

GEF Council Meeting
November 13 – 15, 2012
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 7

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.43/03, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network to continue working with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their respective GEF programming and activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF Council under the following multilateral environmental conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the MP). The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat (the Secretariat) and other international conventions and institutions.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) A brief summary of progress on National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat; an update on steps taken towards the establishment of the Green Climate Fund; the details of UNFCCC related meetings attended and issues discussed.
- (b) Current status of the preparations and submissions to the CBD Secretariat of the various national reports and participation in the Expert Group on the assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the CBD for the GEF-6.
- (c) Status of reports and enabling activities under UNCCD.
- (d) Report on the joint retreat of the GEF and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariats (BRSCS) that was held on August 13-14, 2012 at the Secretariat, Washington, DC. Report on the progress of negotiations on mercury as well as on the Consultative Process on Financing Chemicals and Waste.
- (e) A brief summary of joint work with the Multilateral Fund on implementing by two secretariats for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in order to develop a work plan to make operational document GEF/C.42/09. A brief report of the 32nd Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol is presented with summary of items discussed.
- (f) A summary of decisions taken, the projects approved, and other decisions adopted the Adaptation Fund Board at its 18th meeting.
- (g) A brief report on the participation in the events organized by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) as well as in various meetings relative to international waters issues.

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1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF occurring since the 41th GEF Council meeting in November 2011 within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the MP). The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's (the Secretariat) relations with other conventions and institutions.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Ratification

2. From June 2012 until October 2012 no additional countries became Parties to the UNFCCC.

National reporting/National Communications

3. The total number of submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties, as at September 18, 2012, is shown below:

- Initial national communications: 142
- Second national communications: 75
- Third national communications: 3
- Fourth national communications: 1

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

Reporting to COP

4. The Secretariat prepared its report to the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UNFCCC. Report can be found at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/06.pdf>

5. The report also describes the GEF's response to COP 17 decisions as well as relevant conclusions by SBI 35 and 36, and the achievements of the GEF during the reporting period, details of these responses are provided in the Annex 1.

Update on the Green Climate Fund

6. The UNFCCC Secretariat and the Secretariat have taken the necessary administrative steps to set up the Interim Secretariat of the GCF as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC Secretariat premises. The Interim Secretariat is to provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the GCF Board until the independent Secretariat of the GCF is established. In order to move quickly in establishing the Interim Secretariat, the Secretariats of the UNFCCC and the Secretariat assigned staff either full-time or part-time to work in the Interim Secretariat.

7. The designated Interim Trustee of the GCF, the World Bank, formally accepted the invitation by the COP. The Interim Trustee established a Financial Intermediary Fund for the GCF and now stands ready to receive contributions from Parties for the start-up costs in this new GCF trust fund.

8. A number of Parties have indicated their willingness to contribute financially to the interim GEFCF secretariat and some are already in the process of making administrative arrangements to do so. For the first months of the year 2012, it has been possible to finance operations from funds remaining from those provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the Transitional Committee (TC) in 2011 and from funds advanced from the GEF Secretariat's administrative budget.

9. An important milestone in operationalizing the GCF is the selection of the host country of the GCF. Six expressions of interest in hosting the GCF have been received: (i) Germany; (ii) Mexico; (iii) Namibia; (iv) Poland; (v) Republic of Korea; and (vi) Switzerland.

10. Parties nominated the persons who would hold the position of member and alternate member of the GCF Board through their regional groups and constituencies.

11. After the nomination process was concluded, the first GCF Board meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland on August 23-25, 2012. At its first meeting, the GCF Board took a number of decisions that will lay the foundations for the operationalization of the Fund. These include the decision on how to conduct the process to select the host country of the Fund.

Meetings and events

12. The Secretariat participated in the 36th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on May 14-25, 2012, in Bonn, Germany. At SBI 36, the GEF made a statement on behalf of the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

13. The Secretariat participated in the fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 15) and the seventeenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 17) on May 14-24, 2012, in Bonn, Germany. The GEF gave an oral report on the National Communications during the plenary and participated in relevant meeting and groups on adaptation, capacity building, finance, the LDCs, National Communications, and technology transfer. The GEF also provided an oral report on the progress of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer.

14. The Secretariat participated in the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 1) on May 17-24, 2012 in Bonn, Germany.

15. The Secretariat participated in the first meeting of the Board of the GCF held on August 23-25, 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland.

16. The Secretariat participated in the informal additional session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the informal additional session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) on August 30-September 5, 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Secretariat participated in relevant meeting and groups on adaptation, capacity building, finance, LDCs, National Communications, and technology transfer.
17. The Secretariat participated in the informal additional session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) on August 30-September 5, 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand.
18. The Secretariat participated as an observer organization in the third and fourth Technology Executive Committee (TEC) meetings held on May 28-29, 2012 in Bonn, Germany, and September 6-8, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, respectively.
19. The Secretariat participated as an observer organization in the first meeting of the Standing Committee held on September 6-8, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.
20. The Secretariat participated as an observer organization in the first meeting of the Adaptation Committee held on September 7-10, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Joint activities with the UNFCCC Secretariat

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

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ratification

22. For the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Bahrain deposited its instrument of access on 7 February 2012, and became Party to the Protocol on May 7th, 2012. Uruguay deposited its instrument of ratification on November 2nd, 2011 and became Party on January 31st, 2012. 51 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol signed the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by the closing date for signature on 6 March 2012, and Latvia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Supplementary Protocol on November 30th, 2011, and Czech Republic did so on February 13th, 2012.
23. The list of signatories and ratifications can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/>
24. For the reporting period, 92 Parties to the Convention have signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).

National reporting

25. As of October 1st, 2012, 181 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have submitted their fourth national reports to the Convention Secretariat, including 171 final versions. Reports can be found at <http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04>

26. As of October 1st, 2012, a total of 146 countries have submitted to the CBD Secretariat their second national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Of these, 109 countries (out of the 123 GEF- eligible countries) prepared their reports using funding provided by the GEF.

Meetings and events

27. The Secretariat contributed to the work of the Expert Group on the assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the CBD during the GEF-6 replenishment period through provision of information and commentary on draft documents.

28. The Secretariat attended in Open-Ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ICNP-2) in New Delhi, India from June 30 to July 6, 2012. The ICNP drafted decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting to be held in India, October 2012, including guidance to the financial mechanism.

29. The Secretariat attended CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India on October 1-19 simultaneously with the posting of this document. An update on decisions adopted will be presented during the Council meeting.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Ratification

30. Estonia acceded to the Convention on 8 May 2012, thus bringing the number of Parties to the UNCCD to 195.

Reporting

31. The UNCCD Secretariat formally opened the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) in March 2012 for submission of country reports, with the deadline of September 15, 2012. However, responses from countries to access funding under the enabling activities window of the Global Environment Facility have been relatively slow due to a variety of reasons. This has impacted the timely submission of UNCCD reports to the on-line reporting facility (PRAIS portal). The UNCCD Secretariat has recently confirmed the guidance received from the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) Bureau to postpone the deadline for submission of reports from 21 September to 15 October

2012. The Secretariat, as a reporting entity, received a revised template for submission of its reporting through the system, and is in the process of generating appropriate data for entry into the portal as soon as it is ready.

