



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.59/10
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Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 17

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/10, *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 Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). Covering the period from November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.
2. The reporting period encompasses the pre-COVID-19 period, where two Conferences of the Parties (COPs), namely UNFCCC COP 25 and Minamata COP 3, and key consultations in anticipation of 2020 as a “Super Year” for nature and people took place, and the COVID-19 period where discourse and interactions with the Conventions shifted to the virtual form, with postponements of COPs and negotiations. Nevertheless, provision of finance to countries through the GEF as well consultations with countries continued after the onset of the pandemic.
3. With the arrival of the new GEF CEO, Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, on September 2020, the GEF Secretariat renewed its engagement with the Conventions and other international institutions to discuss strategic priorities, and enhance GEF’s support to the Conventions to help achieve major landmark agreements, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for CBD.
4. Highlights reported include:
 - (a) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat’s participation in CBD meetings and events, including preparatory meetings towards the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and deliberations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; a meeting between the CBD and GEF Secretariats, preparation of the draft report from the GEF to COP 15; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
 - (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat’s participation in UNFCCC negotiations, including COP 25; on guidance to the GEF and corresponding responses from the GEF, and meeting between the UNFCCC and GEF Secretariats.
 - (c) UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat’s engagement with the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism as follow-up on decisions of relevance to the GEF from COP 14 to the UNCCD, and meeting between the UNCCD and GEF Secretariats.
 - (d) Stockholm Convention: Updates on ratifications, accessions, national reporting and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention.
 - (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on COP 3 and on signatures and ratifications.

- (f) International Waters: Report on GEF's participation in various meetings including 2020 World Water Week, 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21); Global Ocean Summit and Series: Linking Large Marine Ecosystems to Local Science and Management for Sustainable Development; and the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP).
- (g) 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 (GCF).

5. An annex with the full list of GEF's responses to decisions from most recent COPs, including UNCBD COP 14, UNFCCC COP 25, UNCCD COP 14 and Stockholm COP 9, is also included.

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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 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, in particular with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

2. Due to time constraints, the GEF Secretariat did not submit the Relations with Conventions document at the virtual 58th GEF Council in June 2020. This document fills this gap and reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report was presented to the 57th GEF Council held in December 2019, covering the period from November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020.

3. The report includes activities that took place in the pre-COVID-19 period, including two Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and planning for the "Super Year", as well as activities that took place in the COVID-19 period. Year 2020 was to be the "Super Year" for nature and people, with major milestones for climate change, chemicals and waste, ocean, and biodiversity Conventions. The GEF Secretariat had been engaged in discussions to support and maintain a coherent political momentum for the Conventions to reach outcomes that are individually successful and also mutually reinforcing. With the onset of the pandemic, much discourse and interactions shifted to the virtual form, with postponements of landmark COPs and negotiations. COPs to CBD, Minamata, Stockholm, UNCCD, and UNFCCC are currently expected to take place in 2021, where guidance and decisions of relevance to the GEF to inform the GEF-8 replenishment may be issued.

4. The provision of finance through the GEF in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued before and after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as consultations with countries and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat.

5. With the arrival of the new GEF CEO, Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, on September 1, 2020, the GEF Secretariat renewed its engagement with the Conventions and other international institutions. Discussions have taken place with Executive Secretaries and senior staff on strategic priorities for Conventions and GEF's engagement. Despite the challenges, the new GEF leadership is committed to working with the Conventions and partners to maintain momentum and enthusiasm, and to help enhance ambition of landmark decisions and agreements to be reached in 2021, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

6. The CBD COP 15, to be held in Kunming China, is expected to adopt the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, with ambition to reshape human's relationship with nature in the coming decade. The GEF Secretariat took part in a number of meetings and consultations with the CBD Secretariat and Parties prior to the Pandemic, including discussions on the post-2020 Framework at the 57th GEF Council meeting with presence of the Executive Secretary and Co-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG). The COP has been postponed to 2021, along with the preparatory subsidiary body meetings.

7. The arrival of Mr. Rodrigues as the GEF CEO created a new momentum for the GEF's engagement with the CBD, particularly helping to raise the level of ambition for biodiversity conservation, promote green recovery, and help maintain momentum towards ambitious and successful COP 15 outcomes. Notable engagements by the CEO include delivery of opening remarks in the Special Joint Session of Subsidiary Bodies on the Preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held September 18, 2020; participation in a virtual meeting jointly organized by CBD and the Government of Egypt on building back better on September 10, 2020; and announcing GEF's support for the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, launched on September 28, 2020 to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.¹

8. Furthermore, to inspire CBD's post-2020 framework process and to create opportunities for links between biodiversity and other Conventions and agreement, the GEF joined 13 other global institutions to issue a Global Call for Nature. The Global Call for Nature defines action needed to halt and reverse loss of nature and inspires governments to adopt the goal at the international level, so that countries, private sector, communities and others can contribute to achieving.²

9. The fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5), a flagship publication that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and presents conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention, was released by CBD on September 15, 2020, headlining the opening of the special virtual CBD subsidiary sessions. GBO-5 concluded that while some of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been partially achieved, none will be fully met. The report emphasizes poor alignment between international and national targets; slow progress in conservation efforts; and parties' failure to address financial subsidies in sectors harmful to biodiversity. It notes some successes, including a falling rate of global deforestation and an increase in protected areas. To bend the curve of biodiversity loss, GBO-5 recommends eight transition areas for integrated and transformative change, including climate action, biodiversity-inclusive health, and sustainable production.

¹ [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#).

² [Global Call for Nature: Nature Positive by 2020, Establishing a Goal for Nature-Positive Societies](#). Summary for Policymakers.

Major Meetings and Consultations

10. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the Eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (WG8J 11) from November 20 to 22, 2019. The meeting considered:

- (a) Progress Towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- (b) The Contributions of the Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Cultural Diversity to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (c) Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (d) Possible Elements of Work on the Links Between Nature and Culture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
- (e) Recommendations of The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

11. The Working Group adopted four recommendations to be transmitted to COP-15:

- (a) In-depth dialogue on the thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues;
- (b) Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (c) Options for possible elements of work aimed at an integration of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (d) Recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

12. On the margins of the Working Group, the GEF Secretariat staff addressed indigenous representatives during their organizational meeting and provided information about the GEF, notably the Inclusive Conservation Initiative. The GEF Secretariat staff also participated in side events organized by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the Satoyama Initiative; and held numerous bilateral discussions.

13. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 23) from November 24 to 29, 2019. SBSTTA 23 adopted seven recommendations, with remaining brackets on recommendations related to biodiversity and climate change, technical and scientific cooperation (decisions deferred to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, SBI 3), and the scientific and technical base of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

14. The Executive Secretary of the CBD participated in the 57th GEF Council in December 2019. Together with the Co-chair of the OEWG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, they provided an update to the Council on the intersessional process towards COP 15. Both the Executive Secretary and the OEWG Co-Chair also participated in the dialogue with Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements organized by the GEF Secretariat at the margins of the Council (see section “Engagement with conventions to facilitate synergies” of this report).

15. The GEF Director of Programs and staff participated in the "Thematic Workshop on Resource Mobilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework", held in Berlin from January 14 to 16, 2020. The workshop’s objective was to enable open discussions among Parties and stakeholder experts on all aspects of resource mobilization with a view to developing concrete proposals for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The agenda was thus designed to promote the exchange of knowledge and information, including on status and trends in resource mobilization. The Director of Programs presented GEF's experience on resource mobilization.

16. GEF Secretariat staff attended the Second Meeting of OEWG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework from February 24 to 29, 2020, in Rome, Italy. The OEWG commented on the zero draft of the framework released in January 2020 and approved the final recommendation of the meeting compiled by OEWG Co-Chairs, which notably:

- (a) Invites the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) to provide elements for the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for consideration by the third OEWG meeting;
- (b) Invites SBSTTA to provide a scientific and technical review of updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines;
- (c) Requests the OEWG Co-Chairs and the Secretariat to prepare a document, updating the elements of the draft framework that were reviewed by the second OEWG, and to update the tables in the appendices to the draft framework;
- (d) Requests the Secretariat to provide scientific and technical information to support SBSTTA’s review, including an analysis of linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- (e) Requests the OEWG Co-Chairs and the Secretariat, to prepare a first draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

17. The GEF Secretariat also held numerous bilateral meetings with CBD Secretariat, Parties, and GEF agencies.

18. The GEF submitted to the CBD Secretariat a draft COP report on March 2, 2020, upon Council approval by mail, for consideration at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) initially scheduled to be held in May 2020, pursuant to Decision XII/30,

8(e) of the CBD COP. The draft report provides information on the activities of the GEF in the biodiversity focal area in response to the COP 14 guidance to the GEF. The summary table of COP 14 guidance and GEF responses is presented in Table 1 of Annex 1 to this report. It covers the period from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. The final report, to be presented to CBD COP 15, will cover the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020, corresponding to the first two years of the seventh GEF replenishment period (GEF-7) of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022.

