



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.55/11

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Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 14

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.55/11, *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). The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD meetings and events; on ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on steps taken to implement the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for 2018 to 2022; on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC meetings and events; and on ratification, and progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in the first global Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Forum and collaboration of the GEF Secretariat with the UNCCD on the implementation and support of the LDN concept.
- (d) Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol: Updates on ratifications, accessions, national reporting and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol.
- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on signatures, ratifications and on related meetings and events for the Minamata Convention.
- (f) International Waters: A report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in various meetings relating to the International Waters focal area, including the World Water Week, the World Water Forum, the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention (MOP-8) and the Our Oceans Conference.
- (g) Activities to facilitate synergies in implementing MEAs towards sustainable development along with a summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: The Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Green Climate Fund.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The report also provides an update on the engagement of the Convention secretariats in the GEF-7 replenishment process, and information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The document covers the period of May to October 2018.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

2. During the reporting period, the GEF took part in CBD Subsidiary Body meetings and undertook various activities in preparation for the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to CBD, to take place in November 2018. The GEF attended the 22nd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) from July 2-7, 2018. SBSTTA reviewed several emerging technical and thematic issues related to the implementation of the CBD and the Aichi targets.

3. The GEF participated in the Second Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) from July 9-13, 2018 and presented the draft COP report to the SBI. The report responded to the invitation by the COP to the GEF to provide a preliminary draft of its official report to the COP with a focus on the response of the GEF to previous guidance from the COP (decision XII/30, para. 8 (e)).

4. The GEF report to COP 14 was submitted to the CBD Secretariat on August 14, 2018.¹ The report provides information on the activities of the GEF in the biodiversity focal area, other CBD-relevant GEF focal areas, along with Integrated Approach Pilots and Sustainable Forest Management investments that generate global biodiversity benefits, covering the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. In addition, since the report comes at the end of the GEF-6 phase, programming information for the GEF-6 period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 is also included. The report provides a full response of the GEF to previous guidance from the COP (decision XII/30, para. 8 (e)) and a synopsis of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. The GEF

¹ GEF, 2018, [*Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.*](#)

responses to COP 13 decisions and guidance are also presented in Table 1 of Annex I to this document.

Ratifications and Accessions

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

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

7. The total number of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession have increased to 109, since the last Council meeting, for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, including new ratifications from Afghanistan, Palau, Austria, and Central African Republic, which became effective. Four further ratifications have been deposited by Tuvalu, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Serbia, and they will become Parties in the coming months. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya Protocol may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>.

8. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety added the Republic of Moldova to its membership of 42 Parties. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) also deposited its instrument of ratification and will become Party on January 8, 2019. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=3>.

National Reporting

9. The number of fifth national reports received by the Convention Secretariat remains at 191. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

10. The CBD Executive Secretary attended the 54th GEF Council and sixth GEF Assembly in June 2018. The Executive Secretary addressed the GEF Council during the session on the relations with Conventions and spoke at the Assembly plenary. The Executive Secretary also participated in a number of GEF Assembly Roundtables and discussions.

11. The GEF biodiversity team visited the CBD Secretariat on September 12, 2018 to present an overview of GEF-7, including the biodiversity strategy and new programming strategies such as the Impact Programs, operational policies, among others. In addition, GEF Secretariat and CBD Secretariat used the occasion to identify opportunities for collaboration and participation of GEF staff at key events during COP 14. Finally, CBD reviewed the process that will lead to the

Post-2020 CBD strategy framework after COP 14, and the two Secretariats jointly identified opportunities for collaboration and participation of the GEF in this process.

12. The GEF participated in the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, jointly organized by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the CBD on May 29-31, 2018. GEF Secretariat presented GEF's experiences in biodiversity mainstreaming and findings from both STAP and GEF Secretariat reviews of GEF's mainstreaming experiences focusing on key elements of successful biodiversity mainstreaming.

13. The GEF participated in the biodiversity mainstreaming meeting, "The Path We Face: Biodiversity Mainstreaming Workshop", jointly hosted by the CBD and the Government of Mexico from June 4-7, 2018, and provided insights and lessons learned based on GEF's support to biodiversity mainstreaming in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism sectors, drawing on an analysis of GEF experiences.²

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

14. During the reporting period, the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations were concluded, with the approval of the new Programming Directions including the climate mitigation focal area at the 54th GEF Council meeting. For climate adaptation, the new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF and Operational Improvements (July 2018 to June 2022)³ was endorsed by the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2018. The UNFCCC Secretariat personnel was engaged in the replenishment and consultation process.

15. The GEF Secretariat took part in the UNFCCC negotiation process and preparation for the upcoming Conference of the Parties. The GEF report to the Twenty-Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP 24), approved by the GEF Council through decision by mail, was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on August 31, 2018.⁴ The report summarizes support provided to countries through the GEF Trust Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), as well as the Trust Fund for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The report contains the guidance to the GEF received from the COP and the GEF responses, also summarized in Table 2 of the annex to this document. An outcome of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations and a summary of GEF-6 programming were also presented in the COP report.

² GEF, 2016, [Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Practice: A Review of GEF Experience](#).

³ GEF, 2018, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements](#). GEF Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.24/03.

⁴ GEF, 2018, [Report of the GEF to the 24th Session of the COP to the UNFCCC](#).

16. The GEF submitted to the UNFCCC an addendum to the COP report on the status of resources approved by the GEF Secretariat for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on October 12, 2018.

17. The GEF also provided input on work of relevance for the stocktake on pre-2020 ambition and implementation for consideration by COP 24.⁵

18. The GEF Secretariat personnel participated in the Bangkok Climate Change Conference that took place September 4 to 9, 2018. In addition, the GEF participated in the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance held from September 10 to 12, 2018 and October 29 to 31, 2018, providing inputs to discussions on draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.

19. The CBIT Trust Fund received final voluntary contributions in October 2018, and programming approvals were made by 31 October 2018 in line with Council decision taken at the 54th GEF Council in June 2018. The GEF Council has prepared a progress report on the CBIT as information document for the 55th GEF Council.

20. In order to implement the new adaptation strategy, the GEF Secretariat reinforced its communication with the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) in LDCs and with GEF Agencies, through various outreach channels and consultations, as follows:

- (a) A letter was sent on July 27, 2018 to all GEF OFPs in countries that had projects in the technically cleared pipeline in GEF-6 under the LDCF, to inform them of the new Programming Strategy and the associated operational improvements;
- (b) An Adaptation Task Force meeting was held on August 7, 2018 to inform GEF Agencies of the key policy improvements and provide them with an update on the new Programming Strategy;
- (c) GEF Secretariat staff has carried out consultations with countries that had projects in the LDCF pipeline in GEF-6 at the onset of the GEF-7 period. The consultations offer opportunities to: (i) seek more synergistic and harmonized programming with the GEF Trust Fund or other sources; and (ii) re-evaluate whether and how their existing pipeline proposal(s) remain viable in terms of alignment with the national plan for GEF-7. One-on-one consultations with several LDCs with GEF-6 pipelined projects were held with between August and October 2018.⁶ Additional consultations with countries are expected to continue over the coming months;

⁵ This submission is available at: <https://unfccc.int/topics/pre-2020>

⁶ Consultations were carried out with Burundi, Chad, Guinea Bissau, Lao PDR, Mauritania, South Sudan, Sudan, and Timor Leste.

- (d) The first LDCF Work Program will be presented to the December 2018 LDCF/SCCF Council meeting, providing an opportunity to support projects based on strategic prioritization as agreed in the new Programming Strategy, and further harmonizing the work of the LDCF with the main GEF Trust Fund.

Ratifications and Accessions

21. As of May 9, 2018, there are 197 Parties to the Convention. On November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement entered into force. By November 15, 2018, 195 Parties have signed, and 184 Parties ratified the agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

National Reporting and Contributions

22. The following is the total number of national communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of October 31, 2018:

- (a) Initial national communications: **151**
- (b) Second national communications: **135**
- (c) Third national communications: **60**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **4**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

23. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website at: <https://unfccc.int/node/17005/>.

24. A total of 44 first Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and 19 second BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of October 26, 2018. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/national-communications-and-biennial-update-reports-non-annex-i-parties/biennial-update-report-submissions-from-non-annex-i-parties>.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

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

- (a) Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on August 21-24, 2018;
- (b) Eighteenth UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance on September 10-12, 2018;

- (c) Twelfth Advisory Board Meeting of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) on October 2-8, 2018;
- (d) Nineteenth UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance on October 29-31, 2018.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

26. The first Global Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Forum was held on July 4-5, 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, bringing together 60 international and Korean experts to discuss ways on how the LDN concept can be used for peace building, post-conflict recovery, and enhancing international cooperation. As a concrete example, cooperation between South and North Korea using forest landscape restoration as a major area for inter-Korean cooperation and peace building was highlighted. Ban Ki Moon, former UN Secretary General and UNCCD Executive Secretary delivered key notes. The GEF Secretariat's representative delivered a presentation of the GEF's work in support of implementing LDN on the ground, which is also summarized in a GEF publication.⁷

27. In parallel to the Global LDN Forum, a high-level meeting between the South and North Korean Forestry Departments took place. Agreement was reached on using the LDN concept of the UNCCD for the purpose to restore forests in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) as a first step and in the entire Korean Peninsula in the future.

28. GEF Secretariat staff collaborated in the development of a Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes.⁸ The checklist has been developed by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat and in consultation with the GEF. Experts serving on the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the UNCCD have conducted its scientific review. It is a tool prepared to help country-level project developers and their technical and financial partners to design effective LDN transformative projects and programmes. While the application of the checklist is optional, not prescriptive, it provides useful guidance for LDN projects development in GEF-7.

Ratifications and Accessions

29. As of October 31, 2018, the UNCCD was ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union.

⁷ GEF, 2018, [Land Degradation Neutrality at the GEF](#).