32. The Secretariat continued its processing of requests for Enabling Activity financing by affected countries. To date, 90 of the 144 eligible countries have used one of the three available modalities for accessing GEF resources: *72 through the umbrella project modality, 8 through the direct access modality, and 10 through the GEF Agency modality.* Access to GEF resources will help these countries to address issues related to data collection, review and entry into the PRAIS portal. It is expected that extension of the reporting deadline will allow for a crucial mass of reports to be submitted for the review of the CRIC.

Implementing decisions of COPs

33. With regard to decision 11/COP.10 on “*Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility*”, the GEF and UNCCD Secretariats have now initiated a review of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF to determine possible amendments as requested by COP.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Ratification

34. From May 2012 until September 2012, Saudi Arabia has ratified the Stockholm Convention. The status of ratifications can be retrieved at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National reporting

35. Article 15 of the Convention requires each Party to the Convention to report to the COP on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The national reports submitted online can be retrieved at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/NationalReports/tabid/751/language/en-US/Default.aspx>. As of September 2012, 148 countries have submitted their initial National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, and 7 countries have transmitted their second NIPs.

Reporting to COP

36. As the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the GEF submits a report on its activities at each COP, which takes place every two years. There will be a COP in 2013. The Secretariat has begun preparation of the report to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. This sixth meeting

is scheduled to take place in sequence with the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions in 2013 in Geneva (28 April-10 May).

Meetings and events

37. A joint retreat of the GEF and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions Secretariats (BRSCS) was held on August 13-14, 2012 at the Secretariat, Washington, DC, USA. The objectives of the meeting were to: 1) Take stock of the joint managerial functions and the synergy process underway among the three conventions, as well as GEF Council decisions related to chemicals; 2) Advance collaboration to support the implementation of guidance and decisions by Parties, including needs assessment and review to the financial mechanism; 3) Identify actions to be undertaken and projects to be developed by the GEF and the Convention Secretariat to enhance implementation of mandates from COP; and 4) Develop a coordinated approach to outreach activities.

38. The meeting was an opportunity of the two Secretariats to enhance their coordination and cooperation on chemicals. A number of activities have been agreed and the Secretariats have developed a work plan into the next year. Some of the major activities include improving the ability of regional centers of the Convention to execute GEF projects, thereby responding to the needs of the countries and the conventions as well as responding to the Guidance provided by the COP to the GEF; reviewing the NIP update process especially in the light of new additions to the Conventions and how to deal with these as more are added over time. There was also discussion and actions agreed for the Convention Secretariat to provide input into the review of projects and preparations for the upcoming COP.

Progress on Mercury Negotiations

39. The GEF secretariat participated in two of the regional meetings to prepare for the fourth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 4). These were in Asia and Africa. The GEF provided inputs into the discussions on the Financial Mechanism.

40. The fourth session of the INC to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from June 27th to July 2nd 2012. The GEF CEO participated at the opening segment of the INC4 by providing opening remarks. She highlighted that the negotiations of the intergovernmental negotiating committee would conclude while the negotiations for the sixth replenishment of the trust fund were under way. That would present the best opportunity for the committee to consider sending a signal to GEF that resources should be made available for the mercury instrument. She further indicated that GEF was prepared to become a financial mechanism of the mercury instrument if asked to do so.

41. The GEF organized a side event to update participants on the status of approved mercury projects and other potential projects that would inform the INC process. The presentations were provided by GEF the GEF Secretariat, GEF agencies and representatives from recipient countries. A brochure was developed to highlight currently approved and future mercury projects to be funded by the GEF in order to inform the negotiations. The brochure can be

retrieved at: <http://www.thegef.org/topics/mercury>. For an overview of the GEF work on mercury, please go to: <http://www.thegef.org/topics/mercury>

42. The fifth session of the INC to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (INC5) will be held in Geneva, during the period from 13 to 20 January 2013 (dates to be confirmed by the INC Bureau). GEF will participate in this meeting.

Process on Financing Chemicals and Waste

43. The Consultative Process on Financing Chemicals and Waste - The UNEP Executive Director's proposal, finalised in August 2012, was presented at the final meeting of the consultative process scheduled in Mexico City, Mexico on September 4-7 2012. The proposal elaborates on the concept developed in Bangkok on an integrated approach to financing chemicals and waste. The proposal has three components, mainstreaming, private sector engagement and dedicated external financing. The outcome document from Bangkok, proposed either a GEF or Multi-Lateral Fund (MLF) solution to the question on external financing. In the UNEP's Executive Director's proposal a hybrid approach, in the GEF was proposed. The participants largely welcomed the proposal; however there were indications that moving away from the MLF model in the proposal was not an acceptable option for some countries. There were also varied interpretations of the model proposed in the paper, and UNEP clarified they were proposing a new trust fund in the GEF and not a new focal area. The Secretariat clarified that while various models can work within the concept to the GEF, the ideal situation would be a focal area of the GEF. The Secretariat indicated that any changes would need to be considered by the Council and the Assembly and should be done in the context of the GEF replenishment.

44. As part of the dedicated external financing, the UNEP Executive Director's proposal included the need for Chemical and Waste units to be established. Many participants, including donors were agreeable to this option; however there was disagreement on where the funding for these units should be sourced.

45. The UNEP Executive Director's draft proposal on an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and wastes will be presented for consideration and possible decision at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) in September 2012. The GEF will be represented at this meeting.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

Meetings and events

46. The Secretariat continued its dialogue with the Multilateral Fund (MLF) Secretariat for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in order to develop a work plan to make operational document GEF/C.42/09. A number of projects are being considered that seek funding for both the GEF and MLF. The two secretariats are also working on a publication in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, on the work of the funds in achieving the goals of the Montreal Protocol as well as future collaboration of the two funds.

47. The Secretariat was represented at the 32nd Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol. This meeting again considered the Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) amendments proposals of North America and Micronesia. In spite of long discussions during the plenary sessions, a number of Article 5 countries continued to block progress on this topic. During the discussion on the reports of the Technical Option committees and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) a number of Article 5 countries complained that there was not sufficient progress of the TEAP on identifying economically and technically feasible available replacements for HCFC with low GWPs.

48. The OEWG also discussed the draft report of the review of the Multilateral Fund. A delegate observed that the report failed to identify where lessons from the MLF can be useful to other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and Financial Mechanisms. The delegate indicated that the TORs for the review were to find lessons from other MEAs and Financial Mechanisms, in particular the GEF, that can be useful for the MLF.

International Waters

49. The Secretariat took part in the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was held on 25-26 January 2012, Manila, Philippines. Preceding the IGR-3, Global Conference on Land Based Connections was organised on 23-24 January to discuss emerging issues and science-policy inter-linkages, feeding results into the IGR-3. The Secretariat was, among others, part of the preparation of the conference by delivering key material to a publication on GPA investments (“The role of the Global Environment Facility’s International Waters focal area in: Helping build the necessary institutional and management capacity for country led efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)”). GEF projects staff and Secretariat representatives contributed to sessions on GPA investments in East Asia as well as to session on investments supporting the Land Based Sources (LBS) protocol in the Caribbean Region.