19. The CEO and Secretariat staff attended the Special Virtual Sessions for SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3, held September 15 to 18, 2020.

20. Parties heard a report from the Expert Panel on Resource Mobilization, whose work is intended to inform the OEWG on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The GEF Director of Programs made an intervention on the GEF support to the Convention. The panel found that, while the underlying structure of the existing Strategy for Resource Mobilization is still sound, it is challenged by the presence of subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity, a lack of mainstreaming, a failure to address the private sector and other financial mechanisms, and a lack of priority for biodiversity outside environment ministries. The panel recommended that the strategy focus on redirecting and reducing the harmful use of resources, enhance synergies with climate change and SDG finance, and comprehensively integrate biodiversity in business and finance sectors.

21. The Special Joint Session of SBSTTA and SBI on the Preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held on September 18, 2020. The CEO was invited to provide opening remarks and called for an ambitious framework especially on resource mobilization. The Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group summarized the updated zero draft of the framework for parties.

22. The CBD and GEF Secretariats held a meeting of principals and senior staff on October 6, 2020 to enhance collaboration and engage in dialogues on subjects of mutual strategic relevance. This was the first such meeting initiated by the GEF Secretariat under the new CEO leadership with all Convention Secretariats. The CBD Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO discussed the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, resource mobilization, and the GEF-8 replenishment and agreed to collaborate going forward on these topics to achieve mutually reinforcing successful outcomes. Senior technical staff from each Secretariat continued the dialogue to review the status and scope of GEF-7 programming, the road to Kunming and GEF engagement, and the December 2020 Council and CBD participation. A set of action points were agreed to help map out collaboration between the technical staff with regards to upcoming CBD meetings that will be held in 2021 including SBSTTA, SBI, OEWG and the COP.

23. The CEO took part in a number of high-level engagements on biodiversity and nature conservation since September 2020. On September 10, 2020, the CEO participated in a webinar jointly organized by the Government of Egypt and the CBD Secretariat titled “Building Back Better: Protecting Biodiversity, Combating Land Degradation, and Mitigating Climate Change.” The Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions took part, highlighting the interlinkages between the health of the planet and people.

24. On September 28, 2020, the CEO joined heads of states from over 70 countries and other institutional leaders to endorse the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, which was launched to send a united call to enhance global ambition for biodiversity and climate change. The CEO also took part in the Leaders' Event for Nature and People, taking part in a live open leaders' conversation on what will it take to address the planetary emergency with Prime Ministers of Canada and Norway, and President of Costa Rica.

Ratifications and Accessions

25. The number of Parties to the CBD remained unchanged at 196. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found at:

<https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>

26. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety rose to 173, with the accession by Sierra Leone in the reporting period. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has now 48 Parties, following ratification by Colombia.

27. The total number of Parties increased to 127 for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, with new membership from Greece, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Oman, and Saudi Arabia between November 1, 2019-October 31, 2020.

National Reporting

28. The Convention Secretariat has received a total of 172 sixth national reports, including 94 online and 78 offline (21 Parties have submitted both online and offline versions). The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

29. A total of 108 fourth national reports were submitted to the biosafety clearing-house (BCH). Four fourth national reports were received off-line and the Secretariat is working with the Parties concerned to facilitate their publication on the BCH.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

30. During the reporting period, efforts continued to support for climate change activities with the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

31. The GEF delegation participated in the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 25). Agenda items relevant for the GEF included provision of financial and technical support, matters relating to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), development and transfer of technologies under the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer, methodological issues under the Paris Agreement, national adaptation plans and matters relating to capacity-

building under the Convention, among which the enhancement of institutional arrangements and the review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.

32. The COP welcomed the GEF Report to COP 25 as well as the policies recently approved by the Council. The COP also welcomed with appreciation the contributions made by developed country Parties to the LDCF and SCCF, and encouraged additional voluntary financial contributions to provide support for adaptation. Additional guidance included: approval and disbursement efficiency, analyzing lessons learned on the application of co-financing policy, reporting on changes to eligibility criteria for accessing GEF funds, promoting the use of technology needs assessments (TNAs) to facilitate financing and implementation of priorities, supporting additional countries with their first TNAs, and continuing to facilitate the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country (LDC) status through the LDCF.

33. Further, the COP requested the GEF to adequately support developing country parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports (BTRs). More information on the GEF's engagement at COP 25 is presented below in this document, and the full set of guidance the GEF received from COP 25, as well as the response of the GEF to date, are presented in Table 2 of Annex 1 of this report.

34. COP 26, originally scheduled to take place in Glasgow, United Kingdom, on November 9 to 19, 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to November 1-12, 2021. The subsidiary body meetings, originally scheduled to take place in June 2020, were postponed to October 2020 and subsequently to 2021, with dates to be confirmed. Year 2020 was to be a seminal year for climate action, where governments are expected to update and submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the aim that actions collectively lead towards greater ambition to meet the temperature goal. COP 26 is also expected to be the finance COP, with 2020 as the year for meeting the \$100 billion climate finance mobilization as per the Paris Agreement decision. The postponement also has had impacts on GEF-relevant UNFCCC processes with multi-year timelines. For example, the seventh review of the Financial Mechanism, which takes place every four years unless otherwise decided, is to be initiated at COP 26, with expected finalization at COP 27. The sixth review was concluded at COP 22 in 2017.

35. In order to advance work and to continue momentum and action, some discussions were moved to the virtual format. GEF Secretariat staff participated in and were observers on a number of virtual events held as part of the June Momentum for Climate Change, supported by UNFCCC to advance work on COP agendas. GEF Secretariat was also an observer to the 22nd Standing Committee on Finance meeting held in September 2020 and contributed to the discussion on matters related to GEF guidance. The Standing Committee on Finance assists the COP in exercising its functions in relation to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.

36. Regarding mobilization of finance, the GEF continued to review and approve projects without delay. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support NDC implementation projects included in the Work Program approved by the 57th Council in December 2019 and 58th Council in June 2020. The LDCF and SCCF continued to provide resources for urgent and immediate adaptation

priorities in the reporting period, through two LDCF Work Programs and Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) totalling approximately \$140 million. Among the MSPs, the project to strengthen endogenous capacities of LDCs to access climate adaptation finance supports activities in line with the LDC work programme, while others, such as SME accelerators and the Challenge Program projects support private sector engagement and innovation, in line with COP guidance.

37. Further, to comply with reporting requirements as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the GEF Council and UNFCCC COP, the GEF submitted its annual report to COP 26 on October 5, 2020, upon Council approval by mail.³

38. Support for the CBIT progressed in the reporting period, with approval of 12 national projects and one global support program totalling \$26.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and project preparation grants (PPGs). The Fourth Global CBIT Coordination Meeting and Technical Workshop, which was planned for April 2020 hosted by the Government of Japan, has been postponed to 2021. As of October 31, 2020, the entire CBIT portfolio includes projects covering 70 countries and five global projects, totalling \$116.2 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. In the GEF-7 period, \$55.0 million of set-aside resources have been notionally allocated to the CBIT. As of October 31, 2020, \$51.2 million of this allocation has been programmed to support 27 CBIT projects. Progress made on the CBIT, including a portfolio analysis, select country case studies, and outlook, is presented to Council in an information document.⁴ The GEF will continue to accept and approve CBIT projects to respond to the Paris Agreement decision in the remaining GEF-7 period, exercising the flexibility to notionally allocate remaining unprogrammed set-aside resources.

39. In order to advance discussions on support provision for the BTRs as requested by COP 24 and 25 decisions, the GEF Secretariat organized a virtual informal consultation meeting on June 18, 2020, where possible modalities and support options were discussed with representatives of countries and institutions engaged in UNFCCC reporting support. An information document on this subject will be submitted to Council.

40. The GEF Secretariat and the GCF Secretariat continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement. Enhancing complementarity with the GCF has been identified as a priority by the CEO since coming on board in September 2020. Much discussion with the GCF in the reporting period entailed coordination for the next phase of the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative, sharing of information on projects and concepts to identify opportunities for tandem support, smooth transition from readiness to projects to scaling up, and to minimize potential overlap. The elements are described further in the section below as well as the section on the GCF.

³ GEF, 2020, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

⁴ GEF, 2020, [Progress Report of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#).

COP 25 and Outcomes

41. COP 25 took place from December 2 to 15, 2019 in Madrid, Spain under the Presidency of Chile. Along with COP 25, the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2), the 15th COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15), as well as the 51st session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the 51st session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA).