⁸ <https://www.thegef.org/documents/checklist-land-degradation-neutrality-transformative-projects-and-programmes-draft>

Additional Meetings and Consultations

30. The GEF Secretariat representative had informal meetings with representatives of the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism during the reporting period to discuss the roll-out of the GEF-7 programming.
31. GEF Secretariat staff participated in a two-day workshop organized by the SPI of the UNCCD on July 2-3, 2018 at the margins of the LDN Forum in Seoul, Republic of Korea. During the workshop, the Checklist for LDN Project and Program Design and Implementation intensively discussed in the context of operationalizing the LDN concept in GEF-7 LD focused projects and programs.
32. The UNCCD Secretariat and GEF Secretariat staff have started to discuss the use of Enabling Activity funding made available for GEF-7 with a view to respond to UNCCD COP decisions and anticipated requests by parties during the GEF-7 replenishment period.
33. The GEF Secretariat participated in the second Sahel Regional Forum for the “African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa (AI-CD)” organized in Dakar, Senegal, on August 28-30, 2018. The Government of Kenya, the Government of Senegal, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and UNCCD jointly launched the AI-CD Initiative in August 2016 to promote UNCCD implementation in this region. The main objectives of the forum were to share the progress of the AI-CD Initiative and to strengthen the networks of information sharing on best practices to fight desertification in the member countries. Around 80 persons from seven countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) including UNCCD focal points, as well as regional and international partners participated.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

34. The GEF Secretariat and the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Convention Secretariat were engaged in various consultations for the conclusion of the GEF-6 programming, and roll-out of the GEF-7 programming.
35. The GEF Secretariat submitted the Executive Summary of its report to the Conference of the Parties to the Conference of the Parties to Stockholm Convention on 23 October 2018.

Ratifications and Accessions

36. During the reporting period, one additional country has ratified the Stockholm Convention, bringing the number of Parties to 182. Thirty-one new national reports were submitted by Parties to the Convention. The GEF responses to COP 8 decisions are also presented in Table 4 of Annex I to this document. The status of ratifications is available at: <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National Reporting

37. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavor to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of November 2018, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and the NIP Updates are as follows:

| <i>NIP Phase</i> | <i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i> | <i>Change since last report</i> |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Initial NIP | 168 | 0 |
| NIP Update for COP4 amendments | 73 | 10 |
| NIP Update for COP5 amendments | 66 | 12 |
| NIP Update for COP6 amendments | 30 | 5 |
| NIP Update for COP7 amendments | 13 | 2 |

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

Additional Meetings and Consultations

39. The Executive Secretary of the BRS Secretariat attended and participated in the 54th GEF Council and the Sixth GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Viet Nam in June 2018.

40. The GEF Secretariat and the BRS Secretariat had a mini-retreat on October 12, 2018 to discuss ongoing collaboration between the two Secretariats, recap the GEF-6 programming results and a discussion on GEF-7 and the upcoming BRS COPs in 2019. The following topics were discussed:

- Fifth Review of the Financial Mechanism
- Needs Assessment
- Global Monitoring Plan
- Plastics
- Secretariats Retreat

41. On the Fifth Review of the Financial Mechanism, the BRS Secretariat informed that the terms of reference will be discussed and agreed at the 2019 COPs with the assessment being completed at the 2021 COPs for GEF-8 inputs. On the needs assessment, the Secretariat requested access to the monitoring and evaluation documents from GEF projects to facilitate the work. On the Global Monitoring Plan, the BRS Secretariat indicated that the review shows that these projects are extremely useful in the effectiveness evaluation of the convention and that it is useful for participating countries particularly in building their capacity to monitor POPs.

42. The BRS Secretariat provided information on the preparations of the 2019 COPs. The Secretariat requested to continue collaboration with the GEF communications team on COP outreach. The BRS Secretariat further informed that there are currently no plans for a high-level segment at the BRS COPs in 2019. The BRS Secretariat also provided an update on the Basel Convention Open Ended Working Group, which met in September 2018 and considered a draft decision to amend the Basel Convention to list marine litter.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

43. The GEF report to the Second Conference of the Parties (COP 2) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, approved by the GEF Council through decision by mail, was submitted on November 2, 2018.⁹ The report summarizes support provided to countries in response to COP 1 guidance, as well as outcomes of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.

44. During the reporting period, ten additional countries ratified the Minamata Convention.

Signatures and Ratifications

45. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was opened for signature and ratification in October 2013. As of May 1, 2018, the Convention has 128 signatures, and 101 countries have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

46. The Executive Secretary ad interim of the Minamata Convention attended the 54th GEF Council and sixth GEF Assembly in June 2018. The Executive Secretary addressed the GEF Council during the session on the relations with Conventions and addressed the Assembly at

⁹ GEF, 2018, [Report of the GEF to the Second Meeting of the COP to the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#).

plenary. The Executive Secretary also participated in the chemicals and waste round table during the sixth GEF Assembly and in several GEF constituency meetings.

47. The GEF organizes chemicals and wastes task force meetings on a regular basis regarding the chemicals and wastes workstream. The participants include representatives from the GEF implementing and project agencies, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF, and the BRS Secretariat, and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention. During the reporting period, a meeting was held in June 2018 to discuss the outcomes of GEF-6, the chemicals and wastes GEF-7 strategy, and information on project ideas and their statuses. Representatives of the Minamata Secretariat, including new Executive Secretary, participated.

48. The Secretariats of the Minamata Convention and the GEF had a mini-retreat on October 12, 2018 to discuss ongoing collaboration between the Secretariats, GEF-6 results, GEF-7 programming and preparations for COP 2 of the Minamata Convention. The issue of the outstanding Memorandum of Understanding between the GEF Council and the COP was also discussed.¹⁰

SPECIAL PROGRAM

49. The Special Program for the implementation of the Chemicals and Waste Cluster provides complementary resources to the GEF to fund institutional strengthening and capacity building at the national level for the implementation of the Conventions and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The Special Program, which was established by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), is in its third round of applications. As part of the terms of references for the Special Program board, the GEF is invited as an expert observer to specifically advise the board on complementarity with the GEF funding and to prevent duplication of GEF resources and projects.

50. The established review process requires an internal task team comprising the Convention Secretariats, being the SAICM Secretariat, the Special Program Secretariat, and the GEF Secretariat to review the entire cohort of completed projects. The GEF Secretariat does an initial screening to identify projects that fall within the mandate of the GEF, and then the task team reviews the remaining projects.

51. The GEF Secretariat participated in the internal task team review of the third round of applications during October 10-11, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. In this round, 39 proposals were submitted, 14 of which were within the mandate of the GEF resulting in the task team reviewing 25 projects. The review resulted in recommending 11 proposals technically and financially sound to the board for its consideration and six proposals with minor issues.

¹⁰ The matters related to the GEF are contained in: UNEP, 2018, [Update on matters related to the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund](#), UNEP/MC/COP.2/COP.2/8

SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

52. The Specific International Program (SiP) forms the other part of the Financial Mechanism of the Minamata Convention. The SiP was formally established at COP 1 in September 2017 and is now fully operational. The Governing Board launched the first round of applications in June 2018 and met on October 2-3, 2018 in Oslo, Norway to consider the applications for funding.

53. The GEF Secretariat and Secretariat of the Special Program were invited to review the projects by the Board as an input into the review process. The two secretariats were also invited to attend the board meeting to provide inputs into the review process by the Board. The GEF Secretariat participated and contributed to the discussion on the projects before the board for consideration. Projects from five countries, namely Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Iran and Lesotho, were approved for funding.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

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

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Update on multi-state cooperation frameworks

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

56. On the marine side, the GEF is supporting activities in 24 of the world's 66 Large Marine Ecosystems, while continuing to play a key role across a number of projects across Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

57. On the surface water resources side, only approximately 40 percent of the 276 transboundary rivers and lake basins across the world are governed by agreements, with most existing agreements often not involving all the states that form part of the watercourse in question.

58. Within this context, the GEF continues to advance the sound management of this shared resource and to date has financed work in 37 transboundary river basins. Similarly, within the context of sustainable use of aquifers and lakes, the GEF and its partners continue to call for countries to step-up action on improved governance and sustainable management. To date, the GEF has financed work in 15 transboundary lakes and more than ten transboundary aquifers, thereby advancing the sound understanding and management of these important resources.

Meetings and Consultations

59. The GEF has participated in the five Our Oceans Conferences held to date, including most recently in Bali, Indonesia, held October 29-30, 2018. The conferences bring together political, business, financial and civil society leaders from around the world to commit to addressing the challenges facing oceans with emphasis on marine protected areas, climate, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, security and blue economy. Participants have included former President of the United States, US Secretary of State, heads of states, as well as numerous ministers and CEOs. Combined, the conferences have resulted in commitments of over 18 billion dollars and 12.4 million square kilometers of marine protected areas among many other major announcements. In the Bali meeting, the GEF CEO participated in a panel on Tackling Marine Plastic Pollution and announced in plenary tangible deliveries through the GEF-7 framework. The conference offered opportunities for high level bilateral consultations.

60. The GEF participated in the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, that took place in Bali, back to back with the fifth Our Oceans meeting. The mode of engagement was primarily bilaterals as well as attending plenary sessions to better understand what implementation model the GPA is seeking for the coming years.

61. The eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (MOP-8) serviced by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) took place on October 10-12, 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The GEF took part in the MOP-8, along with more than 600 participants from 88 countries. The MOP-8, which was co-organized by UNECE and the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, was the first MOP to take place in Asia. The GEF participated in the high-level workshop titled Financing Transboundary Basin Development organized under the leadership of Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Switzerland; in cooperation with the UNECE – Secretariat of the Water Convention, GEF IW:LEARN, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and European Investment Bank. In addition, GEF participated in side events and reported to plenary on GEF investments, that has been funded since the last MOP in 2015, in assisting countries to improve transboundary freshwater management.