50. The Secretariat participated at the 6th World Water Forum on March 12-17, 2012 in Marseille, France. Some 35,000 practitioners, government representatives, NGOs and various others with stakes in the water sector convened for the triennial gathering. Several new commitments were made at the Forum, documented here: <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/news/>. Ministers present at the Forum adopted the Ministerial Declaration, addressing the key global water sector challenges. The Declaration, in line with the Forum focus on solutions, emphasizes the need to accelerate access to safe drinking water and sanitation, contribution of water sector to economic development through a green economy, role of water for food security and energy. The Declaration, in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference, addressed water in Rio Conventions, water related disasters and urban development and underscored the condition for success as governance, cooperation and financing. The full text of 6th WWF Ministerial Declaration is available at <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/commissions/political/ministerial-process/>.

51. GEF concentrated its effort in preparation of and participation in the 6th WWF on processes and events directly related to the GEF mission on the global water arena – the transboundary cooperation amongst states and partners on shared freshwater bodies and devoted to critically stressed regions where GEF makes large scale investment in water and food security combined with conservation e.g. Lake Chad Basin. The key contribution of GEF was aimed at the Forum Theme *Contribute to Cooperation and Peace through Water*, engaged with one critical aspect of the functioning of transboundary institutions – a sustainable financing. Specific target, in cooperation with handful of partners was developed; number of solutions to solve this critical issue was initiated and collected before and during the Forum.

52. The Secretariat attended the World Water Week 2012 on August 26 – 31 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Stockholm water week has become an annual focal point for global water issues. It brings together key stakeholders from the water community in GEF client countries, GEF development partners, industry and civil society in a unique forum that encourages interaction, collaboration and supports innovation. This year's theme has been Water and Food Security. With agriculture supporting about 70 % of the World's freshwater on average and often up to 80 or 90% in low income countries, this year's conference was of special relevance to the GEF IW program. Among key issues discussed were the water-energy-food security nexus on national and transboundary scale and the implications of large foreign land investment on water withdrawals and for water governance. Continuing themes such as adaptation to climate change, the upcoming international year on water cooperation, and engagement of the private sector in reducing its water footprint are also of high relevance to the objectives of the GEF IW focal area. The GEF participated in the annual donor round table and other meetings at the sideline of the conference, such as the evaluation of the Nile Basin Trust Fund, and engaged in meetings with country counterparts and GEF agencies and partners.

53. The GEF attended the 5th meeting of the Informal Working Group of the Working Group on Marine Biodiversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction held, from May 7-11 2012, at UN HQ, New York, USA. The objective of the meeting was to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The meeting was attended by 250 representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations (including RFMOs), and CSOs. In line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and GEF International Waters and Biodiversity Focal Areas GEF-5 strategies, the Working Group focused on measures such as area based management tools, including marine protected areas, capacity building, and the transfer of marine technology; the organization of intersessional workshops aimed at improving understanding of the issues and clarifying key questions as an input to the work of the Working Group; and the identification of gaps and ways forward, with a view to ensuring an effective legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The GEF Council approved, in November 2011, the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Program. Its objective is to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. The ABNJ Program will help UN member states better fulfil their obligations under UNCLOS, in particular Articles 116 to 119 on conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and other relevant articles.

54. A Side Event on the ABNJ Program was held to provide a briefing about the content of the program and its progress. It was co-chaired by FAO, GOF, and GEF and included presentations from all the implementing agencies (FAO, World Bank and UNEP) as well as executing agencies: CI, IUCN and WWF. There is wide support for the ABNJ Program. The majority of the feedback received concentrated on appreciation of the program's focus on the technical issues it addresses. Several delegations highlighted the complementarity of the ABNJ program, under the GEF-5 IW & BD strategies, with the work of the Working Group.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund Board

55. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) met once during the reporting period: the 18th meeting was held on June 28-29, 2012 in Bonn, Germany. The meeting was preceded by meetings of the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) on June 26-27, 2012.

Accreditation decisions

56. The Board accredited the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) of India, bringing the total number of National Implementing Entities (NIEs) to 12.

Regional Accreditation Workshops

57. Pursuant to decision 5/CMP.6, the Board continued its collaboration with the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to organize regional workshops to familiarize countries with the accreditation process to support the direct access modality. During the reporting period, the third workshop, for the Asia region was held in Manila, Philippines on March 19-21, 2012 and the fourth workshop, for the Pacific region, was held in Apia, Samoa on April 23-25, 2012. The workshops have allowed participants to receive targeted guidance on the requirements for accreditation from expert members of the Board's advisory body, the Accreditation Panel.

Project approvals

58. At its 18th meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board approved grant funding for seven projects/programmes, with a total value of USD\$50.7 million. Notably, the Board approved its third direct access project, which will be implemented in Jamaica by its National Implementing Entity (NIE), the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Titled "Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security," the USD\$9.97 million project will introduce measures to protect livelihoods and food security in communities by improving land and water management for the agricultural sector, strengthening coastal protection, and building institutional and local capacity for climate change adaptation. The Board also approved projects to be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Colombia and Djibouti, the United Nations Environment Programme in Cambodia, the World Food Programme in Egypt and Mauritania, and the International Fund for

Agricultural Development in Lebanon. The projects confront various climate change impacts such as flooding and drought.

59. The Board also endorsed concepts for Argentina's NIE, la Unidad para el Cambio Rural; Paraguay (United Nations Environment Programme), and Peru (Inter-American Development Bank).

Resources

60. With the seven new approvals, the Board has approved 25 project/programmes for funding to date, amounting to USD\$166.4 million. The cumulative funding decisions for projects submitted by MIEs represent 49% of the sum of cumulative project funding decisions and funds available to support funding decisions, or US\$283 million.

61. The Board, maintaining the general cap of 50% on all MIEs for funding as established in decision B.12/9, as well as the country cap of US\$10 million, also continued discussion on prioritization of proposals within a pipeline once the cap has been exceeded.

62. *Other decisions.* The Board decided to offer Adaptation Fund certified emissions reductions (CERs) specifically for purchase by governments and continued discussions over how to meet the increasing need for adaptation funding in developing countries. The Board considered the elements of its new fundraising strategy, including engagement with donor countries, as well as innovative measures to increase funding flows. A discussion on the strategic objectives and further steps for the Fund will take place at the 19th Board meeting.

63. The Board also held a public dialogue with civil society attended by non-governmental organizations from a variety of countries with ties to the Adaptation Fund: the Environmental Development Action in the Third World (Senegal); Fundacion Vida (Honduras); Panos Caribbean (Jamaica); Organisation des Femmes pour la gestion de l'Energie, de l'Environnement et la promotion de Développement Intégré (Benin); Indigo (South Africa); and GermanWatch. Continuing engagement with civil society, the Board also issued a call for inputs from the public for comments on project/programme proposals for consideration in technical reviews.