42. The key outcomes of the COP were encompassed in the Chile-Madrid Time for Action decision (1/CP.25, 1/CMA.2). Other highlights included the adoption of decisions on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 review and of the enhanced five-year Lima work program on gender and its gender action plan. Parties were not able to come to agreement on outstanding issues even though negotiations were extended to Sunday, December 15, namely Article 6 (rules to set up a carbon trading mechanism).

43. The GEF received guidance from COP 25, which, along with the GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 2 of Annex 1 to this document. Key decisions are summarized below:

- (a) Parties welcomed the Report of the GEF to COP 25 and the work undertaken by the GEF during the reporting period, including the approval of climate change projects and programmes under the GEF Trust Fund, the LDCF and SCCF, the approval of minimum requirements for GEF Agencies on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, the composition of the Private Sector Advisory Group, the Implementation of the GEF policy on gender equality and the approval of the GEF policy on monitoring and evaluation;
- (b) Parties welcomed with appreciation the contributions made by developed country Parties to the LDCF during the reporting period, amounting to USD 184 million, and the contribution made by Switzerland to the SCCF during the reporting period amounting to USD 3.3 million, and encouraged additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds to provide support for adaptation.
- (c) Still on adaptation, Parties invited the GEF to report on lessons learned in supporting developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation and requested the GEF, in administering the LDCF, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status by continuing to provide approved funding through the LDCF until the completion of projects approved by the LDCF Council prior to those countries' graduation from LDC status;
- (d) Regarding project and program cycles, Parties invited the GEF to continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds

by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects.

- (e) With regards to co-financing for projects and programs, Parties encouraged the GEF to analyze any challenges faced, and lessons learned in applying the updated policy on co-financing and to report back to the COP on the outcomes of the study;
- (f) On technology transfer, Parties encouraged the GEF to promote the use of technology needs assessments to facilitate the financing and implementation of technology actions prioritized by countries in their technology needs assessments;
- (g) On enabling activities, Parties requested the GEF, under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent Biennial Transparency Reports (BURs) in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.

44. During the COP, GEF staff delivered an intervention outlining GEF support for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) during the SBI plenary. 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.

45. In addition, GEF staff participated in mandated events and other engagements, including one workshop under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, namely the workshop on "Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems."

46. The CEO participated in several high-level events, such as the Ministerial Dialogue on Adaptation organized by the COP Presidency, the Leadership Dialogue on Turning the Tide on Deforestation organized by the UN, the High-Level Forum of Global Committee on Adaptation Convening Countries Raising Ambition ahead of the 2020 Climate Adaptation Summit, and a meeting organized by the Amazon Governors Forum.

47. The CEO also participated in various events organized by the GEF. These included: the Sustainable Food and Land Use Systems for a Cool and Healthy Planet event, Adaptation: A Business Imperative session, and an event titled enhanced transparency for informed decision-making: unlocking climate action from national and non-state actors.

48. The GEF Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation was launched at COP 25, with an announcement of nine finalists out of approximately 390 applications for support. The launch event, held at the GEF-GCF Pavilion, was opened by the CEO and featured speakers representing the nine finalists. Between January and August 2020, the CEO approved these concepts as MSPs totalling \$10.0 million for the Challenge Program on Adaptation Innovation,

with \$5.0 million each from the LDCF and from SCCF. The progress of the Challenge Program is presented to Council as an information document.⁵

49. The GEF and GCF had a joint pavilion at the COP for the first time, presenting a united front, welcoming numerous delegates, and hosting a number of events individually and jointly. In the context of the enhanced dialogue and coordinated engagement with the GCF, several events were organized jointly and co-led by the GEF CEO and the Executive Director of the GCF. These included the high-level event on blended finance, one event on coordinated engagement, which is described further in the GCF section below. Further, the Third Annual Dialogue of Climate Finance Delivery Channels provided an opportunity to discuss collaboration and partnerships with representatives with the Adaptation Fund secretariat and its board, and a Climate Investment Fund representative. The two heads also participated in other high level meetings, including the Leadership Dialogue titled Turning the Tide on Deforestation at the UNFCCC COP 25, organized by UNFCCC Secretariat.

50. Events coverage and news articles related to GEF participation in COP 25 are available on the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-unfccc-cop25>.

Ratifications and Accessions

51. As of October 31, 2020, there are 197 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 189 ratified, the Paris agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

52. The following is the total number of National Communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of October 31, 2020:

53. The following is the total number of National Communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of October 31, 2020:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **141**
- (c) Third National Communications: **80**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **10**
- (e) Sixth National Communications: **11**

⁵ GEF, 2020, [Progress Report for Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation under the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.29/Inf.04.

National Reporting

54. As of October 31, 2020, a total of 60 first BURs, 31 second BURs and ten third BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

55. On June 18, 2020, the GEF held a virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to discuss support needs, possible modalities, and timing. As per Paris Agreement and its decisions, Parties are expected to submit their first BTR no later than December 2024, with discretion accorded to LDCs and SIDS. The GEF has received guidance from COP 24 and COP 25 to provide support for BTRs. The meeting participants included country representatives, and representatives from the UNFCCC Secretariat, LDC Group, UNDP, and UNEP. Meeting information has been posted on the GEF website.⁶

56. The CEO and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, together with senior staff from the two Secretariats, held a meeting on October 23, 2020 to enhance collaboration and to engage in dialogue on subjects of mutual strategic relevance. The virtual meeting provided an opportunity for the GEF CEO and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary to discuss the status of implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the outlook and expectations of the upcoming COP 26, including finance, capacity building, and transparency. The two principals also discussed collaboration between the Secretariats for the GEF-8 replenishment process. In the second part of the meeting, senior staff of the two Secretariats exchanged further details and updates on the status and scope of the GEF-7 programming, including on Enabling Activities, CBIT, the new BTR support, and technology transfer. The subject of access to GEF finance by developing country Parties was also discussed by UNFCCC.

57. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the following additional UNFCCC-related meetings and provided updates on the status of GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building, among other topics:

- 5th Project Steering Committee of the CTCN, December 4, 2019;
- UN/GCF/NDC Partnership Consultation: Realizing NDCs through investment planning, February 27-28, 2020;
- e-Meeting on Paris Agreement Training for LDCs, April 17, 2020;
- June Momentum for Climate Change events, June 1-10, 2020;
- Fourth Paris Committee on Capacity-Building, June 22-25, 2020;
- 38th LDG Expert Group (LEG) meeting and GEF briefing, August 20 and 21, 2020;

⁶ GEF, 2020. [Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#).

- 22nd UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance, September 28-30, 2020;
- Standing Committee on Finance Informal Webinar: Improving Reporting on Climate Finance Impacts and Results, October 13, 2020;
- Meeting with UN Organizations on Building the Enhanced Transparency Framework, October 15, 2020;
- Climate Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean: Experiences in Forest Monitoring, October 21, 2020.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

58. The GEF Secretariat continued to follow up on decisions related to the GEF made at UNCCD COP 14 including through two meetings with the UNCCD Executive Secretary on February 7, 2020 in Washington, DC, as well as a virtual meeting between the CEO and the Executive Secretary on October 8, 2020. These two high-level meetings were complemented by several meetings between technical staff of the GEF Secretariat and UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism. The main topics of these discussions were the provision of timely support for countries to facilitate national reporting and other strategic UNCCD processes under the Enabling Activities in GEF-7. Also, discussions explored how to engage on priority issues such as drought, land tenure, and how to link restoration and other large-scale initiatives to building back better and providing post-pandemic solutions.

59. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide guidance to GEF Operational Focal Points and Agencies on the GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) focal area strategy, LD-related Impact Programs and Enabling Activity support through country and constituency level outreach and engagement throughout the reporting period.

Ratifications and Accessions

60. As of October 31, 2020, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union. The details can be found here: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/about-convention/status-ratification>

National Reporting

61. The next reporting by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework will be due in 2022, which coincides with the end of the GEF-7 replenishment period. Enabling activity funding will be made available for all eligible countries in GEF-7 to build capacity for reporting and prepare the reports. Additional support will be provided to enable the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate the process through technical assistance and virtual regional workshops.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

62. The UNCCD and GEF Secretariats held a meeting of principals and senior staff on October 8, 2020 to enhance collaboration and engage in dialogues on subjects of mutual strategic relevance. The Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO discussed priorities for UNCCD for the next decade and their support, UNCCD and GEF in the COVID-19 world and how the two institutions can contribute towards green recovery and building back better, and expectations on major initiatives, such as GGW and outlook into 2021 and beyond. Senior staff from each Secretariat continued the dialogue to review the status and scope of GEF-7 programming, planning for COP 15, and the issue drought. The meeting generated a list of conclusions and way forward on seven topics, and the two secretariats have agreed to continue follow-up.

63. GEF Secretariat staff engaged in a series of tripartite consultations with the UNCCD Secretariat and the GCF Secretariat to discuss future support of countries in the GGW Initiative. While discussions are ongoing, opportunities for collaboration and joint programming have been identified that will be further explored.

