enabling activities since GEF-5 can be accessed directly by countries through the direct access modality. There are also 18 accredited GEF agencies including agencies from developing countries.</p>
<p>4. Encourages the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including through public private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access and do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries seeking access to Global Environment Facility funds;</p>	<p>In May 2014, in response to Policy recommendations for the GEF 6th Replenishment, the GEF Council approved a Co-financing Policy which applies to projects and programs financed with resources from the GEF Trust Fund and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (GEF-financed projects). It does not apply to projects financed with resources from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) or the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).</p> <p>The policy (i) establishes the objectives for co-financing in GEF-financed projects; (ii) defines co-financing in GEF-financed projects; and (iii) sets forth the general principles and approaches for co-financing in GEF-financed projects, including how co-financing will be monitored and evaluated. The policy notes that an objective of the GEF, working with its partners, is to attain adequate levels of co-financing as a means to:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the GEF in achieving global environmental benefits; and • Strengthen partnerships with recipient country governments, multilateral and bilateral financing entities, the private sector, and civil society. <p>The policy defines co-financing as “resources that are additional to the GEF grant and that are provided by the GEF Partner Agency itself and/or by other non-GEF sources that support the implementation of the GEF-financed project and the achievement of its objectives.”</p> <p>The policy notes that co-financing is required for all GEF full-size projects (FSPs), medium-size projects (MSPs), and GEF programmatic approaches. Co-financing is optional for GEF enabling activities. It notes that requirements for GEF Agencies and the GEF Secretariat during project review and approval and project monitoring.</p> <p>The GEF-7 Policy Recommendations requests the GEF Secretariat to further refine the Co-financing policy which will be considered by the 54th GEF Council in June 2018.</p>
<p>5. Takes note of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda for its fifty-first meeting;</p>	<p>The GEF Council continues to be updated on the impact of the projected shortfall and the GEF Secretariat continues to apply the decision of the 51st GEF Council in this regard.</p> <p>A full report on the impact to the Stockholm Convention will be reported to the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.</p>
<p>6. Notes the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue its</p>	<p>The GEF Council continues to monitor the impact of the projected shortfall and the GEF Secretariat continues to apply the decision of the 51st GEF Council in this regard.</p> <p>A full report on the impact to the Stockholm Convention will be reported to the 9th Meeting of</p>

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<p>efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;</p>	<p>the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.</p>
<p>7. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;</p>	<p>In the context of the GEF-7 negotiations the GEF Trustee has made recommendations on measures to mitigate risks posed by currency fluctuations which will be considered during the replenishment negotiations.</p>
<p>8. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;</p>	<p>The reviews of all GEF projects are sent to the GEF agency and country proponents for feedback and information.</p>
<p>9. Takes note of the following non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address relevant priorities of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade:</p>	
<p>(a) Environmentally sound management of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;</p>	<p>The GEF's programming already addresses and funds the environmentally sound management of waste containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants including PCB containing equipment and waste, medical waste, waste pesticides including containers etc.</p>
<p>(b) Minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;</p>	<p>The GEF's programming already addresses the minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants including minimization of open burning of e-waste, municipal and hazardous waste and incineration of medical and plastic waste.</p>

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(c) Development or strengthening of national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations regarding persistent organic pollutants listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as persistent organic pollutant wastes as covered by the Basel Convention;	GEF programming for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions help to strengthen the environmentally sound management of POPs and Mercury which strengthens the national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations under Stockholm and Minamata. This usually extends to Rotterdam and Basel if the legislation includes waste management and trans-shipment of wastes and the chemicals themselves.
10. Requests the Secretariat:	
(a) To prepare, on the basis of the document developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of decision SC-6/20, a complete set of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention by consolidating the guidance set out in decision SC-7/21 and paragraphs 1–8 of the present decision;	The GEF Secretariat has been consulted on this list and will continue to provide feedback with a view to helping the BRS Secretariat fully develop the consolidated guidance.
(b) To make the complete set of guidance available on the Convention website;	Not for GEF Action
(c) To update the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;	Not for GEF Action
11. Welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention;	The GEF Council appreciates the acknowledgment of the report and will report at the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
12. Welcomes the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism;	Not for GEF Action
13. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to decision SC-7/20, draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;	Not for GEF Action
14. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement	Not for GEF Action

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the provisions of the Convention over the period 2018–2022;	
15. Requests the Global Environment Facility, during the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to consider the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the non-exhaustive list referred to in paragraph 9 above;	The needs assessment has been considered in providing funding scenarios for the GEF-7 replenishment.
16. Takes note of the low level of responses to the online questionnaire, prepared by the Secretariat in response to paragraph 6 of decision SC-7/18, directed to developed country Parties, other Parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, asking them to provide further information about how they could provide support for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;	Not for GEF action
17. Urges developed country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF Action
18. Invites other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the	Not for GEF Action

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needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;	
19. Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such contributions;	Not for GEF Action
20. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 17–19 above, a report on the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and means of mobilizing and channeling such additional resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;	Not for GEF Action
21. Also requests the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-7/18 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations made by Parties in their assessment of the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the methodology used in preparing it for consideration and possible adoption at	Not for GEF Action

Stockholm COP8 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p>	
<p>22. Further requests the Secretariat to transmit to the Global Environment Facility for its consideration the consolidated guidance referred to in paragraph 10 above, the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 12 above and the report on the assessment of funding needs over the period 2018–2022 referred to in paragraph 14 above and invites the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its next regular report to the Conference of the Parties, how the above guidance and reports have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Facility;</p>	<p>The GEF has included these documents into the development of the GEF-7 programming strategy. The GEF will provide an account of this in the report of the GEF to the ninth Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention.</p>
<p>23. Welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.</p>
<p>Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat will collaborate with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.</p>