62. The GEF Secretariat participated in the World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, on August 26-31, 2018. This year's theme of water, ecosystems and human development was particularly relevant for GEF-7 recognizing that the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is based on the integrity on the resilience and stable conditions of the planets water, oceans, biodiversity, climate and land. World Water Week this year attracted more than 3,600 participants from some 135 countries, representing over 1,000 organizations. The GEF presented at sessions across themes of source-to-sea linkages; water peace and security, understanding nexus dimensions across water, food, and energy and forests, and linking water, biodiversity and the achievement of SDGs.

63. The GEF participated in the 8th World Water Forum, hosted in Brasilia, Brazil from March 8-23, 2018, under the overarching theme of Sharing Water. The World Water Forum is the world's largest water-related event and is co-organized every three years by the World Water Council in close collaboration with the host city and country. The Forum brings together the international community with the aim to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels. The Forum had over 10,000 delegates from 172 countries, to stimulate solutions to the world's most pressing water challenges and map out the future of water security. The GEF participated in technical sessions on basin/cities interactions, Latin American Water Funds, Pantanal and the strength of the Transboundary Diagnostics Analysis and their implementation through endorsed Strategic Action Programs. Moreover, the GEF participated in high level panels on Integrated Water Resource Management as well as one on Source to Sea interactions.

64. The GEF participated in the 9th GEF IW:LEARN Waters Conference (IWC 9) hosted in Morocco in Marrakech. The IWC 9 was organized under the theme Sustaining International Waters Cooperation, with discussion tracks devoted to building traction of the GEF's foundational methodology and its core mandate of facilitating and supporting improved transboundary water management. The meeting was focused on interactive training and experience-sharing, not only summing up the progress achieved, but also looking into the future of programming within and beyond the International Waters Focal Area. The GEF was engaged throughout the conference in numerous sessions, ranging from the official opening over technical pillar coordination to specific technical sessions.

ADAPTATION FUND

65. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. In November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco, the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12) decided to renew the interim institutional arrangement for an additional three years, from May 30, 2017, to May 30, 2020.

66. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for an intersessional review cycle and for the thirty-second meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board during the reporting period. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of October 12, 2018, the Adaptation Fund Board has approved 80 concrete projects amounting to \$532 million in total. As of October 12, 2018, funds available to support funding decisions were \$173.2 million.

67. The GEF Secretariat and Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. In addition, both secretariats have exchanged ideas on opportunities of gender-related collaboration such as holding joint gender trainings and jointly participating in a gender-related events.

68. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund Board 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.

69. The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat was among the partners involved in the preparations of the sixth GEF Assembly. The GEF Secretariat and Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat organized, jointly with UNDP Small Grants Programme, a side event "Scaling-up GEF's Small Grants Programme: Experience for the Adaptation Fund Portfolio" on June 24, 2018. The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat also attended the GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council as an observer, and also attended the Knowledge Management Advisory Group session and shared experiences on the use of Communities of Practice.

70. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) also supported the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat in disseminating the terms of reference for the recruitment of the Chair of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Fund, through its network of professionals.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Green Climate Fund

71. The GEF and the GCF Secretariats continued to engage in efforts to enhance collaboration during the reporting period, following up on steps as agreed during the GCF-GEF Technical Workshop held on February 7, 2018, summarized in the last report to Council.

72. The two Secretariats exchanged information on proposals submitted for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) preparations and implementation, to minimize overlapping support and to enhance coordination. Projects presented for the December 2018 LDCF work program consideration reflect outcomes of such consultations.

73. The GCF and GEF Secretariats co-organized a Ministerial Dialogue on Coordinated Engagement on 26 June 26, 2018 at the margins of the sixth GEF Assembly.^{11, 12} The event was held to seek views from countries and exchange ideas on the proposed coordinated engagement pilot at the country level, where interested countries would seek to explore planning and programming of GEF and GCF resources to enhance synergies and maximize the

¹¹ <https://assembly.thegef.org/events/gcf-gef-informal-ministerial-dialogue-coordinated-engagement>

¹² <https://www.greenclimate.fund/-/gcf-and-gef-harmonise-steps-to-follow-developing-country-lead-in-climate-finance>

benefit and impacts. The meeting was attended by a large number of Ministers and high-level representatives interested in the pilot.

74. The two Secretariats have had bilateral follow-up discussions with countries interested in participating in the coordinated engagement pilot at the occasions of national meetings and dialogues, as described below. Additional joint GCF and GEF country dialogues are being organized, upon request from interested countries, to seek opportunities for coordinated planning and programming. The GEF and GCF Secretariats also planned to hold follow-up discussions on the pilot at the UNFCCC COP 24.

75. The GCF Executive Director participated in high level GEF Assembly Roundtable discussions. The GCF Secretariat personnel also observed the 54th GEF Council and 24th LDCF/SCCF Council meetings.

76. The GCF Secretariat personnel were invited to take part in the GEF regional and national consultations. The GEF Secretariat personnel also continued to take part in GCF consultations with countries, including the following:

- (a) GCF Structured Dialogue for the Pacific Region on July 30 to August 2, 2018. Opportunities for coordinated engagement on both climate change adaptation and mitigation were shared with Pacific small island developing States (SIDS) by the GEF and the GCF, including the chance to align the timing of GCF programming exercises with several national dialogues and extended constituency workshops that would be scheduled over 2018-2019 to discuss GEF-7 programming priorities. Several Pacific SIDS expressed indicative interest in this approach of aligning climate change programming, including Micronesia, Tonga and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- (b) GCF Structured Dialogue for the Eastern and Central Asia Region on September 10-12, 2018. Potential collaboration in programming of resources in the field of climate change mitigation was discussed, and opportunities were explored for concrete examples of complementarity with the GEF. Bilateral meetings were held in this regard with delegations from Kazakhstan and Albania to discuss such opportunities in the field of sustainable forest management and restoration, land degradation, and in the water sector and waste management.

77. The two Secretariats continued to hold regular dialogue to exchange information, and to update each other on programming and policy developments. The two Secretariats plan to collaborate on a number of events at the UNFCCC COP 24 in December 2018, including follow-up consultations with interested countries on the coordinated engagement pilot.

UN Forum on Forests

78. The GEF continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in the reporting period, participating in two CPF meetings on May 6, 2018 in New York,

USA and on July 18, 2018 in Rome, Italy and contributing to the implementation of its tasks such as the CPF Workplan.

79. During the reporting period, the GEF proposed a new CPF Joint Initiative on green finance: “Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes”, aiming at scaling up finance and leverage additional donor funding and private investment for sustainable forest management and deforestation-free agriculture.

80. The GEF actively participated in the 13th session of the UN Forum on Forests on May 7-11, 2018. In particular, the GEF CEO provided a keynote speech at the ministerial roundtable on May 7, 2018 highlighting the new forest-related GEF-7 strategy. At the margins of the Forum, the GEF also attended a CPF donor meeting on May 8, 2018 and a side-event on “Implementing the CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration in Support of the Global Forest Goals and the UNSPF”, on May 10, 2018.

81. In October 2018, the GEF contributed to the CPF survey on “Enhancing global forest policy coherence and a common understanding of Sustainable forest management”, intended to generate preliminary information for the 14th session of the UN Forum on Forests.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

82. There were no meetings since the last reporting period.

SAMOA Pathway

83. The GEF participated in the Inter-Regional Partnership Dialogue and Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, an international framework developed as an outcome of the Third International SIDS Conference in 2014. The SAMOA Pathway articulates sustainable development pathways for SIDS and also attempts to take stock of the many partnerships that exist for support to SIDS, with a view to promoting more coordinated and effective support.

84. The meetings were held from October 29 to November 1, 2018 in Apia, Samoa. The GEF organized a side event at the meetings and participated in a plenary panel discussion. The Inter-Regional Meeting was preceded by three regional dialogues for the three SIDS groupings. GEF participated in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) SIDS regional meeting on May 23-25, 2018, in Mauritius.

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

In Decision XIII/21, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD provided guidance to the GEF on a variety of topics, including programme priorities for the GEF-7 period. GEF has fully incorporated the guidance provided in the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) in its GEF-7 biodiversity strategy and through three Impact Programs that seek to deliver impact at scale by addressing key underlying drivers of biodiversity loss as well as direct drivers/pressures. Specific guidance on GEF operations and on specific biodiversity thematic topics have been duly addressed and a progress report on GEF’s response, as presented in its report to CBD COP 14, is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Decision Adopted by CBD COP 13 (Decision XIII/21) and GEF Responses