64. GEF Secretariat Staff participated in a partners' meeting of the Sustainable Dryland Landscapes Impact Program hosted by FAO, from January 29 to 30, 2020. The participation of the UNCCD Secretariat contributed to the programmatic alignment of the Impact Program child projects under preparation with the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept.

65. The CEO participated in the e-Round Table of the Heads of the United Nations Entities and Multilateral Agencies on the Great Green Wall, jointly organized by UNCCD Secretariat, UNEP, and FAO, on June 25, 2020. The meeting was organized to take stock and discuss opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the UN and multilateral agencies on the GGW.

66. The CEO took part in a Virtual Ministerial Conference on Great Green Wall on September 7, 2020, organized by the UNCCD Secretariat to share the GEF's experiences in supporting GGW and outlook for the new phase. The Ministerial Conference was organized to ensure a renewed political commitment of GGW countries, technical and financial partners in the implementation of the GGW, and to provide and opportunities to share perspectives for enhancing synergy and complementarity.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

67. On the margins of the third COP of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the GEF representatives met with the Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions on 27 November 2019 to discuss upcoming issues related to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions, including the Basel plastics amendment and the plastics partnership.

68. The BRS secretariat participated in a technical meeting on chemicals hosted by the GEF Secretariat from February 10 to 14, 2020.

69. The Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez had an introductory meeting in October 2020 to discuss ongoing collaboration between the two secretariats. They agreed to have a more comprehensive meeting between the GEF Secretariat and the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions, to be organized in late 2020 or early 2021.

Ratifications and Accessions

70. During the reporting period, the number of Parties to the Convention has reached 184, reflecting the ratification of Equatorial Guinea. The status of ratifications is available at: <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National Reporting

71. During the reporting period, 41 new national reports were submitted by Parties to the Convention. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention's entry 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 October 31, 2020, 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	172	1
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	98	9
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	88	9
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	55	10
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	33	7
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	13	5

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

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

73. During the reporting period, nine countries became Party to the Minamata Convention: Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, The Bahamas, Cyprus, Tanzania, Philippines, Oman, Albania, and North Macedonia.

74. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention had 128 signatures and 124 Parties, as of October 21, 2020. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

COP 3 and Outcomes

75. The GEF Secretariat delegation participated in COP 3 to the Minamata Convention that was held from November 25 to 29, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. This COP was not expected to provide guidance to the GEF, and none was provided.

76. The third COP conducted the first review of the financial mechanism of the Convention which comprises the GEF and the Specific International Program. The review was conducted in plenary and Parties noted the report of the review from the Minamata Convention Secretariat and requested the Minamata Convention Secretariat to prepare terms of reference for the second review for consideration at the fourth COP.

77. The GEF Secretariat delegation met with the Executive Secretary Designate, Ms. Monika Stankiewicz on 25 November 2019 and discussed the relationship of the Minamata Secretariat and the GEF, including the Council and replenishment. The GEF Secretariat also facilitated a meeting of the planetGOLD partnership with the incoming Executive Secretary.

78. The GEF Secretariat delegation had a bilateral meeting with the outgoing Executive Secretary on 26 November 2019 to discuss the main COP issues of GEF relevance and to discuss her participation in the GEF Council.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

79. The outgoing Executive Secretary attended the 57th Council. She participated in the agenda item on the relations with convention and provided an update on the outcomes of COP 3 to the GEF Council. She also participated in the dialogue with Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements organized on the margins of the Council.

80. The new Executive Secretary of the Convention and members of the Minamata Secretariat visited the GEF Secretariat for technical meetings from February 10 to 14, 2020. The Executive Secretary had a meeting with the CEO.

81. In October 2020, the CEO met virtually with the Executive Secretary for an introductory call to discuss continued cooperation between the two secretariats. They decided to have a more detailed meeting between the GEF Secretariat and Minamata Convention Secretariat, to be scheduled in late 2020 to early 2021.

Specific International Program

82. There were no meetings of the Specific International Program during the reporting period. The Specific International Program supports capacity building and technical assistance for the Minamata Convention as part of its financial mechanism along with the GEF.

Special Program

83. The Special Program, also known as Chemicals and Waste Management Programme, was established in 2014 by the United Nations Environment Assembly to support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation for effective frameworks. The Special Program supports implementation of the Minamata Convention, the BRS Conventions, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

84. The fourth round of applications of the Special Program was launched on the margins of COP 3 of the Minamata Convention. The GEF Secretariat participated in a virtual meeting of the internal task force that reviews project proposals on March 5, 2020 to discuss the timetable for submission reviews.

85. The GEF Secretariat participated in a two-day virtual internal task team meeting to review the 39 proposals submitted for consideration. The reviews were transmitted to the proposing Governments for clarification and re-submission for final review by the internal task team in November 2020.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

86. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the Montreal Protocol during the reporting period. The Multilateral Fund (MLF) Secretariat informally consulted with the GEF Secretariat on decision 84/89 of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund, which notably requested the MLF Secretariat to prepare a document “that could provide a framework for consultations with relevant funds and financial institutions to explore, at both the governing and operational levels, the mobilization of financial resources, additional to those provided by the Multilateral Fund, for maintaining or enhancing energy efficiency when replacing hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with low global-warming-potential refrigerants in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector”.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Summary of Key Activities

87. This report includes information on activities related to the International Waters focal area that have taken place since the 57th GEF council meeting, covering the period from November 2019 to October 2020. This year’s participation in global events have been severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many signature events have been postponed or cancelled, among others The Economist Ocean Summit, the UN Ocean Conference and the GEF International Waters Conference, while others were held in an adapted online format.

88. The GEF is an important institution in catalyzing cooperation in transboundary water systems. Hereby supporting countries to jointly manage their transboundary surface and

groundwater basins, as well as shared marine ecosystems and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, to enable the sharing of benefits from their utilization.

Major Meetings and Consultations

89. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21) which took place from December 2-5, 2019, in Naples, Italy. The Convention's main objectives are: to assess and control marine pollution; to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources; to integrate the environment in social and economic development; to protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention and reduction of pollution, and as far as possible, elimination of pollution, whether land or sea-based; to protect the natural and cultural heritage; to strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal States; and to contribute to improvement of the quality of life. Ministers and senior officials representing all Contracting Parties – 21 Mediterranean States and the European Union –attended the meeting convened by the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP). More than 300 registered participants, including civil society and intergovernmental organizations, took part in the negotiations, side-events, exhibitions and panel discussions on the health of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems.

90. The GEF, together with IWLEARN and University of Rhode Island, organized the Global Ocean Summit and Series: Linking Large Marine Ecosystems to Local Science and Management for Sustainable Development. The four-day meeting was planned to take place in April 1 – 4, 2020, Narragansett, USA, but was postponed and transformed to four online sessions held during May to July 2020.

91. The United Nation's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will commence in 2021. The Series of meetings brought together leaders and motivated individuals in science, management and business to discuss challenges and opportunities provided by the sea and its resources to link Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), science and management communities to scale science-based actions within the spatial domain of the world's 66 large marine ecosystems (LMEs). The meeting series illustrated the opportunity that cooperation within LMEs hold for delivering substantially towards sustainable ocean management, which is exemplified by the substantial GEF LME portfolio.

92. The GEF had planned to observe the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) from March 23 to April 4, 2020. By decision 74/543 of March 11, 2020, the General Assembly decided to postpone the fourth IGC to the earliest possible available date to be decided by the General Assembly. The BBNJ intersessional work has been organized from September to December 2020 to keep the momentum going and to continue the dialogue on: marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including

marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, as well as cross cutting issues. The GEF has been observing some intersessional work and will continue to do so.

93. On October 29, 2020, a virtual workshop titled Draft BBNJ Agreement: Finance for Capacity Building was held, co-hosted by Guyana, Norway, Sierra Leone, and United Kingdom in collaboration with the Pew Charitable Trusts. The workshop addressed the challenge of ensuring all countries would be able to implement the BBNJ Agreement domestically and to actively contribute to and benefit from its provisions, and the role of effective support to capacity building and the transfer of marine technologies. The workshop examined experiences of operationalizing similar international agreements and roles of existing funding bodies and mechanisms. The GEF Director of Programs participated and provided lessons from the International Waters Program.

94. The 29th version of the 2020 World Water Week (WWW) was adapted from the classic event in Stockholm, Sweden drawing more than 4,000 participants to online events on August 24-28, 2020. The WWW is the leading annual event bringing policy makers, practitioners, academics and civil society together to address the planet's water issues. The theme of this year's event was focused on solutions to climate change, which were discussed through 120 sessions. Due to the adapted online format the sessions were short 45-minute segments, which kept all participants to be especially crisp in their interventions on panels. The GEF participated in numerous panels at the WWW and parallel events that partners organized.