64. The Board also approved a revised Project Performance Report (PPR) Template, the process for the secretariat's review the PPRs, and the guidance document to complete PPRs.

65. The Board continued to discuss the proposed investigative procedure/function to address cases of financial mismanagement by Implementing Entities. The secretariat will present a revised proposal at the 19th meeting.

66. The Board confirmed the separation on implementation and execution functions and decided that execution services such as procurement will only be provided by Implementing Entities on an exceptional basis and at the written request by the recipient country.

67. The 19th Board meeting, third and final for the calendar year, will take place in Bonn, Germany on December 11-14, 2012.

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

68. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), meetings held May 14-17, 2012 in New York and June 20 2012 in Rio. The CPF is a voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programs on forests. One of the main objectives of the CPF is to support the UNFF and its member countries. The CPF's mission is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthen long term political commitment to this end. The CPF provides major inputs to the UNFF and other important international forest dialogues, including the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It produces joint statements and papers on key forest issues on the international agenda. The statements can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/2087/en/>. At the meetings, representatives from the CPF member organizations discussed the work program of the Advisory Group on Finance namely preparation of an update report on new and emerging financing initiatives. Subsequently the GEF has been part of the work group drafting the report in time for the Organization-Led initiative to be held in Rome in September 19-21 2012. The GEF participated in the UNFF Facilitative Process workshop in Nadi, Fiji held July 23-27 2012. This workshop brought together representatives from LFCCs and SIDS to develop strategic approaches to mobilize financial resources for SFM.

SYNERGIES GENERATED BETWEEN CONVENTIONS THROUGH FUNDED PROJECTS

69. A number of the projects demonstrating synergies among different conventions proposed for this work program are identified below.

70. Projects where synergies are generated within the SFM/REDD+ portfolio which respond to the guidance provided by UNFCCC, UNCCD as well as contributing to Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of the CBD:

71. Within Peru's Puna, Yunga and Amazon ecosystems the initiative "*Transforming Management of Protected Area/Landscape Complexes to Strengthen Ecosystem Resilience*" is a multifocal Sustainable Forest Management project to support an innovative multi-organization approach with a total area of 11 million ha. The initiative will strengthen the resilience of priority vulnerable ecosystems against the impacts of climate change and conserve threatened biodiversity and ecosystem functionality. The project will sequester over 10.6 million tCO₂e within the project area.

72. The initiative in Cambodia "*Strengthening National Biodiversity and Forest Carbon Stock Conservation through Landscape-based Collaborative Management of Cambodia's Protected Area System as demonstrated in the Mondulkiri Conservation Landscape (CAMPAS project)*" aims to enhance the management effectiveness of Cambodia's national protected area system, as well as secure forest carbon through demonstrating improved inter-sectoral collaboration, landscape connectivity and sustainable forest management and rehabilitation. It is estimated the project will result in 16.12 million tCO₂e sequestered carbon.

73. The “*Integrated National Monitoring and Assessment System on Forest Ecosystems (SIMEF) in Support of Policies, Regulations and SFM Practices Incorporating REDD+ and Biodiversity Conservation in Forest Ecosystems*” project in Chile is a multifocal Sustainable Forest Management project developing and implementing an integrated forest monitoring and assessment system on carbon stocks and biodiversity in forest ecosystems and policies, regulations and sustainable forest management practices incorporating REDD+ and biodiversity conservation in forest ecosystems. The carbon benefits of the project are estimated to be 10.0 million tCO₂e.

74. The project “*The Iyanola – Natural Resource Management of NE Coast*” in St. Lucia is a Multi-focal area initiative that aims to enhance land use planning and the existing legal framework to develop appropriate supporting regulations and guidelines and innovative financing mechanisms in forest, coastal and marine ecosystems. The project promotes conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change, and forestry by seeking to reduce pressure on forestry and biodiversity services. In response to the St. Lucia’s Second National Communication for the UNFCCC (2012) and the Saint Lucia’s 4th National Report on biodiversity conservation, the project will reforest and restore 1,157 ha degraded lands with native species, and sustain 200 ha of existing forest, including coastal dry forest; mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation issues into land use planning. As a result, the forest will sequester 23,056 tCO₂e annually and 691,689 tCO₂e over a 30 years period.

75. The project, implementing a “*Ridge to Reef*” approach to protecting biodiversity and ecosystem functions within and around protected areas in Grenada, is a multifocal Biodiversity project that aims at increasing PA management effectiveness and applies targeted sustainable land management practices for 2,931 ha of terrestrial PAs and 13,180 ha of marine PAs. The project also promote implementation of innovative climate resilient Sustainable Land Management technologies in the 1,547 hectares of the Beausejour Watershed lead to improved habitat integrity in the Annandale Forest Reserve within the watershed and the surrounding landscape. As a result, this project integrates BD, LD and SFM approaches while supporting the Decision 11/COP.10 of the UNCCD and the 2004 CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Increase of forest cover through enrichment planting increases carbon stock by 85,972.5tC during project lifetime and 34,822.4 tCO₂e, indirectly.

Annex 1: GEF’s updated response to decisions adopted by COP 17, and conclusions by SBI 35 and 36

COP 17 adopted five decisions with specific guidance to the GEF. Additional guidance was provided by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its 35th and 36th sessions. Table X below provides the relevant decision paragraphs along with the GEF’s updated response.¹

Table X: GEF’s updated response to decisions adopted by COP 17, and conclusions by SBI 35 and 36

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF’s Response
<p>Decision 2/CP.17, Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf)</p>	
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>44. <i>Urges and requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to make available support to non-Annex I Parties preparing their first biennial update reports as early as possible in 2012 and on the basis of agreed full-cost funding;</p>	<p>The GEF finances biennial update reports (BURs), through the regular avenue of financing National Communications. The GEF has prepared policy guidelines for the financing of BURs for non-Annex I Parties, which were distributed to all Parties in early 2012. The policy guidelines provides that, for the BURs, non-Annex I Parties can access up to \$352,000 through a GEF Agency or by direct access. If \$352,000 for the BURs is not sufficient for a country, then the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocation can be used.</p>
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>48. <i>Further invites</i> developed country Parties, the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and nongovernmental organizations that are in position to do so, to submit to the secretariat, as appropriate, the following information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available and/or provided for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions:</p> <p>(a) Whether the support available is for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>The GEF, through its regular financing of climate change mitigation projects, can provide resources for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs). Countries can access resources through their STAR Allocation for NAMAs. For example, the GEF Council in June 2012 approved a project which explicitly focuses on NAMAs, titled “<i>Peru-Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in the Energy Generation and End-Use Sectors.</i>” This project will support the Government of Peru in the development and implementation of NAMAs in the energy sector to achieve the country’s voluntary GHG emissions reduction target.</p>

¹ An initial response to the decisions adopted by COP 17 was provided in GEF/C.42/03 (available on http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.42.03_Relations_with_Conventions_and_Other_International_Institutions_1.pdf). Table X provides additional and updated information pertaining to these decisions, consistently with the GEF report to COP 18.