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF’s Response |
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| <p>A. Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities (2018-2022)</p> | |
| <p><i>Adopts</i> the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism, including the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as contained in annexes I and II to the present decision, and <i>decides</i> to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, the recipient and non-recipient Global Environment Facility participants, relevant global and regional partner organizations, and the Executive Secretary to promote a successful implementation of the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> | <p>The GEF-7 Programming Directions and Policy Agenda document agreed during the replenishment has emphasized integrated programming to achieve synergies across the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The agreed document can be found in Annex A of the Summary of Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund: http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.19.Rev_.03_Replenishment.pdf</p> <p>Specifically, the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy fully embodies an integrated approach to biodiversity management that comprehensively addresses the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, as contained in annexes I and II to CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/21. As presented in the GEF-7 Programming Document, implementation of the GEF-7 Framework of Program Priorities from CBD COP 13 is supported through the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy along with three Impact Programs that seek to deliver impact at scale by addressing key underlying drivers of biodiversity</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p>and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;</p> | <p>loss as well as direct drivers/pressures. Together, they provide a comprehensive strategic response to the most prominent direct drivers/pressures of biodiversity loss.</p> |
| <p><i>Notes</i> the initial assessment of the accreditation pilot, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities.</p> | <p>Participants to the GEF-7 replenishment agreed that “the current network of 18 Agencies has enabled an effective delivery of GEF support across all regions and focal areas [and] requested that the Secretariat continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement of the GEF Partnership, and report to the Council on its findings”. (See Annex B of document GEF/C.54/19/Rev.02, <i>Summary of the Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund</i>: http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.19.Rev_02_Replenishment.pdf)</p> <p>The Participants’ policy recommendations draw on previous Council discussions, the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6), as well as the Secretariat’s analysis.</p> <p>OPS6 finds that the expansion of the GEF Partnership – initially from three to ten Agencies in 1999–2006, and then from ten to 18 Agencies in 2013–15 – has resulted in greater choice for countries, and improved access to diverse capabilities. At the same time, OPS6 finds that increased competition among a larger number of Agencies, coupled with the introduction of country allocations, has at times been counterproductive. Moreover, OPS6 suggests that the expansion of the Partnership has resulted in some cost increases, such as the cost for countries and the Secretariat to manage relations across a larger number of Agencies. (Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office [GEF IEO], <i>OPS6 Report: The GEF in the Changing Environmental Finance</i>)</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| | <p><i>Landscape</i>, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2017: http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/ops6-report-eng_1.pdf</p> <p>A complete analysis of the coverage, efficiency, effectiveness and engagement of the GEF Partnership was presented for Council information in Annex I of document GEF/C.54/08, <i>Strengthening the GEF Partnership</i>: http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.08_Strengthening the GEF Partnership_1_0.pdf</p> <p>As requested by the Participants to the replenishment, the Secretariat will continue to monitor these dimensions of the Partnership and report to the Council on its findings at the 57th Council meeting in the Fall of 2019.</p> |
| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.</p> | <p>The GEF will include this information in future reports to the COP once GEF-7 is under implementation.</p> |
| <p>D. Second determination of funding requirement</p> | |
| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to take the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the expert team's needs assessment report into consideration in the process of the seventh period of replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund but also noting the limitations identified by the expert team.</p> | <p>During the GEF-7 replenishment process, this has been taken into consideration by the replenishment participants. GEF-7 biodiversity strategy and the aforementioned Impact Programs all map their objectives and outcomes to their contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p> |
| <p>E. Further guidance</p> | |
| <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention;</p> | <p>GEF continues to act on opportunities for joint financing to achieve global environmental benefits and achieve the objectives of multiple Rio conventions.</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| | <p>For example, the WB/GEF project, "Sustainable Low Carbon Development in Colombia's Orinoquia Region", (GEF biodiversity grant: \$5.9 million, cofinance: \$70.1 million), includes a \$20 million grant from the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes and will help achieve GEF strategy objectives of relevance to the CBD and the UNFCCC. The project will address current and projected direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss and Agriculture, Forestry and other Land-use (AFOLU) emissions in Orinoquia. The project aims to: a) strengthen territorial planning instruments with sustainable (biodiversity and low-carbon landscape management) criteria including land-use planning, land tenure, and deforestation control measures; b) improve biodiversity protection in 494,901 hectares of protected areas; c) integrate biodiversity and ecosystem service values into land use planning that will cover an area of 4.6 million hectares; and d) design a large-scale Emission Reduction Program for the Orinoquia region including the establishment of a Monitoring and Verification System for Emission Reduction and the design of the future Results Based Payment program.</p> <p>Another example is the WB/GEF project, "Mai-Ndombe REDD+ Integrated Project" (GEF biodiversity and climate change mitigation grant: \$6.2 million, cofinance: \$32.4 million), in Congo DR which aims to improve forest management and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The project includes a \$14.2 million grant from the Forest Investment Program and \$18.2 million grant from the Central African Forestry Initiative. The project will help achieve GEF strategy objectives of relevance to the CBD and the UNFCCC and aims to improve management of biodiversity-rich areas totaling 250,000 hectares, improve sustainable land management in 100,000 hectares, and mitigate 1.45 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p><i>Takes note</i> of the projected shortfall of resources from sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements, and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda of the 51st meeting of the Council;</p> <p><i>Notes</i> the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the achievement of Aichi Targets, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 18 above for its support to developing countries, aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;</p> | <p>The GEF has sought to minimize the consequences of the project shortfall consistent with GEF Council Decision GEF/C.51/04.</p> <p>With respect to the future management of currency risk, Participants to the GEF-7 replenishment explored additional measures, including: a) the establishment of a foreign exchange (FX) hedging program within an overarching risk management framework, and b) employing a second operating currency such as EUR. With approximately 96 percent of cumulative funding allocations expected to be disbursed in US dollars and little or no demand for EUR from GEF Agencies, there would be only very limited gain from employing a second operating currency. The Participants discussed the hedging option in detail, including a proposed FX risk management framework, hedging costs and collateral requirements. GEF-7 Participants had differing views on the hedging proposal presented and, on balance, expressed a preference to defer the decision to a later date. Hence the option of hedging is not pursued further at this stage. (GEF/A.6/06, <i>GEF-6 Funding Retrospective</i>: http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF.A6.06_GEF-6_Funding_Retrospective.pdf)</p> <p>As for the mobilization of resources at the domestic level, the GEF continues to encourage Agencies, recipient countries and other partners to mobilize increasing levels of co-financing. Participants to the GEF-7 replenishment agreed that “further refinement of the <i>Co-Financing Policy</i> is desirable to seek greater public and private investments in measures to achieve global environmental benefits [and requested the Secretariat to develop] an updated co-financing policy and associated guidelines”. Participants agreed that the updated policy would increase the level of ambition for the overall GEF portfolio to reach a co-financing ratio of at least 7:1. (See Annex B of document GEF/C.54/19/Rev.02,</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| | <p><i>Summary of the Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund:</i> http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.19.Rev_.02_Replenishment.pdf</p> |
| <p><i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, including through public-private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access, do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries to access Global Environment Facility funds;</p> | <p>Please refer to the updated Co-Financing Policy, approved at the 54th GEF Council in June 2018: http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.10.Rev_.01_Co-Financing_Policy.pdf</p> <p>GEF and its partners will continue to help identify and mobilize co-financing to support the implementation of GEF projects. Table 9 presents a summary of all contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through various funding streams during GEF-6.</p> <p>In sum, \$1.540 billion of GEF resources have leveraged \$8.165 billion of cofinancing; a ratio of 1 to 5. This level of cofinancing has resulted in a total of \$9.705 billion being invested towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018.</p> <p>Of the \$1.5 billion of GEF resources invested, 50 percent comes from the biodiversity focal area STAR allocations, and the remaining 50 percent of resources come from the biodiversity focal area set aside and other funding streams within the GEF.</p> |
| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding.</p> | <p>During the reporting period, all biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects using biodiversity resources submitted to the council were approved.</p> |
| <p>Ecosystem restoration</p> | |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and Parties in a position to do so and other donors, such as international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to provide support for ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication.</p> | <p>In GEF-6, the GEF supported “The Restoration Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge” program with \$53 million of GEF resources which leveraged \$201 million of cofinancing. The participating countries include: Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, DRC, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sao Tome & Principe, and Tanzania.</p> <p>In GEF-7, the Impact Program entitled “Food Systems, Land-use, and Restoration” seeks to provide a programming window to support ecosystem restoration, in addition to support for forest restoration offered under the “Sustainable Forest Management” Impact Program.</p> |
| <p>Strategic Plan</p> | |
| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, and <i>invites</i> other development partners and donors in a position to do so, to continue to provide support in a timely manner, based on the expressed needs of Parties, especially for developing countries and, in particular, least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.</p> | <p>During GEF-5 and GEF-6, virtually all GEF-eligible countries have received support to revise their NBSAP. During GEF-7, GEF will support the very few remaining countries that have not revised their NBSAPs. In addition, GEF will respond to any further guidance that may be directed to the GEF on NBSAP development during the GEF-7 phase. Allowances are made for this support in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> |
| <p>Aichi Targets 11 and 12</p> | |
| <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area and other effective area-based conservation measures in its sixth and seventh replenishment periods with the national actions identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and, as appropriate, through the regional workshops for the achievement of Targets 11 and 12, with a view to facilitating the</p> | <p>GEF will continue to support implementation of protected area projects in support of Aichi Targets 11 and 12 in support of priorities identified in the NBSAPs and other relevant planning documents and this is included in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p>systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to the implementation of the national action plans for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 and other related targets.</p> | |
| <p>Sixth national report</p> | |
| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the light of the revised guidelines for reporting under the Convention and its Protocols, to assess the required funding levels for national reporting, and provide financial support to developing countries accordingly in a timely and expeditious manner.</p> | <p>The GEF undertook an assessment of required funding levels for the national report and, as a result, provided a fourfold funding increase to produce the sixth National Report when compared to funding of previous national reports. These projects were approved to support production of the sixth National Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Africa-1 and Africa-2) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD – (Global: Africa-3, plus Maldives, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Solomon Islands) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (LAC I and LAC II) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Europe, CIS and Mongolia) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Pacific) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report (6NR) to the CBD (Asia) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (6NR - North Africa, West/Central Asia and Mauritania) • Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (6NR - Mixed regions) |
| <p>Cross-sectoral mainstreaming</p> | |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment <i>Facility</i> and other donor and financial institutions to provide financial assistance for country driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming when requested by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.</p> | <p>The GEF will continue to support cross-sectoral mainstreaming, an area of the GEF portfolio that continues to increase relative to other conservation investment strategies prioritized by Parties. Opportunities for cross-sectoral mainstreaming are provided for in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> |
| <p>Traditional knowledge</p> | |
| <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, international financial institutions and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, as appropriate and consistent with their mandates to consider providing financial and technical assistance to developing country Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women within these communities, to raise awareness and to build their capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and to develop, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent”, depending on national circumstances, or “approval and involvement”, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.</p> | <p>GEF will support activities within relevant projects to respond to these capacity building requests.</p> |
| <p>Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p> | |
| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide finance in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House;</p> <p><i>Emphasizes</i> the importance of continuous and predictable support by the Global Environment Facility to eligible Parties to support their compliance with reporting obligations under the Protocol;</p> | <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy included Program 5 to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and support for these activities. A dedicated programming area to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol is part of the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy and responds to all past and current guidance presented to the GEF.</p> |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide financial support to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to further implement the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so to put in place a national biosafety framework and to make funds available to this end;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to provide eligible Parties with financial resources to facilitate effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide funding for capacity-building related to risk assessment and risk management in the context of country-driven projects;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility:</p> <p>To continue to make specific funding available to eligible Parties to put in place their national biosafety frameworks;</p> <p>To continue to fund projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and sub-regional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies;</p> <p>To ensure that the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria adopted in annex I to decision I/2 of the Conference of the Parties are duly followed in an efficient manner in</p> | |

| CBD COP 13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| relation to access and utilization of financial resources. | |
| Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing | |
| <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to provide support to eligible Parties for interim national reports under the Nagoya Protocol. | GEF approved a global project to support 65 countries to produce an Interim National Report. The GEF invested \$1.4 million and leveraged \$1.1 million in cofinancing. |

Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 23 and SBI 47 and 48 and SBSTA 47 Conclusions and GEF Response

Decisions and guidance to the GEF by UNFCCC COP 23, conclusions from SBI 47, SBI 48, and SBSTA 47, and GEF’s response as presented in GEF’s report to UNFCCC COP 24 are provided in Table 2 below.

| UNFCCC COP23 Decision ¹³ /SBI 47 and 48 and SBSTA 47 Conclusion | GEF’s Response |
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| Decision 1/CP.23, Fiji Momentum for Implementation | |
| <p>Paragraph 17: Decides to convene a stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, which will apply the format of the 2016 facilitative dialogue and consider, inter alia:</p> <p>(a) The inputs of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the constituted bodies under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; [...]</p> | <p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, stands ready to provide input to the stock-take on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP 24.</p> |
| Decision 6/CP.23, Long-term climate finance | |
| <p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requested</i> the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action;</p> | <p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other, the GEF continues to provide resources for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, Technology Needs Assessments, and other initiatives such as Expanded Constituency Workshops, in an effort to enhance developing countries’ abilities to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs</p> |

¹³ COP 23 decisions are available on the UNFCCC website:
<https://unfccc.int/decisions?f%5B0%5D=conference%3A4100&search=&page=1>

| UNFCCC COP23 Decision ¹³ /SBI 47 and 48 and SBSTA 47 Conclusion | GEF's Response |
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| | into action. The GEF is also a member of the NDC Partnership to this effect. |
| Decision 8/CP.23, Review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance | |
| <p>Paragraph 9: <i>Encouraged</i> Parties and other constituted bodies under the Convention to continue to provide submissions for the preparation of draft decisions on guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, based on the reports of the operating entities, in a timely manner to the Standing Committee on Finance;</p> | No response needed. |
| Decision 10/CP.23, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility | |
| <p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomed</i> the decision of the GEF Council to begin the process of updating its minimum agency standards and fiduciary policies;</p> | No response needed. |
| <p>Paragraph 3: <i>Also welcomed</i> the GEF Council's approval of the GEF's policy on ethics and conflict of interest;</p> | No response needed. |
| <p>Paragraph 4: <i>Reiterated</i> its call in decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 2, to ensure a robust seventh replenishment in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding, taking into consideration the Paris Agreement as well as the request of the COP to the GEF contained in decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 3;</p> | In the reporting period, 29 countries jointly endorsed a \$4.1 billion financial support package for GEF-7. According to the GEF-7 resource allocation framework, the CCM focal area has been notionally allocated \$802 million, which will support a corporate mitigation target of 1,500 Mt carbon dioxide equivalent. |
| <p>Paragraph 5: <i>Requested</i> the GEF to enhance the consultation process with developing country Parties and other stakeholders in the context of the GEF replenishment process;</p> | The consultation process for the GEF-7 replenishment included active developing country representation and participation through regional constituency representatives covering all regions. In addition, several developing country Parties also participated as donors in the replenishment negotiations. The GEF Council endorsed the GEF-7 Policy Recommendations, Programming Directions and Replenishment Resolution at its 54 th meeting in June 2018. |

| UNFCCC COP23 Decision/SBI 47 and 48 and SBSTA 47 Conclusion | GEF's Response |
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| <p>Paragraph 6: <i>Noting</i> the importance of the existing allocation for climate change, <i>requested</i> the GEF to further consider the needs and priorities of developing countries in the allocation for the climate change focal area in its seventh replenishment period;</p> | <p>The GEF-7 framework is structured to address fundamental COP decisions relating to the Paris Agreement, and to further support developing countries' needs and priorities in line with the GEF's role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC.</p> <p>The GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy aims to support developing countries in their efforts to shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways. To achieve this goal, the strategy continues to emphasize three fundamental objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs; • Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts; and • Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies. <p>In GEF-7 these objectives will be addressed through country driven investments in the focal area and specific impact programs.</p> <p>The GEF-7 resource allocation framework includes \$802 million for CCM, including \$511 million country allocation from the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and \$291 million from STAR Set-Asides. Needs and priorities of developing countries were taken into consideration in the refinement of the resource allocation framework through developing country representation in the replenishment process and analyses of developing country plans and reports under various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism.</p> |

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| <p>Paragraph 7: <i>Requested</i> the GEF to continue implementing in its seventh replenishment period its established policies for grants and concessional funding, in support of developing country Parties, in line with the provisions of the Convention, relevant decisions of the COP and the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF;</p> | <p>In GEF-7, the GEF continues implementing its established policies for grants and concessional funding, in support of developing country Parties, in line with the provisions of the Convention, relevant decisions of the COP and the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF. The GEF-7 Programming Directions include both grant and non-grant instruments, as in previous GEF replenishment cycles, to enable the GEF to utilize instruments tailored to countries’ needs and priorities and country-specific contexts.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 8: <i>Welcomed</i> the operationalization of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and projects approved during the reporting period, and requested the GEF to provide adequate support to assist developing country Parties, in line with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86;</p> | <p>CBIT projects in GEF-7 are supported through set-aside resources, and do not draw on country allocations. Countries also continue to have access to set-asides for their Convention obligations, including the national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs), up to the agreed full-cost amounts. In addition, country allocations will be available to deliver other enabling activities (EAs) and above the agreed full-cost amounts.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 9: <i>Noted</i> the GEF Council decision GEF/C.50/07 and its conclusions, and <i>invited</i> the GEF to further consider ways to improve its access modalities for developing country Parties, including small island developing States and the least developed countries;</p> | <p>The GEF-7 replenishment recognized the needs of all GEF recipient countries, particularly those of least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). The replenishment thus includes an increase in the weight of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita index in the resource allocation system for GEF-7, which will ensure an enhanced emphasis on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. Upon request by the GEF replenishment process participants, the GEF Secretariat is also presenting for Council consideration an updated results architecture, with a view to promoting simplification, with fewer, more relevant indicators and more streamlined reporting on project and program-level results. For CCA, the new strategy for the SCCF recognizes the specific needs of SIDS for adaptation support. All LDCs continue to receive targeted support from the LDCF. Furthermore, the GEF will continue to support developing country Parties, including SIDS and LDCs in accessing funding from the GEF,</p> |

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| | through the ECWs and regional/national portfolio and programming workshops during GEF-7. |
| <p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requested</i> the GEF, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner;</p> | <p>The GEF continues to follow its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 11: <i>Encouraged</i> the GEF to further enhance engagement with the private sector, including in its technology projects;</p> | <p>One of the three objectives of the GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area is to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs. In GEF-7, partnership with the private to promote technology transfer and deployment will be a key priority. Resources from the GEF play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster private sector engagement for technology and innovation.</p> <p>The objective to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs has four entry points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-centralized renewable power with energy storage; • Electric drive technologies and electric mobility; • Accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and • Cleantech innovation. <p>These four entry points have been prioritized to be innovative, align with NDCs, and be complementary to other financial mechanisms.</p> <p>The proposed GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF also emphasizes the importance of engagement of the private sector.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2018-2022) also emphasizes the importance of engagement of the private sector and includes an objective to reduce vulnerability and</p> |

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| | <p>increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for CCA. Resources from the LDCF/SCCF play a key role in tailoring relevant resilience technologies to national and local circumstances in the most vulnerable developing countries. LDCF and SCCF support seek to be catalytic in testing and adapting technologies and innovative practices to specific conditions and capacity, creating favorable policies and strategies, providing systemic support to innovation through incubation and accelerators, piloting financial tools, risk transfer mechanisms, including risk insurance, climate risk pooling and other risk sharing solutions, and strengthening private sector engagement in CCA.</p> <p>As noted by the IEO, “The GEF engages with a wide variety of private sector entities that vary in their industry focus, size, and approach to environmental issues using a mix of intervention models. The range extends from multinational corporations; through large domestic firms and financial institutions; to micro, small, and medium enterprises and smallholders/individuals.”¹⁴ GEF-7 therefore will create opportunities to involve the private sector in new programs through two pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the use of non-grant instruments; and • Working with the private sector as an agent for market transformation. |
| <p>Paragraph 12: <i>Invited</i> the GEF to allocate provisions in the climate change focal area of its seventh replenishment for supporting developing country Parties in undertaking technology needs assessments and piloting priority technology projects to foster innovation and investment;</p> | <p>One of the three objectives of the GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area is to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs. In GEF-7, partnership with the private sector to promote technology transfer and deployment will be a key priority. GEF resources play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions,</p> |

¹⁴ GEF IEO (GEF Independent Evaluation Office) 2017, *Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6): The GEF in the Changing Environmental Finance Landscape*; and GEF/ME/C.52/Inf.04, *Evaluation of GEF's Engagement with the Private Sector*