95. The GEF has been supporting and following the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP), a unique initiative of 14 serving Heads of State building momentum toward a sustainable ocean economy, where effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand-in-hand. The HLP, co-chaired by Norway and Palau, is the only ocean policy body made up of serving world leaders with the authority needed to trigger, amplify and accelerate action worldwide for ocean priorities. The Ocean Panel comprises members from Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau and Portugal and is supported by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean. The Ocean Panel represents nations of highly diverse oceanic, economic and political perspectives. They are nations large and small, across all ocean basins, at every stage of economic development, at every extreme of the ocean environment from the tropics to the Arctic. These nations account for nearly a third of the world's coastlines and a third of the world's exclusive economic zones (EEZs), 20 percent of the world's fisheries and 20 percent of the world's shipping fleet. The GEF CEO supports the HLP as co-chair of the HLP Advisory Network.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CONVENTIONS TO FACILITATE SYNERGIES

96. On December 16, 2019, at the margins of the 57th GEF Council, the GEF held the Fifth Informal Dialogue with Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The dialogue was chaired by the CEO, and attended by the following representatives from the MEA Secretariats:

- Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary
- Ms. Rossana Silva-Repetto, Minamata Convention Executive Secretary
- Mr. Franck Moser, Programme Officer, BRS Secretariat (via video)

97. Mr. Basile van Havre, co-chair of the OEWG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework also participated in the panel discussion. Other participants included various GEF Council Members and country representatives, as well as representatives from the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies.

98. The event discussed the “2020 Super Year”, where institutions stand and what can be done to deliver on its promises. It highlighted the challenges and opportunities of creating a coherent political momentum across MEAs to spur unprecedented collective action to address the climate, biodiversity and sustainable development crises. Stressing that 2020 was an opportunity for all international environmental regimes, it explored ways to improve collaboration and enhance synergies across conventions and to deliver on a new deal for nature and people. A summary report of the meeting is available on the GEF website.⁷

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund

99. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. By decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, the Adaptation Fund started serving the Paris Agreement under the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) with respect to all Paris Agreement matters, from January 1, 2019. In accordance with decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, once the share of proceeds becomes available under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the Adaptation Fund will serve the Paris Agreement exclusively and no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol.

100. In accordance with decision 1/CMP 14, the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) considered the rules of procedure of the AFB, the arrangements of the Adaptation Fund with respect to the Paris Agreement and any other matter so as to ensure the Adaptation Fund serves the Paris Agreement smoothly [...] and made recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) at its fifteenth session through the addendum to the Report of the Board to CMP.

101. In December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, the CMP, at its fifteenth session (CMP 15), decided to adopt the amended and restated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the Council and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) regarding secretariat services to the

⁷ GEF, 2019, [Summary report, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Dialogue](#).

AFB. At its fifty-seventh meeting, the Council of the GEF decided to approve the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services to the AFB as in December 2019 and requested the Secretariat of the GEF to transmit its approval to the CMP and the Chair of the AFB.

102. At its fifteenth session, the CMP also decided to adopt the amended and restated terms and conditions of services to be provided by the World Bank as an interim trustee of the Adaptation Fund. In February 2020, the World Bank informed the AFB through its Chair that it agrees with the amended and restated terms and conditions.

103. In line with decision 9/CMA.1 related to guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the Adaptation Fund, along with the GCF, the GEF, the Climate Technology Center and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, continued channeling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communications.

104. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for the first and second sessions of the thirty-fifth meeting of the AFB as well as its intersessional review cycle during the reporting period. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of June 2020, the AFB has approved 107 concrete projects amounting to \$740.60 million in total. As of June 30, 2020, funds available to support funding decisions were \$ 167.19 million.

105. The GEF Secretariat and AFB 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. During the Climate Change Conference in December 2019, the AFB Secretariat organized the COP side event titled “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Climate Finance” among the three climate funds including the Adaptation Fund, GEF, and GCF. Close collaboration between the two secretariats contributed to the successful preparations of this side event which was held at the GEF-GCF Pavilion. Both secretariats continued to collaborate with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme. Both secretariats provided support in collaboration for the UNFCCC Secretariat in developing an international roster of gender experts as part of gender-related capacity building.

106. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the AFB Secretariat have coordinated closely to review and provide comments on any issues that may arise in connection with the ongoing process of the second phase of the World Bank’s Trust Fund reform. The reform process is reviewing issues and opportunities for reform relating to the wide range of Trust Funds at the World Bank, including Financial Intermediary Funds, while respecting the governance and operational requirements for funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF.

107. The AFB Secretariat also attended the 57th GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council as an observer, and the Manager of the AFB Secretariat addressed the GEF Council under the agenda item on the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services. Representatives of the AFB Secretariat also attended the GEF Introduction Seminar in January 2020 and gave a presentation on the Fund's work, as well as the 58th GEF Council (virtually held).

108. The respective communications units of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchange updates and share ideas periodically about potential communications areas for collaboration. The GEF communications unit helped promote the event on advancing gender equality organized by the AFB Secretariat and hosted at the GEF-GCF pavilion at COP 25 in Madrid through a news article produced by Climate Home News, and the AFB Secretariat cross-promoted the article as well as promoted the event through the web and social media. The GEF communications unit has further shared experiences and provided advice and contacts to the AFB Secretariat related to space planning at COP 26 to be held in Glasgow, the United Kingdom.

109. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration. Most recently the GEF Secretariat formed a learning committee aimed at building staff capacity through learning and training activities and the AF was invited to be part of it.

Green Climate Fund

110. The GEF and the GCF Secretariats continued to engage in efforts to enhance collaboration during the reporting period, particularly through the coordinated engagement pilot to explore planning and programming of GEF and GCF resources to enhance synergies and maximize benefits and impacts. Frequent operational teleconferences were organized to update each other on programming and policy developments, and to advance discussions on the coordinated engagement pilot.

111. With the arrival of the new CEO in September 2020, enhancing complementarity of two funds has been identified as an important priority. The CEO and the Executive Director had a bilateral discussion in October 2020 to discuss how to strengthen complementarity between the two funds and agreed to develop a long-term vision together. The GEF Secretariat aims to present elements of the proposed long-term vision to the 60th GEF Council. The long-term vision could then be announced at COP 26 in November 2020.

112. The GCF and GEF Secretariats had a joint pavilion and outreach efforts at the UNFCCC COP 25 in December 2019, as described in the UNFCCC section above. The joint pavilion offered a unique space for the two funds to hold joint and individual events, a one-stop shop for Parties and various institutions interested in the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism to hold meetings with relevant representatives and obtain updated information, and to invite other partners to showcase initiatives. The list of events organized at the joint pavilion and their

objectives and summaries are presented on the GEF website.⁸ The two funds have also agreed to have a joint pavilion at COP 26.

113. Among the joint events organized, a high-level event titled GEF/GCF Coordinated Engagement in the next NDC Cycle was organized on December 11, 2020, to take stock of the Coordinated Engagement pilot to date, and to facilitate sharing of experiences, lessons, and expectations. Following opening statements by the Executive Director of GCF and the GEF CEO, the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change of Mauritius and Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao, PDR shared reflections of initiatives supported by the Coordinated Engagement under way and early lessons learned. Also, the Minister of Environment of Sustainable Development of Senegal shared his perspectives on how the two funds could support the next phase of the GGW initiatives, while an Ambassador of Ecuador discussed regional collaboration for the Amazon, fostered by the Leticia Pact signed by countries to protect the Amazon via disaster response coordination and monitoring, and potential role of the GEF and GCF.

114. Following a technical consultation session held on October 16 and 17, 2019, additional discussions were held throughout the reporting period between the two Secretariat staff to explore opportunities for collaboration and sharing of lessons learned on a number of large initiatives. In particular, the two funds held several bilateral discussions on the next phase of the GGW, in light of a large-scale proposal submitted to GCF for GGW, GEF's plan to support country coordination with an MSP in GEF-7, and various recent and emerging LDCF national climate adaptation projects with GGW elements. The discussions have also touched on the broader GGW program to be announced in 2021 supported by various bilateral donors and multilateral institutions. The GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director (or his representative) have participated in a number of high-level meetings and discussions on GGW, and also consulted with the UNCCD Executive Director given UNCCD's prominent role in facilitating the next phase of GGW. The GEF has called for the need to support bottom-up engagement, offered to share lessons learned to help inform future investments and decision-making, and suggested donor coordination among key funders and institutions.

UN Forum on Forests

115. The GEF continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) during the reporting period. In line with the CPF workplan, the GEF notably contributed to tasks related to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) in the perspective of the UNFF 15 and UNFF 16, including the elaboration of a CPF strategic vision, the CPF joint initiatives and the support to UNFF. In September 2020, the GEF also joined the open-ended CPF working group to elaborate the new CPF Workplan 2021-2024.