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>actions;</p> <p>(b) The source of the support, including, where applicable, the name of the developed country Parties in question and the executing entity channeling the support, including contact information;</p> <p>(c) The amount and type of support available, and whether it is financial (e.g. grant or facilitated loan), technology and/or capacity-building support;</p> <p>(d) The status of delivery;</p> <p>(e) The types of action that may be supported and the process for the provision of support;</p> <p>49. <i>Invites</i> Parties and entities referred to in paragraphs 46 and 48 above to provide the secretariat, subsequent to the matching of action with support, information on both internationally supported mitigation actions and associated support;</p>	<p>As to providing information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available and/or provided for the preparation and/or implementation of NAMAs, the GEF Secretariat has held consultations with the UNFCCC Secretariat about how the GEF can provide such information in line with development of the NAMA Registry prototype.</p>
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>68. <i>Encourages</i> the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention to provide results-based finance for the actions referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 73;</p>	<p>In GEF-5, the GEF is providing financing for these mitigation actions in the forest sector under climate change mitigation's Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) objective and under the cross-focal area (that is, addressing multiple Convention needs) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)/ REDD+ Program, including supporting activities that will develop national systems to measure and monitor carbon stocks and change from forest and non-forest lands, strengthen related policies and institutions, undertake good management practices, and establish financing mechanisms and investment programs. LULUCF also includes non-forest lands which allows for lands to be converted to forest land and also for good practices to be applied to non-forest lands for GHG benefits.</p> <p>Rigorous monitoring and/or measuring systems are key for results-based finance for mitigation in the forest sector. Support for national monitoring systems and for sub-national or local-based monitoring will be emphasized in these types of projects.</p>
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>140. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support</p>	<p>The GEF has financed technology transfer in line with the GEF-5 Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and the Long-Term Program on</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>the operationalization and activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network without prejudging any selection of the host;</p>	<p>Technology Transfer, which the GEF submitted to COP 16 in response to decision 2/CP.14 to consider the long-term implementation of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer, with the means at its disposal for that purpose. The GEF is also ready to continue to support the operationalization and activities of the CTCN in response to decision 2/CP.17.</p> <p>The Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, which was also approved by the GEF Council, includes climate technology transfer coordination at the global level (i.e., the global centre host function) and technology centers at the regional level. Countries wishing to establish a national centre/network were invited to do so by utilizing existing GEF national allocations.</p> <p>In line with the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, the GEF Council approved four regional projects for Climate Technology Centres and Climate Technology Networks so far. At the national level, the GEF Council also approved the “<i>Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment</i>” project in India by the World Bank, which is expected to be part of the future CTCN.</p> <p>The GEF submitted its proposal to host the CTCN for consideration by the UNFCCC Secretariat in March 2012, in response to the Call for Proposal 2012-S1. The proposal was withdrawn by the GEF CEO in May 2012.</p>
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>152. <i>Encourages</i> the relevant bodies established under the Convention, including, inter alia, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Global Environment Facility as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to continue to elaborate and carry out work on capacity-building in an integrated manner, as appropriate, within their respective mandates;</p>	<p>The GEF, with its partner Agencies, has provided significant capacity building support to countries during the past decade, both through a capacity component in regular projects and through more targeted interventions. For example, the “<i>Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change</i>” project in India by UNDP will strengthen institutional and analytical capacities in an integrated manner by realizing in one common framework India’s NC, biennial update report (BUR), and technology needs assessment (TNA).</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>The GEF continues to provide resources for capacity building activities through its regular financing of projects.</p>
<p>Decision 3/CP.17, Launching the Green Climate Fund (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf)</p>	
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>18. <i>Recognizes</i> the need to facilitate the immediate functioning of the Green Climate Fund and ensure its independence, requests the UNFCCC secretariat jointly with the Global Environment Facility secretariat to take the necessary administrative steps to set up the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC secretariat premises without undue delay after the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties so that the interim secretariat can provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the Board until the independent secretariat of the Green Climate Fund is established;</p>	<p>The UNFCCC Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat have taken the necessary administrative steps to set up the Interim Secretariat of the GCF as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC Secretariat premises. The Interim Secretariat is to provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the GCF Board until the independent Secretariat of the GCF is established. In order to move quickly in establishing the Interim Secretariat, the Secretariats of the UNFCCC and the GEF assigned staff either full-time or part-time to work in the Interim Secretariat.</p> <p>The designated Interim Trustee of the GCF, the World Bank, formally accepted the invitation by the COP. The Interim Trustee established a Financial Intermediary Fund for the GCF and now stands ready to receive contributions from Parties for the start-up costs in this new GCF trust fund.</p> <p>Many Parties have indicated their willingness to contribute and some are already in the process of making administrative arrangements for providing the funding. For the first months of the year 2012, it has been possible to finance operations from funds remaining from those provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the Transitional Committee (TC) in 2011 and from funds advanced from the GEF Secretariat's administrative budget.</p> <p>An important milestone in operationalizing the GCF is the selection of the host country of the GCF. Six expressions of interest in hosting the GCF have been received. The expressions of interest are from: (i) Germany; (ii) Mexico; (iii) Namibia; (iv) Poland; (v) Republic of Korea; and (vi) Switzerland.</p> <p>Parties nominated, through their regional groups and constituencies, the position of member and alternate member of the GCF</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>Board.</p> <p>After the nomination process was concluded, the first GCF Board meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 25 August 2012. At its first meeting, the GCF Board took a number of decisions that will lay the foundations for the operationalization of the Fund. These include the decision on how to conduct the process to select the host country of the Fund.</p>
<p>Decision 5/CP.17, National adaptation plans (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf)</p> <p>Thirty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 36), Conclusions adopted by the SBI, Agenda item 8: National adaptation plans (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/15.pdf)</p>	
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>22. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, through the Least Developed Countries Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for least developed countries Parties, while maintaining progress for the least developed countries work programme, which includes the national adaptation programmes of action;</p> <p>25. <i>Further invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to submit information to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, through the secretariat, by 13 February 2012, on how they could enable activities undertaken as part of the national adaptation plan process in least developed country Parties, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-sixth session.</p>	<p>The GEF submitted, on February 13, 2012, information on how to enable activities as part of the NAP process in the LDCs for consideration by SBI 36. The submission notes that the GEF and its Agencies have the experience and the operational modalities required to support the NAP process in LDCs through the LDCF.</p> <p>The GEF welcomes further guidance from the COP to clarify whether enabling activities in support of NAPs are to be adopted in the LDC work programme and whether such activities are to be prioritized for financing under the LDCF. Moreover, the GEF notes that additional, designated contributions to the LDCF would be necessary to allow the GEF to support the NAP process in LDCs in addition to NAPA implementation.</p> <p>As a first step, the GEF, in collaboration with its Agencies, the Least Developed Countries</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>The Subsidiary Body for Implementation,</p> <p>131. [...] welcomed the information on activities and support programmes for the NAP process provided by Parties, the GEF, United Nations organizations and other organizations through their submissions.</p> <p>143. [...] reaffirmed the invitation by the COP to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, bilateral and multilateral organizations and other institutions, as appropriate, to provide financial and technical support to developing country Parties to plan, prioritize and implement their national adaptation planning measures, consistent with decision 1/CP.16 and relevant provisions of the Convention.</p>	<p>Expert Group (LEG), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and, once operational, the Adaptation Committee, will launch a support program that corresponds to the foundational elements of the NAP process, defined as “laying the groundwork and addressing gaps” in the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs by LDC Parties, annexed to Decision 5/CP.17. In particular, this program will strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders in LDCs to effectively carry out subsequent stages of the NAP process.</p> <p>The GEF notes the invitation by the COP and the SBI to support the NAP process in developing countries that are not LDCs. As the entity entrusted with the management of the SCCF, the GEF holds a mandate to finance adaptation measures in all developing country parties to the UNFCCC. Through projects and programs financed under the SCCF, the GEF has also gained relevant experience of adaptation planning and implementation in non-LDCs. Yet, additional contributions to the SCCF would be necessary to allow the GEF to support the NAP process in non-LDCs.</p> <p>The GEF stands ready to address further guidance on NAPs by COP 18 in collaboration with its Agencies, LEG, the Adaptation Committee, and the UNFCCC Secretariat.</p>
<p>Decision 9/CP.17, Least Developed Countries Fund: support for the implementation of elements of the least developed countries work programme other than national adaptation programmes of action (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a02.pdf)</p> <p>SBI 36, Conclusions adopted by the SBI, Agenda item 6 (b): Matters relating to finance (b) Other matters (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/15.pdf)</p>	
<p><i>he Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>1. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention entrusted with managing the Least Developed Countries Fund:</p> <p>(a) To continue to provide information to the least developed countries to further clarify project baselines and the application for accessing funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund in order to develop and implement projects under national adaptation programmes</p>	<p>The GEF has continued to reach out to LDC parties with a view to enhancing communications and facilitating access to resources under the LDCF. The GEF Familiarization Seminar, as well as several Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) organized between November 2011 and May 2012, has offered important opportunities for LDC representatives in this regard.</p> <p>In an information document prepared for the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2012, the GEF</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>of action to address the effects of climate change;</p> <p>(b) To support the development of a programmatic approach for the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action by those least developed country Parties that wish to do so;</p> <p>(c) To further explore opportunities to streamline the Least Developed Countries Fund project cycle, particularly during the project preparation stage;</p> <p>(d) To further improve the provision of information to least developed countries on the project development process for projects being considered under the Least Developed Countries Fund;</p> <p>2. <i>Requests</i> the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to provide further specification for each of the elements of the least developed countries work programme other than the national adaptation programmes of action, in consultation with the Global Environment Facility and report to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-sixth session, with a view to informing the Conference of the Parties on guidance to be provided to the Global Environment Facility on support for the implementation of the elements of the least developed countries work programme other than the national adaptation programmes of action;</p>	<p>clarifies the concepts of baseline projects, co-financing and additional cost, as applied in the context of projects and programs financed under the LDCF, as well as adaptation projects financed under the SCCF. The document will be referenced in upcoming ECWs and Familiarization Seminars, as well as in communications with national focal points and GEF Agencies.</p> <p>The GEF has invited LDCs, in collaboration with GEF Agencies, to propose programmatic approaches for NAPA implementation and it will continue to share information about the relevant modalities, processes and procedures. To date, one programmatic approach has been approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council, requesting resources from the LDCF, as well as the SCCF and the GEF Trust Fund; namely, the Sahel and West Africa Program in Support of the Great Green Wall Initiative. The program, implemented by the World Bank, mobilizes \$16 million from the LDCF in support of NAPA implementation activities in Chad, Ethiopia, Mali and Togo.</p>
<p>The Subsidiary Body for Implementation,</p> <p>96. [...] welcomed the report of the twenty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).</p> <p>97. [...] noted that the further specification of the elements of the LDC work programme other than national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) provided in the report could be useful to the implementation of the LDC work programme.</p> <p>98. [...] noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the LEG as well as of bilateral and other agencies to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs. The SBI further noted with appreciation the efforts of the GEF, in parallel to supporting the ongoing implementation of the NAPAs, to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme as mandated by decision 5/CP.14.</p> <p>99. [...] recognized that the LDCF was established to support the LDC work programme, in accordance with</p>	<p>The GEF welcomes the request to further explore opportunities to streamline the LDCF project cycle. The GEF Secretariat is in the process of reviewing the programming principles of the LDCF, with the intention of updating these for the LDCF/SCCF Council in November 2012. The initiative coincides with a broader effort to streamline the project cycle, as well as the processes and procedures for accessing resources under the GEF, which was initiated by decision of the GEF Council in June 2012.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat participated in the 21st LEG meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan in March 2012. The GEF welcomes the report of the meeting and, in particular, the efforts made by LEG to analyze and specify each of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme. Several follow-up actions are being prepared in support of the implementation of these remaining elements, consistent with LEG's review.</p> <p>With respect to "strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 12, and that implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme is to be supported, in parallel to the ongoing implementation of the NAPAs in accordance with decision 5/CP.14.</p> <p>100. [...] recognized that the LDCF plays an important role in supporting the implementation of the LDC work programme, particularly through the implementation of NAPAs.</p> <p>101. [...] noted with appreciation the increased resources provided by Parties to the LDCF and the consequent increase to the LDCF ceiling. However, further support continues to be required to formulate and implement the elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs.</p> <p>102. [...] further encouraged donor countries to continue providing funding for country-driven activities. The SBI invited the GEF to continue raising awareness on the need for adequate and predictable resources under the LDCF to allow the full implementation of the LDC work programme, in particular NAPAs, as mandated by decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 8.</p> <p>103. [...] noted that existing modalities for implementing NAPA priorities are partially addressing the other elements of the LDC work programme, including through, inter alia, capacity-building and coordination at different levels of government and across sectors, as well as communication and outreach programmes, the development and introduction of adaptation technologies and the improved provision of hydrometeorological services.</p> <p>104. [...] encouraged the LDCF to support technology elements of the LDC work programme, as appropriate to the priorities of the LDC Parties, including through the support of NAPAs. The SBI further encouraged the LEG to identify synergies with the future work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p> <p>105. [...] encouraged LDC Parties to consider the options highlighted in the report of the LEG, which identify various ways to further address the other elements of the LDC work programme, in accordance with their specific needs and circumstances. The SBI further encouraged LDC Parties to submit proposals, including from elements of NAPAs, to the LDCF and to relevant bilateral, multilateral and international organizations that address the elements of the LDC work programme that are of highest priority to the LDC Parties.</p>	<p>collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of NAPAs”, as provided in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 14 (c), and specified in the LEG report, the GEF, through the LDCF, has made considerable progress in meeting LDC needs. In June 2012, the GEF approved nine full-sized projects in nine LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa, requesting some \$41 million under the LDCF, aiming to support climate-resilient development and adaptation by strengthening weather and climate monitoring, data collection and early-warning systems. The projects address the countries’ urgent needs pertaining to hydro-meteorological services and early-warning systems, as identified in their NAPAs, while providing essential information and decision-support services to enable sustainable and resilient planning and investment in key sectors of their economies. The nine projects build on and complement previous initiatives financed under the LDCF, as well as those carried out by other multilateral, bilateral, and national institutions. In addition, projects financed under the LDCF continue to include components that contribute towards strengthening the capacity of hydro-meteorological services.</p> <p>The GEF, through the LDCF, continues to support technology transfer through projects and programs for the implementation of NAPAs. The GEF Secretariat estimates that most projects financed under the LDCF contribute towards the transfer of technologies, including the technologies prioritized in the LEG report. With regard to the assessment of technology needs, the GEF, through the LDCF, has supported the preparation of NAPAs in 48 LDCs, thus allowing countries to identify their urgent and immediate adaptation needs, including their needs for the transfer of adaptation technologies. Moreover, during its first two phases, the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Project, financed under the SCCF Program for Technology Transfer (SCCF-B), supports the development of TNAs in 10 LDCs in Africa and Asia. The GEF looks forward to LEG’s assessment of potential synergies between projects and programs financed under the LDCF and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).</p>