Table 5: Decision Adopted at Minamata COP1 and GEF Response to Date

Minamata COP1 Decision		GEF's Response
	To be eligible for funding from GEF as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a country must be a Party to the Convention and must be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition.	The GEF's eligibility policy for mercury incorporates the criteria for funding enabling activities. The guidelines for these enabling activities are found in the information document of the 45 th meeting of the GEF Council, revised in January 2014. ⁵
	Activities that are eligible for funding from the GEF trust fund are those that seek to meet the objectives of the Convention and are consistent with the present guidance.	All activities that have been funded by the GEF to date are considered eligible.
	Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.	To date, the GEF supported a total of 105 countries through GEF-5 and GEF-6 to implement Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) and 32 countries to conduct their artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM) National Action Plan (NAP). Among these 78 out of 86 Signatories received funding for enabling activities. Of the remaining 6 countries, 2 have become Parties to date. 19 Countries that are non-signatory and non-party have accessed enabling activity resources through the varied eligibility criteria. The 19 that are non-signatory provided the appropriate letters consistent with the decisions of the Sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC-6).
	In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate and timely financial resources	This has been used to guide the programming in GEF-6 and has been addressed in the GEF-7 replenishment

⁵ GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01, <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/initial-guidelines-enabling-activities-minamata-convention-mercury-0>

Minamata COP1 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>to meet costs in support of implementation of the Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, including costs arising from activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Are country-driven; (b) Are in conformity with programme priorities as reflected in relevant guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties; (c) Build capacity and promote the utilization of local and regional expertise, if applicable; (d) Promote synergies with other focal areas; (e) Continue to enhance synergies and co-benefits within the chemicals and wastes focal area; (f) Promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, including from the private sector, if applicable; and (g) Promote sustainable national socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and activities consistent with existing national sound environmental management programmes geared towards the protection of human health and the environment. 	<p>negotiations, which concluded in April 2018.</p>
<p>In accordance with article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.</p>	<p>This is reflected in the strategies of the GEF.</p> <p>In GEF-6, \$141 million was allocated by the replenishment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. The GEF has programmed resources for several projects that are aimed at early implementation, particularly in the ASGM sector.</p>
<p>In particular, it should give priority to the following activities when providing financial resources to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Enabling activities, particularly Minamata Convention initial assessment activities and national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining; 	<p>This has been used to guide the programming in GEF-6 and has been addressed in the programming priorities of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy. All projects and programs in GEF-6 that seek to implement the Minamata Convention are already consistent with this guidance.</p>

Minamata COP1 Decision		GEF's Response
	(b) Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, affording priority to those that: (i) Relate to legally binding obligations; (ii) Facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party; (iii) Allow for reduction in mercury emissions and releases and address the health and environmental impacts of mercury.	
	In providing resources for an activity, GEF should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs in accordance with paragraph 8 of article 13 of the Convention.	In GEF-6, projects with potential for significant mercury reduction have been approved. The GEF will continue to work with countries and agencies to look at the potential reduction of mercury relative to its cost.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minamata Convention initial assessments (MIAs) 2. Preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 7 and Annex C 3. Other types of enabling activities as agreed by the Conference of the Parties 	This has been used to guide the programming in GEF-6 and has been addressed in the programming priorities of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy. In GEF-6, all eligible enabling activities that were submitted to the GEF to date have received funding.
	<p>When providing financial resources to eligible Parties for activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, GEF should afford priority to those activities that relate to legally binding obligations of Parties under the Convention and should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs. Such activities could include those related to the following areas, listed in no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury supply sources and trade; • Mercury-added products; • Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used; • Artisanal and small-scale gold mining; • Emissions; • Releases; 	These have been included in the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy.

Minamata COP1 Decision		GEF's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury; • Mercury wastes; • Reporting; • Relevant capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer in relation to the above. 	
	<p>When considering activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force, GEF should also consider providing support for activities that, although they are not the subject of a legal obligation under the Convention, may significantly contribute to a Party's preparedness to implement the Convention upon its entry into force for that country.</p>	<p>This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7.</p>
	<p>Within the context of the GEF mandate, such activities could include, inter alia, support for:</p> <p>(a) With regard to emissions, the development by Parties with relevant sources of emissions of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(b) With regard to releases, the development by Parties with relevant sources of releases of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control releases and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(c) With regard to contaminated sites, capacity-building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds and, as appropriate, the remediation of those sites;</p> <p>(d) Information exchange;</p> <p>(e) Public information, awareness and education;</p> <p>(f) Cooperation in the development and improvement of research, development and monitoring;</p> <p>(g) Development of implementation plans following initial assessments.</p>	<p>This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7.</p>

Minamata COP1 Decision		GEF's Response
	<p>Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury may encompass activities relating to both binding and non-binding provisions, with priority to the legally binding provisions discussed above, that accord with the GEF mandate to deliver global environmental benefits and reflect the GEF chemicals and wastes focal area strategy.</p>	<p>This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7.</p>
	<p>In accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13, the Conference of the Parties will review, no later than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF as one of the entities entrusted with operationalizing the mechanism established under this article and the mechanism's effectiveness and ability to address the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such review, the Conference of the Parties will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by updating and prioritizing as necessary its guidance to GEF.</p>	<p>At the request of the COP, the GEF will provide information as it relates to the review described in paragraph 11 of article 13 of the Minamata Convention.</p>