116. Pursuant to a [decision](#) made by the CPF in May 2019, the GEF continued to develop the CPF Joint Initiative on Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes co-led with UNEP and CIFOR.

⁸ GEF, 2019, [GEF at UNFCCC COP 25](#).

Building on existing work from the participating organizations, this initiative aims to mobilize and scale-up finance for sustainable forest management and deforestation-free agriculture. It is expected to be launched during the second half of 2020.

117. From November 12 to 15, 2019 the GEF participated in three back-to-back meetings organized in Geneva, Switzerland, to contribute to the implementation of the UNSPF: the Expert Group Meeting on the Clearing House of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN); the Expert Group Meeting on the Quadrennial Programme of Work for 2021-2024; and the regular CPF meeting. The latter focused on the elaboration of the CPF strategic vision towards 2030 and on preparing key contributions for the UNFF15, notably the draft Ministerial declaration and the Forest Partnership Forum, serving as a precursor of a CPF Dialogue. The COVID-19 situation did not allow the organization of this Forum and Dialogue as expected.

118. The GEF also participated in the CPF meeting organized from January 27 to 28, 2020 in Rome, Italy, which finalized and adopted [the new CPF vision](#).⁹ CPF Members underscored the importance of the strategic vision as a guide for CPF's future work. The meeting also discussed CPF contributions to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and UNFF 15 preparation.

119. The GEF actively contributed to the elaboration of the joint statement by CPF "[Towards sustainability: forest solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)", published on October 12, 2020 during the World Forest Week organized by FAO.

120. As member of the CPF Consultative Group in support of the XV World Forestry Congress since May 2020, the GEF participated in the selection of the themes and sub-themes of the Congress and continues to work with the Group to help organize the Congress that is expected to be held on May 24-28, 2021.

121. The Director of Programs of the GEF participated in high-level opening segment of the Webinar organized by the UNFF Secretariat titled Forests: at the heart of a green recovery from COVID-19 on September 28, 2020.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

122. GEF staff were planning on participating in the 19th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that was scheduled for April 13-24, 2020 and await decisions on rescheduling the meeting.

⁹ [CPF Strategic Vision Towards 2030](#).

SAMOA Pathway

123. GEF staff continued to participate in meetings of the UN Inter-Agency Consultative Group for SIDS.

124. The GEF Secretariat provided responses in April 2020 to a questionnaire on 'Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS', requested of the GEF by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs. This questionnaire was developed to inform the Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway 2020, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

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 COP 14 Decision 14/23 and GEF Responses

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p><i>Welcomes</i> the successful conclusion of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and <i>expresses its appreciation</i> for the continuing financial support from Parties and Governments for carrying out the tasks under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in its remaining years, and for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its first two years;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><i>Notes</i> that the biodiversity programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Trust Fund reflect the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, which includes the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism and the four-year framework of programme priorities (July 2018 to June 2022), as well as further guidance;¹⁰</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p><i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility's process to review and upgrade its environmental and social safeguards and the related systems of its agencies, as well as its guidance to advance gender in its new gender implementation strategy, noting that the results will be applicable to all projects funded by the Facility, and <i>invites</i> the Facility to inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms in this important process;</p>	<p>The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018.¹¹ The updated policy is substantially consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines. The Secretariat is currently facilitating a process to review Agencies' compliance with the minimum standards contained in the updated policy.</p>
<p><i>Notes</i> the ongoing review and updating against criteria of best practice of the Global Environment Facility's policy on safeguards and rules of engagement with indigenous peoples;</p>	<p>The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018.¹² The updated policy is aligned with international best practice, including with respect to engagement with indigenous peoples</p>

¹⁰ See decision XIII/21.

¹¹ GEF, 2018, [Updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), Council document GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01.

¹² Ibid.

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 consistent with the GEF-7 Programming Directions and the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy. During the reporting period, the GEF approved three country-based projects (Madagascar, Panama, Sudan) to strengthen the required technical, legal, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. GEF invested \$3.9 million and leveraged \$24.2 million in co-financing.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in line with the consolidated guidance provided in decision XIII/21, to continue to provide all eligible Parties with support for capacity-building:</p> <p>(a) On issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies;</p> <p>(b) On the use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, on the basis of experiences and lessons learned during the Project on Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and using resources under the biodiversity focal area;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support country driven projects that aim to build capacity in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy including the ABS Clearing House taking into account the current use of the Portal housed at the CBD Secretariat.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue making funds available to assist eligible Parties in implementing the Cartagena Protocol, in particular:</p> <p>(a) To assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;</p> <p>(b) To support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol;</p> <p>(c) To support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy, including the fourth national reports. In the reporting period no proposals have been submitted.</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
achievement of compliance with the Protocol;	
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and other relevant funding agencies to provide funds for regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;	The GEF will continue to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy. In the reporting period, no proposals have been submitted.
<i>Expresses its appreciation</i> for the financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility for a number of eligible Parties to support the preparation of their interim national reports on the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, and notes the importance of timely availability of financial resources to support the preparation and submission of national reports by the reporting deadline;	No response needed.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements, and to make funds available to this end;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy. During the reporting period, the GEF approved three country-based projects (Madagascar, Panama, Sudan) to strengthen the required technical, legal, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. GEF invested \$3.9 million and leveraged \$24.2 million in co-financing.
<i>Considers</i> the sixth overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility, conducted by the Facility's Independent Evaluation Office and completed in December 2017, as a good basis for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as well as the related submissions received from Parties, and <i>invites</i> the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take the following action in order to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism: (a) Continue to improve the design, management, and performance of the sixth-replenishment Integrated Approach Pilots, the seventh-replenishment impact programmes, other programmatic	As part of its ongoing support to the implementation of the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilots and the formulation, development and implementation of the GEF-7 IPs, and other programmatic approaches, the GEF remains committed to improving all elements of design, management and implementation performance. The GEF continues to make GEF-eligible countries aware of the processes and procedures that fall under the responsibility of the Conflict Resolution Commissioner. The GEF remains committed to ensure sustainability of all its projects and programs, and

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>approaches, and multi-focal area projects in addressing drivers of environmental degradation;</p> <p>(b) Promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism;</p> <p>(c) Further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;</p> <p>(d) Continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;</p> <p>(e) Include the following information in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy; (ii) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies; 	<p>in particular GEF's support to sustainable financing of protected area systems, which remains a priority investment area in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>The GEF continues to improve the efficiency and accountability of the GEF partnership using existing accounting and management mechanisms.</p> <p>Section III of this report summarizes: a) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy; and b) Performance of the GEF's network of agencies.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Executive Secretary to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>Since COP 14, the GEF has been actively engaged with the CBD on the transition to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and GEF aims to continue this collaboration. GEF Secretariat staff have participated in the Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean sharing GEF's experiences in supporting implementation of the CBD. In addition, GEF Secretariat staff have attended the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Acting Executive Secretary attended the 57th GEF Council in December 2019 and presented to Council an overview of the post-2020 framework discussions. One of the co-chairs of the OEWG also presented a summary of progress to date by the OEWG in developing the zero draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the 57th GEF Council. GEF Secretariat communicates and collaborates on an ongoing basis with the CBD Secretariat and the Executive Secretary in the context of this process.</p>

Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 25 and CMA 2, Conclusions of SBI 51 and SBI 50 and SBSTA 51 and SBSTA 50, and GEF Responses

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
COP 25 DECISIONS	
Decision 7/CP.25 National adaptation plans	
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Notes</i> that funding has been made available for developing country Parties under the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and that other channels of bilateral, multilateral and domestic support have also contributed to enabling developing countries to advance their work in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.</p>	<p>Support for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process has been made by the LDCF and SCCF. During the reporting period, the GEF also continued to support NAP processes through projects.</p>
Decision 8/CP.25 Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2019	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among others, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), NDCs, and to engage with developing country Parties through initiatives such as National Dialogues and Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance developing countries' abilities to assess their needs and priorities and to support developing countries to both develop and implement NDCs.</p> <p>In providing capacity-building support to developing countries, the GEF continues to collaborate with relevant initiatives and other capacity-building providers, including through fostering coordinated engagement with the GCF as part of the financial mechanism of the</p>