COP decision / SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>106. [...] looked forward to the remaining work of the LEG in its 2012–2013 work programme to support the remaining elements of the LDC work programme and invited the GEF, United Nations agencies and other international organizations to make submissions on how they can further support the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme other than NAPAs, for consideration by SBI at its thirty-seventh session with a view to making a recommendation to the COP at its eighteenth session.</p> <p>107. [...] took note of the information submitted by the GEF on the activities relating to decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2(a–d). The SBI also noted that funding continues to be required to implement activities outlined in decision 7/CP.7, including paragraph 2(c) and (d). The SBI further noted that activities outlined in decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2(a) and (b), were selected as the priority areas for the SCCF in accordance with decision 5/CP.9.</p> <p>108. [...] encouraged donor countries to continue providing funding to the SCCF and invited the GEF to raise awareness on the need for adequate and predictable resources under the SCCF for country-driven activities.</p> <p>109. [...] further invited the GEF to report on the issues mentioned in paragraphs 96–108 above to the COP.</p>	<p>On public awareness, capacity building for negotiators, and strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points, the GEF Secretariat welcomes the ideas put forward by LEG. Projects and programs financed under the LDCF systematically contribute towards public awareness and communication on matters pertaining to climate change, in accordance with country priorities. Similarly, LDCF projects have supported the establishment and development of mechanisms to oversee and promote regulatory support for climate change adaptation. A capacity building program in support of these other elements of the LDC work programme, similar to the efforts proposed to launch the NAP process, is under consideration.</p> <p>The GEF welcomes further guidance by COP 18, based on the work carried out by LEG, on the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme.</p> <p>The GEF stands ready to support the organization of the regional training workshops, proposed by LEG in its work program for 2012–2013, in collaboration with other relevant agencies and regional centers, should the UNFCCC Secretariat find that other bilateral and multilateral sources of financing are not available.</p>
<p>Decision 11/CP.17, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a02.pdf)</p>	
<p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p>1. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:</p> <p>(a) To continue to work with its implementing agencies to further simplify its procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet</p>	<p>Para 1(a): The GEF continues to work with its Agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process for countries to access resources to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Convention. For example, the GEF has established expedited procedures for an enabling activity project to meet obligations under the UNFCCC. The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for NCs. All requests to support National Communications (NCs) have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set aside resources outside country allocations to support NCs and BURs.</p>