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| | <p>including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster private sector engagement for technology and innovation.</p> <p>Support for TNAs will be made eligible for SIDS and LDCs in GEF-7.</p> |
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Paragraph 13:

Also invited the GEF to include information in its report to the COP on:

- (a) The collaboration between the GEF focal points and the national designated entities for technology development and transfer, as communicated by the CTCN to the GEF;
- (b) Whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for piloting the implementation of the technology needs assessment results;

In the reporting period, the Climate Technology Centre requested from Nationally Designated Entities (NDEs) information regarding their collaboration with the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) on matters relating to the development and transfer of climate technologies. In total, 69 NDEs responded to the survey. Of these respondents, 64 percent noted that they do have information regarding the GEF portfolio in their respective countries. 49 percent of NDEs indicated that they meet regularly with the GEF OFPs to support coordination at the national level, and of these, half meet every three months or less. Sixty percent of respondents stated that, as NDEs, they did not participate in the GEF portfolio formulation exercise in their countries and thus did not effectively contribute to defining the priority sectors for GEF funding. They suggested that NDEs had much to contribute to climate technology elements in the portfolio formulation exercises. Finally, the survey responses highlighted that four subregional meetings organized by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) provided a good opportunity for NDEs, GEF OFPs, and Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) of the GCF to meet and discuss matters of common interest and share their experiences. In the reporting period, for CCM, 27 projects with technology transfer objectives were approved with \$108 million in GEF funding and \$402.9 million in co-financing.¹¹ For CCA, eight projects to promote technologies for adaptation were approved with \$48 million from the LDCF and \$1.1 million from the SCCF, and \$177.9 million of co-financing. Under the GEF-6 Programming Directions, support to TNAs for SIDS and LDCs was provided through set-aside resources, while TNAs for other countries were supported using GEF-6 STAR allocations. In the reporting period, there was no national TNA project proposal received, while Ukraine utilized its STAR allocation for its TNA Phase 3 project. This report includes this information in Part III, Section 4 (Technology Transfer).

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| <p>Paragraph 16: <i>Also requested</i> the GEF to include in its annual report to the COP information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.</p> | <p>The GEF has taken steps to implement the guidance, as highlighted in this table and described further in the GEF report to COP 24.</p> |
| <p>Decision 11/CP.23, Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 2: <i>Took note</i> of the efforts made by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance complementarity and coherence between them and between the operating entities and other sources of investment and financial flows;</p> | <p>The GEF continues to work closely with the GCF to enhance complementarity and coherence.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 3: <i>Requested</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to continue to enhance complementarity and coherence;</p> | <p>In the reporting period, efforts to enhance complementarity with the GCF have continued, in response to COP guidance. The GEF and GCF secretariats organized their first joint side event at COP 23 (on 16 November 2017) on ‘Strengthening Collaboration to Support Countries in Implementing the Paris Agreement’, co-chaired by the GEF Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Chairperson and the GCF Executive Director.¹² The GEF Secretariat also hosted a delegation from the GCF Secretariat in Washington, DC for the GCF-GEF Technical Workshop on February 7, 2018 to further advance the action plan. Technical staff from both secretariats agreed on a list of nine next steps, details of which can be found in Part II, Section 4 (Complementarity in Climate Finance) of this report. The GCF and GEF secretariats also participate in joint programming pilot exercise with interested developing countries, as appropriate. The GCF and GEF secretariats further coorganized the “Informal Ministerial Dialogue on GCF and GEF Coordinated Engagement” on 26 June 2018 at the sixth GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Viet Nam, to discuss coordinated national engagements and enhancing linkages and synergies between GEF and GCF projects.</p> |
| <p>Decision 14/CP.23, Review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network</p> | |

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| <p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomed with appreciation</i> the support provided by Parties and the Global Environment Facility, and the financial and in-kind contributions from UNEP, UNIDO and other consortium partners of the CTCN in supporting the operationalization and activities of the CTCN;</p> | <p>No response needed.</p> |
| <p>Decision 15/CP.23, Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 16: <i>Welcomed</i> the engagement of the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the Global Environment Facility and multilateral development banks regarding collaborative activities, including the implementation of technical assistance requests with scalable investment potential;</p> | <p>No response needed.</p> |
| <p>Decision 17/CP.23, Fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 1: <i>Recognized that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the GEF, within its mandate, have provided adequate resources and assistance for the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition established under decision 3/CP.7; | <p>No response needed.</p> |

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| <p>Paragraph 3: <i>Invited Parties</i> included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the GEF, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector, or any further arrangements, as appropriate and within their mandates, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition that are currently receiving support;</p> | <p>The GEF continues to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition (CEIT) that are currently receiving support, including through regular projects and programs, as well as for NCs, Biennial Update Reports (BURs), CBIT and the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) program. In the reporting period, the GEF approved two projects in Belarus and two projects in Ukraine, including: \$1.0 million for capacity building for emissions trading and strengthened Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) in Belarus; \$0.9 million for preparation of the Seventh NC on the Implementation of the UNFCCC and the Third BUR in Belarus; \$1.7 million for the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Ukraine; and \$2.0 million for the integrated natural resources management in degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones in Ukraine</p> |
| <p>SBI 47, Agenda Item 10: Matters relating to the least developed countries</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 57: <i>Noted with appreciation</i> the financial pledge of EUR 50 million made by Germany to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the fund.</p> | <p>The GEF appreciates the continued strong support from Germany as well as additional donors to the LDCF.</p> |
| <p>SBI 47, Agenda Item 11: National Adaptation Plans</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 65: <i>Noted</i> the approval, as at 30 October 2017, by the GCF of 10 out of 38 funding proposals through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to support the formulation of NAPs, as well as the approval by the GEF of funding proposals from four countries to support the process to formulate and implement NAPs.</p> | <p>The GEF continues to support projects for NAP formulation and implementation, as included in the newly approved GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF (2018-2022).</p> |
| <p>SBI 47, Agenda Item 14(b): Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p> | |

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| <p>Paragraph 86: <i>Welcomed</i> the report of the GEF, including the information on progress in relation to the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer (PSP) and related challenges and lessons learned.</p> | <p>No response needed.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 91: <i>Welcomed</i> the midterm evaluations of the pilot projects of the fourth replenishment of the GEF included in the report referred to in paragraph 86 above. It <i>reiterated</i> its encouragement to the GEF to share the midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and the aforementioned pilot projects as soon as available in order to the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to update the evaluation report on the PSP.</p> | <p>The GEF will continue to share midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and the pilot projects.</p> |
| <p>SBSTA 47, Agenda Item 8: Research and systematic observation</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 8: <i>Recalling</i> its conclusions from SBSTA 45, the SBSTA: (c) <i>Encouraged</i> Parties and relevant organizations to take advantage of support available via the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism as well as other relevant organizations and channels, as appropriate, to support the Global Climate Observation System regional workshops and projects identified in the resulting implementation plans.</p> | <p>No response needed.</p> |
| <p>SBI 48, Agenda item 12: Matters relating to LDCs</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 4 of the draft decision on the Least Developed Countries Work Programme: <i>Noted</i> that support for the work programme should come from a variety of sources, including the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral sources within their respective mandates, and the private sector, as appropriate</p> | <p>The GEF, in particular the LDCF, stands ready to continue to support the LDC work programme, as reflected in the new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF (2018-2022).</p> |
| <p>SBI 48, Agenda item 14(b): Review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network</p> | |

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| <p>Paragraph 4 of the draft decision on the review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network:</p> <p><i>Also invited</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to consider implementing the relevant recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above when implementing their further activities relevant to the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p> | <p>The GEF has been implementing the recommendations, including, inter alia, by building stronger linkages with the CTCN and the GCF.</p> |
| <p>SBI 48, Agenda item 18: Ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Paris Agreement</p> | |
| <p>Paragraph 11 of the draft decision on the ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Paris Agreement:</p> <p><i>Invited</i> Parties, multilateral and bilateral institutions, private sector and other potential sources to support activities related to the implementation of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.</p> | <p>The GEF provides support to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information relating to the implementation of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement through its regular projects and programs, in line with its mandate.</p> |

Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 13 and GEF Response to Date

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

| UNCCD COP13 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. | synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which will conclude in early 2018. |
| Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties. | The GEF will prepare a report on the implementation of the decision to be submitted to COP 14. |
| Adopts the attached new Memorandum of Understanding [between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility on Enhanced Collaboration]. | Noted. |
| Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties. | GEF Secretariat and UNCCD Secretariat have made appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties. The GEF Council, during its 54 th meeting, authorized the GEF CEO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Council. |
| Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to implement the attached Memorandum of Understanding. | The GEF stands committed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding. |

Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP 8 Decision SC 8/16 and GEF’s Response

The GEF responses to COP 8 decisions, as included in the Executive Summary of the GEF report to Stockholm COP 9, is presented in Table 4 below. The full GEF report to Stockholm COP 9 will be prepared and submitted in early 20189.