¹³ COP 25 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-25>

¹⁴ CMA 2 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-2>

<p>UNFCCC COP 25 Decision¹³ / CMA 2 Decision¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
	<p>Convention, as well as through the NDC Partnership, to enhance synergies and coherence of the respective work programs.</p>
<p>Decision 11/CP.25 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance</p>	
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Looks forward</i> to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Decision 13/CP.25, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility</p>	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Also welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The approval of climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund; (b) The approval of minimum requirements for Global Environment Facility Trust Fund agencies on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism; (c) The composition of the Private Sector Advisory Group; (d) The implementation of the gender equality policy and the approval of the gender implementation strategy; (e) The approval of the policy on monitoring and the evaluation policy. 	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of work undertaken.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the contributions made by donor countries and acknowledgement by the COP, and stands ready to continue to work with</p>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>Developed Countries Fund during the reporting period, amounting to USD 184 million, and the contribution made by Switzerland to the Special Climate Change Fund during the reporting period amounting to USD 3.3 million, and <i>encourages</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds to provide support for adaptation.</p>	<p>countries to support adaptation with additional contributions.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects.</p>	<p>The GEF continues its efforts to strengthen efficiencies in the project cycle. As part of this effort, the GEF has instituted a maximum time period (12 months for Medium-sized Projects, and 18 months for Full-sized Projects) for the project to receive Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Endorsement after approval by the Council of the relevant Work Program, in line with the Project Cancellation Policy¹⁵ approved by the Council in December 2018.</p> <p>As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2019, presented to the 57th GEF Council Meeting in December 2019, the percentage of Full-sized Projects that were CEO-endorsed within 18 months of Council approval of the Project Information Form (PIF) increased to 35 percent in GEF FY 2019, from 28 percent in GEF FY 2018.¹⁶ Additionally, the average time from CEO Endorsement to first disbursement decreased from 11.2 months in GEF-5 to 7.7 months in GEF-6. The GEF Monitoring Report 2019 provides further detailed explanation of additional measures for increasing the pace of preparation and implementation of GEF projects.¹⁷</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF provided an initial automatic extension of three months in March 2020¹⁸ and subsequently additional extension of a further three months</p>

¹⁵ GEF, 2018, [Project Cancellation Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.55/04/Rev.01.

¹⁶ GEF, 2019, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2019](#), Council Document GEF/C.57/03, page 14.

¹⁷ GEF, 2019, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2019](#), Council Document GEF/C.57/03, paragraph 34.

¹⁸ The information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-march-23-2020>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	<p>in April 2020¹⁹ (six months in total) to the business standard deadlines applicable to the submission of CEO Endorsements or Approvals, as well as the actual CEO Endorsements or Approvals, in line with the Cancellation Policy approved by the Council in December 2018. The six-month extension applies to all projects and child projects under Programs approved after March 1, 2019 to address challenges and mitigate risks of the preparation of such projects.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to report to the Conference of the Parties any change or update to the eligibility criteria for accessing the Global Environment Facility resources, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to report to the Conference of Parities should such change or update occur in the future.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, as part of the overall performance study of its seventh replenishment, to analyse any challenges faced and lessons learned by the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies in applying the updated policy on co-financing of the Global Environment Facility and to report back to the Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of the study.</p>	<p>The GEF plans to have a review of experiences of the implementation of the updated Policy on Co-financing as described in the GEF-7 Policy Recommendations at the 59th GEF Council meeting in December 2020. Furthermore, the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation (OPS7) is expected to be completed in FY 2022.²⁰ Relevant findings will be reported to the Conference of the Parties once they become available.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility country focal points, to promote the use of technology needs assessments to facilitate the financing and implementation of technology actions prioritized by countries in their technology needs assessments, within the scope of its mandate and operational modalities.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to work with the respective focal points of GEF recipient countries to ensure that requests for GEF funding are in line with national priorities identified as part of UNFCCC processes, including technology needs assessments (TNAs), in line with the scope of its mandate and operational modalities. The GEF continues to stand ready to receive country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the TNAs.</p>

¹⁹ The information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-april-23-2020>

²⁰ GEF, 2019, *Four-Year Work Program and Budget of The GEF Independent Evaluation Office – GEF-7*, Council Document GEF/C.56/03/Rev.01.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider: (a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on technology needs assessments the least developed countries and small island developing States that have never undertaken a technology needs assessment and have not been included in the fourth phase; (b) Relevant recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Technology Executive Committee on the updated evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.</p>	<p>(a) The GEF has continued to work closely with partners to support the development of technology needs assessments for all developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), which choose to undertake them. In GEF-7, set aside resources continue to be available to LDCs and SIDS to support the development of TNAs. The GEF has worked in collaboration with the implementing agency of the fourth phase of the global TNA project to endeavor to include all LDCs and SIDs that wish to participate but: (i) have not yet undertaken a TNA and/or (ii) have not been included in the fourth phase.²¹ As a result, two additional countries, Lesotho and Barbados, were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>(b) The GEF has and will continue to work with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer (PSP), as appropriate, consistent with the GEF's mandate and operational modalities.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Also invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its existing mandates and in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, to report on lessons learned in supporting developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support through the LDCF and SCCF to developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation, including by strengthening their systems and capacities for generating and using climate information services, in collaboration with the GCF. The GEF's and GCF's coordinated support for formulation of national adaptation plans and other adaptation planning processes continues to be an important source of support to developing countries for collecting and managing information and data on adaptation. Reporting on lessons learned in collaboration</p>

²¹ The fourth phase of the TNA project was Council approved on June 13, 2019 and was still in the process of being approved by the GEF CEO at the time of the writing of this report.

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	with the GCF has included Progress Reports submitted to the LDCF/SCCF Council; Expanded Constituency Workshops throughout the year; and events at COP 25.
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status by continuing to provide approved funding through the Least Developed Countries Fund until the completion of projects approved by the Least Developed Countries Fund Council prior to those countries' graduation from least developed country status.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to facilitate the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status, by engaging in active dialogue to facilitate timely programming and prioritizing funding to projects approved prior to those countries' graduation from LDC status. Funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Takes note</i> of decision 7/CMA.2 and <i>decides</i> to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 12–13 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.</p>	<p>Please see the responses to the guidance transmitted from CMA to COP as included in related paragraphs 12 and 13 below.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to support developing country Parties in preparing their biennial transparency reports (BTRs). The GEF has held consultations on how to meet the needs for the BTRs under GEF-7 with existing resources. The GEF also continues to provide support to developing country Parties in transparency-related capacity-building in accordance with the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions through the CBIT.</p> <p>On June 18, 2020, the GEF held a virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to discuss support needs,</p>

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
	possible modalities, and timing with partners. The meeting was attended by 45 participants including country representatives, and representatives from the LDC Group, UNFCCC Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme. The discussion focused on considerations for costing BTRs, supporting BTRs in conjunction with National Communications (NCs), avoiding duplication of support in the transition to BTRs, preliminary options for supporting the first BTR based on existing modalities, and potential resource implications. Meeting information is available on the GEF website. ²² With the feedback provided, the GEF will further develop programming modalities and guidelines for BTRs, and continue to seek feedback.
Paragraph 14: <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the secretariat via the submission portal, no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2020), their views and recommendations on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the Global Environment Facility.	This is an invitation to Parties.
Paragraph 15: <i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 14 above when preparing its draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.	This is a request to the Standing Committee on Finance.
Paragraph 16: <i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.	The present report includes information on the steps taken to implement the guidance received from COP 25.
Decision 14/CP.25	

²² GEF, 2020. [Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#).

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the engagement and collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and <i>encourages</i> their continued and enhanced collaboration.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to collaborate with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p>
CMA.2 DECISIONS	
Decision 2/CMA.2 Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 review	
<p>Paragraph 36: <i>Invites</i> Parties to make use of available support relevant for averting, minimizing and addressing impacts related to extreme weather events, slow onset events, non-economic losses and human mobility and for comprehensive risk management from a wide variety of sources, public and private, domestic bilateral and multilateral, under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to the extent consistent with their mandates.</p>	<p>This decision is for Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 37: <i>Requests</i> the Executive Committee to further engage and strengthen its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance by providing input in line with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)(ii), to the Standing Committee on Finance when, in accordance with its mandate, it provides information, recommendations and draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the financial mechanisms under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate.</p>	<p>This decision is for the Executive Committee.</p>
Decision 5/CMA.2 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Looks forward</i> to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.</p>	<p>This decision is for the Executive Committee.</p>
Decision 7/CMA.2 Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision¹³ / CMA 2 Decision¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Recommends</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–3 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.</p>	<p>This decision is for the Conference of the Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.</p>	<p>Please see the response to paragraph 13 of Decision 13/CP.25 above.</p>
<p>CONCLUSIONS of SBSTA 51, SBSTA 50, SBI 51, and SBI 50</p>	
<p>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its fifty-first session, held in Madrid from 2 to 9 December 2019²³</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 21: The SBSTA and the SBI further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Koronivia workshops on “Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems” held at the margins of COP 25 on 3-4 December 2019. On this occasion, the GEF presented its experience and views related to the theme of the workshop.</p>

²³ The report of SBSTA 51 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_05_adv.pdf

UNFCCC COP 25 Decision ¹³ / CMA 2 Decision ¹⁴ / SBI 51 and 50 Conclusions/SBSTA 51 and 50 Conclusions	GEF's Response
Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-first session, held in Madrid from 2 to 9 December 2019²⁴	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 33: The SBI and the SBSTA further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	Please see the response above.
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries Paragraph 48: The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 160 million, made at the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, the financial pledge of 7.5 million Canadian dollars made by the Government of Canada at the 2019 G7 Summit, and the financial pledge of USD 16.6 million made by the Government of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund, and urged additional contributions to the Fund.</p>	The GEF appreciates contributions from various donors to the LDCF and would appreciate additional contributions to enable the LDCF to provide additional support to address adaptation priorities of LDCs in a timely manner.
Paragraph 64: The SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 25 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Paragraph 65: The SBI also welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer on approval by the GEF Council of 8 proposed projects with technology transfer elements for climate change mitigation and 18 proposed projects for adaptation during the GEF reporting period.	Noted with appreciation of recognition.