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<p>the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations and to avoid gaps between the enabling activities of current and subsequent national communications, recognizing that the process of preparation of national communications is a continuous cycle;</p> <p>(b) To continue to enhance the transparency of the project review process throughout the project cycle;</p> <p>(c) To clarify the concept of additional costs as applied to different types of adaptation projects under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund which seek to respond to climate change risks;</p> <p>(d) To continue to provide financial resources to developing countries for strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional systematic observation and monitoring networks under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p> <p>2. <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the context of technology needs assessments, to continue to provide financial support to other non-Annex I Parties as appropriate to conduct or update their technology needs assessments, noting the availability of the updated Handbook for Conducting Technology Needs Assessments for Climate Change;</p> <p>3. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;</p>	<p>The GEF has expanded its options for countries to access resources for NCs.</p> <p>The GEF has also provided detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of NCs by non-Annex I Parties. The GEF report to COP 18 includes information on the status of NCs from non-Annex I Parties, which was compiled by the Implementing Agencies (UNDP and UNEP) as of March 2012. The GEF will submit an addendum to this report, which updates the status, including the approximate date of submission to the COP.</p> <p>Para 1(b): The GEF has continued to enhance the transparency of the project review process throughout the project cycle. For GEF projects and programs, the GEF-5 project cycle paper articulates review criteria.</p> <p>As part of GEF's effort to enhance the transparency of the project review process, the GEF Secretariat has implemented the "One Review Policy," which requires the Secretariat program managers to provide comprehensive and succinct comments when sending a review sheet to the Agencies the first time, and to avoid bringing up new questions subsequently, thus minimizing the need to go back and forth on questions and clarifications between the GEF Secretariat and the Agencies.</p> <p>Para 1(c): In an information document prepared for the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2012, the GEF clarifies the concepts of baseline projects, co-financing and additional cost, as applied in the context of projects and programs financed under the LDCF, as well as adaptation projects financed under the SCCF. The document will be referenced in upcoming ECWs and Familiarization Seminars, as well as in communications with national focal points and GEF Agencies.</p> <p>Para 1(d): The GEF continues to provide support for systematic observation and monitoring networks in the context of projects and programs financed under the LDCF and the SCCF.</p> <p>Para 2: The progress made in supporting TNAs</p>

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	<p>is described in the GEF report to COP 18 with TNA support in the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer. In addition to its global support project for TNAs supported within the Poznan Strategic Program from 2009, the GEF Council approved, in FY 2012, a stand-alone national project including TNA activities titled the “<i>Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change</i>” in India by UNDP. This is an innovative project aimed at realizing in one common framework India’s NC, biennial update report, and technology needs assessment. Furthermore, a project titled “<i>Establish Measurement and Verification System for Energy Efficiency in China</i>” project by the World Bank was endorsed by the GEF CEO during FY 2012, and started implementation. This project includes extensive sectoral TNAs and pilot implementation (and monitoring) of specific activities targeting prioritized climate technologies, particularly in energy efficiency.</p> <p>Para 3: The GEF has included the above information in its report to COP 18.</p>
<p>SBI 36, Conclusions adopted by the SBI, Agenda item 4: National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (d) Provision of financial and technical support (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/15.pdf)</p>	
<p>The Subsidiary Body for Implementation,</p> <p>55. [...] reiterated the request to the GEF made by the COP in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 44, to make available support to non-Annex I Parties preparing their BURs as early as possible in 2012 and on the basis of agreed full-cost funding.</p> <p>56. [...] invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, in accordance with decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1(b), including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds. It also invited the GEF to continue providing information on the approximate date of completion of the draft national communications and an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the national communications, for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-seventh session.</p>	<p>Para 55, 57 and 60: The GEF finances biennial update reports (BURs), through the regular avenue of financing National Communications. The GEF has prepared policy guidelines for the financing of BURs for non-Annex I Parties, which were distributed to all Parties in early 2012. The policy guidelines provides that, for the BURs, non-Annex I Parties can access up to \$352,000 through a GEF Agency or by direct access. If \$352,000 for the BURs is not sufficient for a country, then the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocation can be used.</p> <p>During FY 2012, the GEF Council approved two enabling activity projects that include preparation of BURs. The GEF will submit an addendum to this report, which provides detailed, accurate, timely and complete</p>