| Stockholm COP 8 Decision | GEF’s Response |
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| <p>1. <i>Requests</i> the principal entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Convention, to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2018–2022 the following priority areas:</p> | |
| <p>(a) Development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to persistent organic pollutants;</p> | <p>Under the <i>Industrial Program</i> in GEF-7 in the chemicals and waste focal area the following areas of work will specifically address development, deployment of either products, technologies, etc. to replace persistent organic pollutants and strive towards widespread use green chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable chemistry/eco-design/strategies encompassing the entire life-cycle of chemicals • Elimination of the use of mercury and persistent organic pollutants in products (Including brominated flame retardants, PFOS) as well as the use of mercury in products (as specified in Annex A of the Minamata Convention) by phasing our manufacturing of the pure chemicals and introduction of alternatives in the products with a preference to non-toxic chemicals. <p>Similarly, the <i>Agricultural Program</i> will address this guidance as follows: “This program will address the agricultural POPs and agricultural chemicals that contain mercury or its compounds. Where the chemicals are in use, investments will be made to introduce alternatives with a preference given to non-chemical means. The program will target the reduction of Endosulphan, Lindane and highly/severely hazardous pesticides that enter the global food supply chain as well as address end of life, waste and obsolete POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals and management and safe disposal of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals.”</p> |

| Stockholm COP 8 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p>(b) Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention;</p> | <p>The Agricultural Program in the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area specifically addresses this guidance on DDT as follows: "This program will also address restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the Party in question."</p> |
| <p>(c) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025;</p> | <p>The Industrial Program includes the following: "Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025" which responds to this guidance.</p> |
| <p>(d) Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p> | <p>The Industrial Program includes the following: "Environmentally sound waste management/disposal of mercury/mercury containing waste or persistent organic pollutants including liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A of the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028" that responds to this guidance.</p> |
| <p>(e) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;</p> | <p>The Industrial Programs includes the: "Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced POPs and mercury from major source categories included in both the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions including, but not limited to, cement manufacturing, coal fired power plants, various metallurgical processes, waste incineration" and the Agricultural Program will deal with safe handling of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPS and mercury based agricultural chemicals. Both programs directly respond to the introduction of BAT/BEP which minimizes unintentionally released POPS from the industrial and agricultural process.</p> |
| <p>(f) Development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;</p> | <p>The Industrial Program has been designed as follows: "This program is intended to eliminate or significantly reduce chemicals listed under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockholm Convention on Persistent |

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| | <p>Organic Pollutants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minamata Convention on Mercury • Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management • Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer <p>Through supporting projects and programs that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals and Waste at the end of life; • Chemicals that are used or emitted from or in processes and products. <p>In support of the above, this program will fund facilitation of enabling environments and strengthening of national legislation and regulatory capacity for meeting obligations with regard to POPs, mercury and other chemicals listed in the chemicals and waste conventions including the removal of barriers to market access of manufacturing of products containing GEF relevant chemicals, introduction of alternatives and reduction of production of the pure chemical using sustainable/ green chemistry approaches and that promotes a shift to a circular economy and that supports de-toxifying products and material supply chains.”</p> |
| (g) Review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development | <p>The Enabling Activities Program includes the following: “This program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention, including National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and NIP Updates • Support enabling activities under the Minamata Convention, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and artisanal and small-scale gold mining National Action Plans (ASGM NAPs) • Global Monitoring of chemicals related to effectiveness evaluation under the Chemical Conventions” |
| 2. Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the focal area of | The Chemicals and Waste focal area will support the Cities Impact Program and the Food Systems |

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| <p>chemicals and waste and if appropriate its work on integrated programming as a means of harnessing opportunities for synergy in implementing the Stockholm Convention and contributing to the global efforts to attain the chemicals-and-waste-related Sustainable Development Goals with adequate and sustainable financial resources, taking into account the national priorities of developing countries;</p> | <p>Impact program that are included in the GEF-7 programming strategy. The focal area will help to minimize the inclusion of chemicals covered by Convention in new cities and will support phase out and management of Stockholm relevant chemicals and their waste in existing infrastructure, products, and materials. The focal area will also where appropriate support the phase out of Stockholm Convention relevant chemicals for the global food supply through integration with the Food, Land Use and Restoration GEF-7 Impact Program.</p> |
| <p>3. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional agencies from developing countries;</p> | <p>Enabling activities since GEF-5 can be accessed directly by countries through the direct access modality. There are also 18 accredited GEF agencies including agencies from developing countries.</p> |
| <p>4. Encourages the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including through public private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access and do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries seeking access to Global Environment Facility funds;</p> | <p>(this section will be updated in the full report with updated Co-financing Policy, approved at the 54th GEF Council in June 2018).</p> <p>In May 2014, in response to Policy recommendations for the GEF 6th Replenishment, the GEF Council approved a Co-financing Policy which applies to projects and programs financed with resources from the GEF Trust Fund and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (GEF-financed projects). It does not apply to projects financed with resources from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) or the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).</p> <p>The policy (i) establishes the objectives for co-financing in GEF-financed projects; (ii) defines co-financing in GEF-financed projects; and (iii) sets forth the general principles and approaches for co-financing in GEF-financed projects, including how co-financing will be monitored and evaluated. The policy notes that an objective of the GEF, working with its partners, is to attain adequate levels of co-financing as a means to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the GEF in achieving global environmental benefits; and |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● strengthen partnerships with recipient country governments, multilateral and bilateral financing entities, the private sector, and civil society. <p>The policy defines co-financing as “resources that are additional to the GEF grant and that are provided by the GEF Partner Agency itself and/or by other non-GEF sources that support the implementation of the GEF-financed project and the achievement of its objectives.”</p> <p>The policy notes that co-financing is required for all GEF full-size projects (FSPs), medium-size projects (MSPs), and GEF programmatic approaches. Co-financing is optional for GEF enabling activities. It notes that requirements for GEF Agencies and the GEF Secretariat during project review and approval and project monitoring.</p> <p>The Sixth GEF Assembly in June 2018 decided on the following on co-financing in the context of optimizing the use of GEF resources in different countries:</p> <p>Optimizing the use of GEF resources in different countries</p> <p>Participants reiterate their support for the objectives of the 2014 Co-financing Policy (FI/PL/01), i.e., for the GEF to attain adequate levels of co-financing as a means to:</p> <p>(a) enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the GEF in achieving global environmental benefits; and</p> <p>(b) strengthen partnerships with recipient country governments, multilateral and bilateral financing entities, the private sector, and civil society.</p> <p>Participants agree that further refinement of the Co-Financing Policy is desirable to seek greater public and private investments in measures to achieve global environmental benefits.</p> <p>To this end, Participants request that the Secretariat develop, for Council consideration,</p> |

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| | <p>an updated co-financing policy and associated guidelines, including the following:</p> <p>Definitions: As per the 2014 Co-Financing Policy, co-financing means “resources that are additional to the GEF grant and that are provided by the GEF Partner Agency itself and/or by other non-GEF sources that support the implementation of the GEF-financed project and the achievement of its objectives”. Investment mobilized means the sub-set of co-financing that excludes recurrent expenditures.</p> <p>Level of Ambition: Against the background of the positive performance in GEF-6, the ambition for the overall GEF portfolio is increased to a co-financing ratio of at least 7:1. The ratio of investment mobilized to GEF financing is monitored across all countries. For the portfolio of projects and programs approved in countries that are subject to “expectations for greater co-financing” as per the 2014 Co-Financing Policy, the GEF aims to reach a ratio of investment mobilized to GEF financing of at least 5:1. Countries with the capacity to do so are encouraged to seek even higher levels of co-financing and investment mobilized. It is noted, however, that, over time, all countries should seek to mobilize greater investments.</p> <p>Monitoring and Reporting: The Secretariat will report annually on estimated and realized co-financing and investment mobilized at the portfolio and recipient country level.</p> <p>Participants emphasize, consistent with the current Co-Financing Policy, that no minimum thresholds and/or specific co-financing or investment sources should be imposed in the review of individual projects or Work Programs.</p> <p>Recognizing that investment mobilized is a new concept in the GEF, Participants further emphasize the importance of clear, operational definitions, and recommend that the Council review, at the mid-point of GEF-7, experiences of</p> |

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| | the implementation of the updated Policy and associated Guidelines with a view to drawing lessons and informing future deliberations on ways to optimize the use of GEF resources in different countries. |
| 5. Takes note of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda for its fifty-first meeting; | No Action Required |
| 6. Notes the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries; | At its 51 st meeting, the GEF Council considered options to manage a projected shortfall of resources for GEF-6 as a result of currency fluctuations of the US dollar relative to the other GEF donor currencies. The projected shortfall for the chemicals and waste focal area was 16 percent as put forward in the Update of GEF-6 Resource Availability. ¹⁵ This translates to an indicative allocation of \$467 million. At the end of GEF-6 \$465 million was allocated to the chemicals and waste focal area which maintained the original focal area balance for the sixth replenishment of the GEF. |
| 7. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the obligations under the Stockholm Convention; | Response: Participants to the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-7) explored measures to manage currency risks, including: (a) the establishment of a foreign exchange (FX) hedging program within an overarching risk management framework, and (b) employing a second operating currency, such as EUR. With approximately 96 percent of cumulative funding allocations expected to be disbursed in US dollars, the benefits of employing a second operating currency would be limited. Participants discussed the hedging option in detail, including a proposed FX risk management framework, hedging costs, and collateral requirements. Participants had divergent views on hedging and agreed |

¹⁵ GEF, 2016, [Update on GEF 6 Resource Availability](#), Council Document GEF/C.51/04.