²⁴ The report of SBI 51 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_20_adv.pdf

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<p>Paragraph 66: The SBI further welcomed the approval by the GEF Council of the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs, whereby support is being provided to 15 LDCs and SIDS for conducting or updating their TNAs. The SBI noted that some LDCs and SIDS have not been included in the fourth phase of the project.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition. Opportunities were provided for all LDCs and SIDS which had not yet undertaken a TNA to join the fourth phase. The fourth phase involving 17 LDCs and SIDSs was CEO-endorsed in July 2020.</p>
<p>Paragraph 67: The SBI noted the importance of implementing the technology action plans resulting from the TNA process, and encouraged Parties to consider using the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for implementing the outcomes of TNAs and technology action plans.</p>	<p>Please see the response to paragraph 8 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above.</p>
<p>Paragraph 68: The SBI noted and considered the progress, challenges and lessons learned in relation to the global CTCN project supported by the GEF.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 69: The SBI welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the CTCN and the pilot regional climate technology and finance centres supported by the GEF, and encouraged the CTCN to consult with the GEF and relevant multilateral development banks to find ways to harness the lessons learned in a manner that benefits future projects.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition. The CTCN met with the GEF at COP 25 for the 5th CTCN-GEF Project Steering Committee meeting, during which the two entities discussed the possibilities for harnessing lessons learned and further developing partnerships. During the reporting period, the GEF has also approved an MSP with CTCN engagement titled <i>Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities</i> from the LDCF and the SCCF through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 72: The SBI recommended that the COP invite the GEF to consider: (a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs the LDCs and SIDS that have never undertaken a TNA and have not been included in the phase; (b) Relevant recommendations contained in the evaluation report referred to in paragraph 70 above, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.</p>	<p>The GEF has continued to work with partners to support the development of technology needs assessments by LDCs and SIDS which choose to undertake them. Two additional countries were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS. Furthermore, the GEF is continuing to work with the TEC and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the PSP. Please see the response to paragraph 8 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above for more detailed information.</p>

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Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its fiftieth session, held in Bonn from 17 to 27 June 2019²⁵	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 42: The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.</p>	Noted.
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 44: The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	Please see the above response to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 Report.
Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fiftieth session, held in Bonn from 17 to 27 June 2019²⁶	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 44: The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on</p>	Noted.

²⁵ The report of SBSTA 50 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_02E.pdf

²⁶ The report of SBI 50 is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_09E.pdf

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<p>issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to: Welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture Paragraph 46: The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered LDCF, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.</p>	<p>Please see the response above to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 Report.</p>
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries Paragraph 71: The SBI took note of the information note on LDCF support for graduating LDCs prepared by the GEF.</p>	<p>An information document was prepared for the 27th Meeting of the LDCF/SCCF Council held in December 2019, which further specified LDCF support for graduating LDCs.²⁷</p>
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries Paragraph 72: The SBI decided to recommend that in its decision on guidance to the GEF, COP 25 request the GEF, in administering the LDCF, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status by continuing to provide approved funding through the LDCF until the completion of projects approved by the LDCF Council prior to those countries' graduation from LDC status.</p>	<p>Please see the response to paragraph 10 of the Decision 13/CP.25 above.</p>

²⁷ GEF, 2019, [Least Developed Countries Fund Support for Graduating Least Developed Countries](#), Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/Inf.05.

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<p>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> <p>Paragraph 78:</p> <p>The SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 24 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> <p>Paragraph 79:</p> <p>The SBI welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer, including innovation. It also welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the regional climate technology transfer and finance centres and the CTCN. It encouraged the GEF, the regional centres and the CTCN to continue to collaborate with a view to providing further support to developing country Parties for scaling up their technology-related action for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action, in a balanced manner.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to collaborate with the regional centers and the CTCN, to support in assisting developing countries on technology-related needs and activities for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action.</p>
<p>Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> <p>Paragraph 80:</p> <p>The SBI noted the information provided in the report referred to in paragraph 78 above on the collaboration between the GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer in response to an invitation from SBI 47,49 and encouraged strengthened collaboration so as to enhance coherence between the support provided by the GEF and that provided by the CTCN for technology transfer activities. It also encouraged the GEF and the CTCN to facilitate the collaboration, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to respond to invitations to consult with the CTCN on the identification of ways to enhance information-sharing among national designated entities and GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs). The GEF will continue to receive and share information on collaboration between GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer and provide this information in its reports to the COP. The GEF has also invited the CTCN to participate in GEF Extended Constituency Workshops to engage with GEF OFPs on this matter.</p> <p>The GEF has also approved a MSP titled <i>Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities</i>, as part of the Challenge Program on Adaptation Innovation. The Implementing Agency of this project is United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is</p>

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	also the co-host of the CTCN. The Executing Entity for this project will be the Network Members / Consortium Partners of the CTCN.

Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 14 and GEF Response to Date

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
Welcomes the signature and the entry into effect of the new memorandum of understanding concluded with the Global Environment Facility Council;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Also welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and acknowledges the increase in the focal area allocation, focus on land-based actions through Impact Programs, and opportunities to enhance synergies;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Global Environment Facility Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;	The GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. GEF Secretariat is also encouraging project proponents to use the "Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes" for GEF-7 project design.
Requests the Global Mechanism to continue its collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF continues to collaborate with the Global Mechanism in the context of GEF-7 through various means and activities.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting Parties to meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and encourages the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate financial resources in a timely manner;	Reporting, voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and capacity-building for implementation will be supported in the context of GEF-7 UNCCD enabling activities. GEF Secretariat received first upstream proposals and submissions for supporting the process through Enabling activities, which are currently under in-depth discussion and review.
Invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention;	In the context of the GEF-7 programming directions, and within its mandate, the GEF provides countries with options to financing relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought mitigation activities through the LD focal area funding window as well as other funding windows, including multi-trust fund projects with the LDCF. Enabling Activities will also facilitate parties' active participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought.

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;	Within the context of the GEF-7, the GEF continues to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.	Noted.

Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP 9 Decision SC 9/15 and GEF Response

	Stockholm COP 9 Guidance	GEF's Response
1	Welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the report of the Facility to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
2	Welcomes the inclusion in the programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund of measures with respect to marine plastic litter and microplastics and alignment between those matters in the strategies for the international waters and the chemicals and waste focal areas;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
3	Recalls Articles 13 and 14 of the Stockholm Convention, and encourages the donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund, at the time of negotiations of its eighth replenishment, to increase significantly the allocation for the Convention, to assist recipient countries;	Noted. This will be taken into consideration during the negotiations of the eight replenishment of the GEF.
4	Reiterates its request to 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;	Noted. The GEF will continue to follow its operational guidelines, programming directions and guidance from the COP in the review of proposals for funding of the Stockholm Convention.
5	Adopts the terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism set out in annex I to the present decision;	Noted. The GEF will provide information when requested during the review process.
6	Requests the Secretariat to compile information relevant to the fifth review of the financial mechanism and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
7	Notes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention, and encourages them 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;	Noted.

	Stockholm COP 9 Guidance	GEF's Response
8	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 tenth meeting;	Noted. The GEF will work with the Convention Secretariat to prepare the report for the consideration of the tenth Conference of the Parties.
9	Invites developed-country Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action.
10	Invites other Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not for GEF action.
11	Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions, such as development banks, and the private sector, to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Convention,	Not for GEF action.

	Stockholm COP 9 Guidance	GEF's Response
	including information on access to such contributions;	
12	Adopts the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026, as set out in annex II to the present decision;	Noted. The GEF will provide information when requested during the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026.
13	Invites Parties and others to provide, by 31 August 2020, the relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs referred to in paragraph 12 of the present decision;	Not for GEF action.
14	Requests the Secretariat:	
	(a) To prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 9 to 11 of the present decision, 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 financial resources in support of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
	(b) To compile information relevant to the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022-2026 and submit the draft report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;	Not for GEF action.
	(c) To provide assistance to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, upon request, to facilitate their assessment of funding needed for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022 to 2026	Not for GEF action.