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<p>57. [...] also invited the GEF to provide, in its report to the COP at its eighteenth session, detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of request and approval of funding, as well as disbursement of funds.</p> <p>59. [...] encouraged the GEF, in accordance with decision 4/CP.14, to continue to ensure, as a top priority, that sufficient financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.</p> <p>60. [...] recommended that the COP, at its eighteenth session, request the GEF to provide funds for technical support for the preparation of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Programme, recognizing that the costs of such technical support are not deducted from the funds provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs. It invited the GEF to report on this matter in its report to the COP at its nineteenth session.</p>	<p>information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of request and approval of funding, as well as disbursement of funds, as this information becomes available.</p> <p>Para 56 and 59: The GEF continues to work with its Agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process for countries to access resources to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Convention. For example, the GEF has established expedited procedures for an enabling activity project to meet obligations under the UNFCCC. The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for NCs. All requests to support National Communications (NCs) have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set aside resources outside country allocations to support NCs and BURs. The GEF has expanded its options for countries to access resources for NCs.</p> <p>The GEF has also provided detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of NCs by non-Annex I Parties. The GEF report to COP 18 includes information on the status of NCs from non-Annex I Parties, which was compiled by the Implementing Agencies (UNDP and UNEP) as of March 2012. The GEF will submit an addendum to this report, which updates the status, including the approximate date of submission to the COP.</p>
<p>SBI 35, Conclusions adopted by the SBI, Agenda item 11: Development and transfer of technologies (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sbi/eng/17.pdf)</p> <p>SBI 36, Conclusions adopted by the SBI, Agenda item 12: Development and transfer of technologies (c) Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer (available on http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/15.pdf)</p>	
<p>The Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-fifth session,</p> <p>95. [...] noted the report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, including its long-term implementation, as invited by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session.</p> <p>96. [...] acknowledged the support provided by the GEF</p>	<p>The GEF presented its progress in carrying out activities under the Poznan Strategic Program to COP 17. The GEF also presented a summary of the report to the COP at SBI 35 and provided an oral update.</p> <p>The GEF compiled a report on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Program for the period of October 2011 to February 2012 and submitted it to SBI 36. As</p>

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<p>for the implementation of technology transfer pilot projects and for the conduct of technology needs assessments (TNAs) [and] the progress made in implementing the long-term programme on technology transfer. Furthermore, it urged the GEF and Parties to expedite the process for the early implementation of projects submitted before 30 September 2009.</p> <p>97. [...] encouraged Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention to develop and submit project proposals, particularly for technologies for adaptation.</p> <p>98. [...] welcomed the results of the TNAs that are being prepared under the Poznan strategic programme in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [and] noted information provided orally by the Climate Technology Initiative's Private Financing Advisory Network on its collaboration with UNEP to assess any projects identified under the TNAs to determine their suitability for private-sector investment in order to accelerate implementation.</p> <p>99. [...] invited the GEF to support the operationalization and activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network without prejudging any selection of the host.</p>	<p>requested, the GEF also provided an oral update to Parties during SBI 36.</p> <p>Detailed elaboration on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Program and its long-term elements is included in the GEF report to COP 18 as well as further information on the implementation of projects of the Poznan Strategic Program.</p> <p>The GEF has been facilitating technology transfer for adaptation through multi-trust fund projects combining GEF Trust Fund and SCCF resources. The GEF has been consistently increasing its support to technology transfer for adaptation as illustrated in the GEF report to COP 18.</p>
<p>The Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-sixth session,</p> <p>195. [...] noted the report by the GEF on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, as invited by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session.</p> <p>196. [...] noted the support provided by the GEF for the implementation of technology transfer pilot projects under the Poznan strategic programme and the views expressed by Parties on the need to balance support for mitigation and adaptation projects. The SBI invited the GEF to enhance the balance between adaptation and mitigation projects in the long-term implementation of the Poznan strategic programme, including by enhancing its outreach and awareness-raising efforts on funding opportunities for projects related to technologies for adaptation. The SBI recalled its conclusion at its thirty-fifth session encouraging non-Annex I Parties to submit project proposals, particularly for technologies for adaptation, to the GEF in line with the elements of the long-term programme described in document FCCC/SBI/2011/14, annex, paragraphs 46 and 47.</p> <p>197. [...] invited the GEF and its implementing agencies</p>	<p>In order to raise awareness about its support for technology transfer including the Poznan Strategic Program and its long-term elements, the GEF presented its technology transfer efforts, including its funding opportunities for adaptation projects, at a variety of meetings including the following: (i) COP 17 side event (December 2011); (ii) the GEF Familiarization Seminar (January 2012); (iii) GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops. Many of these meetings included the UNFCCC national focal points as participants. The GEF also submitted updates on the CTCN-related efforts to the GEF Council in March and May 2012. Furthermore, the GEF website has been updated regularly with information on the Poznan Strategic Program and its long-term elements.</p> <p>The GEF continues to support technology transfer activities, in line with the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, and the operationalization and activities of the future CTCN, in response to COP decision 2/CP.17, with the means at its disposal for that purpose and in line with GEF procedures.</p>

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<p>to expedite the process for the implementation and completion of the remaining technology transfer pilot projects submitted in 2009 for support under the Poznan strategic programme.</p> <p>198. [...] acknowledged the support provided by the GEF to assist 36 non-Annex I Parties in conducting their technology needs assessments (TNAs). The SBI recalled decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 2, which invited the GEF, in the context of TNAs, to continue to provide financial support to other non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate, to conduct or update their TNAs.</p> <p>199. [...] recalled the conclusion at its thirty-fourth session inviting the GEF to provide reports on the progress made in carrying out its activities under the Poznan strategic programme, including its long-term implementation, for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fifth and subsequent sessions. The SBI invited the GEF in its future progress reports to further elaborate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The activities undertaken by the GEF to enhance its outreach and awareness-raising efforts on funding opportunities for projects related to technologies for adaptation, in order to address the need for balanced support for projects related to technologies for adaptation; (b) Experiences gained and lessons learned, including success stories and challenges faced in carrying out the activities under the Poznan strategic programme; (c) Progress made by its implementing agencies in the delivery of technology transfer under the Poznan strategic programme; (d) The efforts carried out to support, pursuant to decision 2/CP.17, the operationalization and activities of the CTCN. <p>200. [...] stressed the need for the further implementation of the element of the Poznan strategic programme included in document FCCC/SBI/2012/9, paragraph 23(a), to be aligned with, and to enable, the operationalization and activities of the CTC and its Network, taking into account paragraphs 185 and 187 above, and decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 140.</p>	