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| | therefore to defer the decision to a later date. (GEF/A.6/06, GEF-6 Funding Retrospective [http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF.A6.06_GEF-6_Funding_Retrospective.pdf]) |
| 8. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner; | The reviews of all GEF projects are sent to the GEF agency and country proponents for feedback and information. |
| 9. Takes note of the following non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address relevant priorities of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: | |
| (a) Environmentally sound management of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants; | The GEF's programming already addresses and funds the environmentally sound management of waste containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants including PCB containing equipment and waste, medical waste, waste pesticides including containers etc. |
| (b) Minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants; | The GEF's programming already addresses the minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants including minimization of open burning of e-waste, municipal and hazardous waste and incineration of medical and plastic waste. |
| (c) Development or strengthening of national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations regarding persistent organic pollutants listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as persistent organic pollutant wastes as covered by the Basel Convention; | GEF programming for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions help to strengthen the environmentally sound management of POPs and Mercury which strengthens the national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations under Stockholm and Minamata. This usually extends to Rotterdam and Basel if the legislation includes waste management and trans-shipment of wastes and the chemicals themselves. |
| 10. Requests the Secretariat: | |
| (a) To prepare, on the basis of the document developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of decision SC-6/20, a complete set of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention by consolidating the guidance set out in | The GEF Secretariat has been consulted on this list and will continue to provide feedback with a view to helping the BRS Secretariat fully develop the consolidated guidance. |

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| decision SC-7/21 and paragraphs 1–8 of the present decision; | |
| (b) To make the complete set of guidance available on the Convention website; | Not for GEF Action |
| (c) To update the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; | Not for GEF Action |
| 11. Welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention; | The GEF Council appreciates the acknowledgment of the report and will report at the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. |
| 12. Welcomes the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism; | Not for GEF Action |
| 13. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to decision SC-7/20, draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting; | Not for GEF Action |
| 14. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2018–2022; | Not for GEF Action |
| 15. Requests the Global Environment Facility, during the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to consider the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the non-exhaustive list referred to in paragraph 9 above; | The needs assessment has been considered in providing funding scenarios for the GEF-7 replenishment. The Chemicals and Waste focal area has an indicative allocation of \$599 million for GEF-7. |
| 16. Takes note of the low level of responses to the online questionnaire, prepared by the Secretariat in response to paragraph 6 of decision SC-7/18, directed to developed country Parties, other Parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, asking them to provide further information about how they could provide support for the implementation of the Stockholm | Not for GEF action |

| Stockholm COP 8 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| Convention; | |
| <p>17. Urges developed country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;</p> | Not for GEF Action |
| <p>18. Invites other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;</p> | Not for GEF Action |
| <p>19. Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such contributions;</p> | Not for GEF Action |
| <p>20. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 17–19 above, a report on the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and</p> | Not for GEF Action |

| Stockholm COP 8 Decision | GEF's Response |
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| <p>means of mobilizing and channeling such additional resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;</p> | |
| <p>21. Also requests the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-7/18 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations made by Parties in their assessment of the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the methodology used in preparing it for consideration and possible adoption at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> | <p>Not for GEF Action</p> |
| <p>22. Further requests the Secretariat to transmit to the Global Environment Facility for its consideration the consolidated guidance referred to in paragraph 10 above, the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 12 above and the report on the assessment of funding needs over the period 2018–2022 referred to in paragraph 14 above and invites the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its next regular report to the Conference of the Parties, how the above guidance and reports have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Facility;</p> | <p>The GEF-7 chemicals and waste programming investment framework, paragraphs 219 -246 of the GEF Programming Directions contained in the Report on 7th replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund¹⁶ describes in detail the elements for programming priority and programming areas that are extracted from the COP guidance. This will be further elaborated in the main GEF report to the COP.</p> |
| <p>23. Welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective</p> | <p>The GEF will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.</p> |

¹⁶ GEF, 2018, [Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#) GEF/A.6/05/Rev.01

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| <p>inter secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p> | |
| <p>24. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.</p> | <p>The GEF Secretariat will collaborate with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.</p> |

Table 5: Decisions Adopted at Minamata COP 1 and GEF Response

The GEF responses to Minamata COP 1 decisions, as presented in its report to COP 2, is summarized in Table 5 below.

| Minamata COP 1 Guidance | GEF's Response |
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| <p>To be eligible for funding from GEF as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a country must be a Party to the Convention and must be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition.</p> | <p>The GEF's eligibility policy for mercury incorporates the criteria for funding enabling activities. The guidelines for these enabling activities are found in the information document of the 45th meeting of the GEF Council, revised in January 2014.¹⁷</p> <p>During GEF-6, prior to the Conference of the Parties, both signatory countries and parties were eligible for receiving funding from the GEF. In GEF-7, only Parties are eligible to access GEF resources.</p> |
| <p>Activities that are eligible for funding from the GEF trust fund are those that seek to meet the objectives of the Convention and are consistent with the present guidance.</p> | <p>According to the GEF Instrument paragraph 6 (e) the GEF shall: Operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, pursuant to its Article 13, paragraphs 5, 6 and 8. In such respects, the GEF shall operate under the guidance of, and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties, which shall provide guidance on overall strategies, policies, program priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources. In addition, the GEF shall receive guidance from the Conference of the Parties on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support; and shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities, pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.</p> |

¹⁷ GEF, 2014, [Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), Council Document, GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01.

| Minamata COP 1 Guidance | GEF's Response |
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| <p>Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.</p> | <p>Up to June 30, 2018, the GEF supported a total of 110 countries through GEF-5 and GEF-6 to implement Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) and 32 countries to conduct their artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) National Action Plans (NAP). 78 out of 89 Signatories received funding for these enabling activities. Of the remaining eleven countries, six have become Parties to date. Twenty-three countries that were non-signatory and non-party have accessed enabling activity resources through the varying of the eligibility criteria by the GEF Council through a decision by mail on January 14, 2015 at the request of the sixth session of the intergovernmental committee on mercury (INC6) to allow non-signatory, non-Party States to access resources for enabling activities from the GEF. This variation of the eligibility for non-signatories, non-parties is longer applicable as the COP 1 guidance only applies to signatories and Parties with respect to access of funding of enabling activities.</p> |
| <p>In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of the Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, including costs arising from activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Are country-driven; (b) Are in conformity with programme priorities as reflected in relevant guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties; (c) Build capacity and promote the utilization of local and regional expertise, if applicable; (d) Promote synergies with other focal areas; | <p>This guidance has been used to inform the programming in GEF-6 and has been addressed in the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which concluded in April 2018. The new strategy is included in the summary of negotiations of the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.¹⁸</p> |

¹⁸ GEF, 2018, [Report On The Seventh Replenishment Of The GEF Trust Fund](#), Council Document GEF/A.6/05/Rev.01.

| Minamata COP 1 Guidance | | GEF's Response |
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| | <p>(e) Continue to enhance synergies and co-benefits within the chemicals and wastes focal area;</p> <p>(f) Promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, including from the private sector, if applicable; and</p> <p>(g) Promote sustainable national socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and activities consistent with existing national sound environmental management programmes geared towards the protection of human health and the environment.</p> | |
| | <p>In accordance with article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.</p> | <p>This is reflected in the strategies of the GEF. In GEF-6, \$141 million was allocated for the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. The GEF has programmed resources for several projects that are aimed at early implementation, particularly in the ASGM sector. In GEF-7, \$206 million is notionally allocated for the implementation of the Minamata Convention, including the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.</p> |
| | <p>In particular, it should give priority to the following activities when providing financial resources to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:</p> <p>(a) Enabling activities, particularly Minamata Convention initial assessment activities and national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining;</p> <p>(b) Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, affording priority to those that:</p> <p>(i) Relate to legally binding obligations;</p> <p>(ii) Facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party;</p> <p>(iii) Allow for reduction in mercury emissions and releases and address the health and environmental impacts of mercury.</p> | <p>This guidance has been used in the programming in GEF-6 and has been addressed in the programming priorities of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy. All projects and programs in GEF-6 that seek to implement the Minamata Convention were consistent with this guidance.</p> |
| | <p>In providing resources for an activity, GEF should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its</p> | <p>In GEF-6, projects with potential for significant mercury reduction have been approved. The GEF continues to work with</p> |

| Minamata COP 1 Guidance | | GEF's Response |
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| | costs in accordance with paragraph 8 of article 13 of the Convention. | countries and agencies to look at the potential reduction of mercury relative to its cost. |
| | | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minamata Convention initial assessments (MIAs) 2. Preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 7 and Annex C 3. Other types of enabling activities as agreed by the Conference of the Parties | This guidance has been used to inform the programming in GEF-6 and has been addressed in the programming priorities of the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy. In GEF-6, all eligible enabling activities that were submitted to the GEF have received funding. |
| | | |
| | <p>When providing financial resources to eligible Parties for activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, GEF should afford priority to those activities that relate to legally binding obligations of Parties under the Convention and should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs. Such activities could include those related to the following areas, listed in no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury supply sources and trade; • Mercury-added products; • Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used; • Artisanal and small-scale gold mining; • Emissions; • Releases; • Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury; • Mercury wastes; • Reporting; • Relevant capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer in relation to the above. | These have been included in the GEF-7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy. |
| | | |
| | When considering activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force, GEF should | This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7 and will be reported on at subsequent COPs. |

| Minamata COP 1 Guidance | | GEF's Response |
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| | also consider providing support for activities that, although they are not the subject of a legal obligation under the Convention, may significantly contribute to a Party's preparedness to implement the Convention upon its entry into force for that country. | |
| | <p>Within the context of the GEF mandate, such activities could include, inter alia, support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) With regard to emissions, the development by Parties with relevant sources of emissions of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and their expected targets, goals and outcomes; (b) With regard to releases, the development by Parties with relevant sources of releases of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control releases and their expected targets, goals and outcomes; (c) With regard to contaminated sites, capacity-building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds and, as appropriate, the remediation of those sites; (d) Information exchange; (e) Public information, awareness and education; (f) Cooperation in the development and improvement of research, development and monitoring; (g) Development of implementation plans following initial assessments. | This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7 and will be reported on at subsequent COPs. |
| | Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury may encompass activities relating to both binding and non-binding provisions, with priority to the legally binding provisions discussed above, that accord with the GEF mandate to deliver global environmental benefits and reflect the GEF chemicals and wastes focal area strategy. | This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7 and will be reported on at subsequent COPs. |
| | In accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13, the Conference of the Parties will review, no later | At the request of the COP, the GEF will provide information as it relates to the |

| Minamata COP 1 Guidance | GEF's Response |
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| <p>than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF as one of the entities entrusted with operationalizing the mechanism established under this article and the mechanism's effectiveness and ability to address the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such review, the Conference of the Parties will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by updating and prioritizing as necessary its guidance to GEF.</p> | <p>review described in paragraph 11 of article 13 of the Minamata Convention.</p> |