

## Mexico: Written Comments on the *Draft GEF-6 Programming Directions (GEF/R.6/13) Document*

### GEF-6 Replenishment Meeting held in New Delhi, India

Theme	Considerations	Comments
<i>Focal Area Strategy</i>	The prepared documents reflect the recommendations and discussions from the first round of negotiations.	
<i>Biodiversity</i>	<p>There is uncertainty surrounding the priority accorded to biodiversity in the budget allocation for this focal area under GEF-6, and ongoing concerns that the level of funding for the sixth replenishment of GEF resources is lower in absolute terms than previous replenishment periods persist. It is important, therefore, to remember that during the Eleventh Conference of the Parties, funding for the biodiversity focal area was the issue that required further discussions, consultations, and negotiations because no specific quantitative commitments regarding both the achievement of the Aichi Targets and the direction of the financial mechanism (GEF) are included in the Decision adopted at the COP-10. Thus, although the developed countries agreed to double the level of funding, beginning in 2015, to help developing countries achieve the Aichi Targets and the main objectives set forth in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the outcome of the COP was solely a decision that “urges” developed countries to scale up their contributions to the financial mechanism.</p> <p>Mexico acknowledges the GEF’s work in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Serving as the interim financial mechanism for CITES and mainstreaming biodiversity into projects aimed at combating the illegal wildlife trade in order to curb the trafficking of elephant tusks and rhino horns. It is Mexico’s hope that consideration will also soon be given to the execution of projects for other regions.</li> <li>b) Providing support with the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources as this will facilitate achievement of the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and creating a specific fund for this focal area.</li> <li>c) Working, in the context of the mandate of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, on a proposal to support the development of mitigation systems in the NAMAs, including the national voluntary emissions trading system.</li> <li>d) Supporting the forest strategic program aimed at achieving a land degradation neutral world by 2035, as stipulated in the Rio+20 outcome</li> </ul>	<p>With respect to the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector, it is important that an effort be made to support the various activities that seek to maintain and increase carbon stocks, as well as contribute to sustainable forest management (SFM) for this purpose. It is critical that the GEF-6 support the initiatives to reduce emissions from agriculture by adopting best practices, including livestock management. It is equally essential that consideration be given to supporting measures that will reduce and increase carbon stocks on production landscapes through activities such as the rehabilitation of degraded areas, reduced tillage, and agroforestry practices and innovative methods to improve soil quality. It is appropriate for GEF-6 to support activities aimed at developing or strengthening financing mechanisms that contribute to the “continuity” of activities for the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks and to develop monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems designed to confirm the accuracy of carbon stock estimates.</p>



	document.	
<b><i>Climate Change</i></b>	<p>Program 4. Promote the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land-use and support climate smart agriculture.</p> <p>In recognition of the importance of activities related to sustainable forest management and other land uses (agriculture, livestock production), it is critical that the GEF strengthen the climate change mitigation strategy in the GEF-6, with a view to promoting the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and other land uses, as well as supporting the adoption of climate smart agriculture by designing projects whose focus and scope are relevant and appropriate for addressing the root causes of forest carbon emission reductions (deforestation and degradation) and emissions from agricultural practices. The case of the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector.</p> <p>Lastly, it is important to draw attention to the cross-cutting nature of activities and objectives and the Land Degradation Strategy and Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, as well as its contribution to the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives established in the Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy, with special emphasis on the activities set forth in Program 3 – Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface.</p>	<p>With respect to the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector, it is important that an effort be made to support the various activities that seek to maintain and increase carbon stocks, as well as contribute to sustainable forest management (SFM) for this purpose. It is critical that the GEF-6 support the initiatives to reduce emissions from agriculture by adopting best practices, including livestock management. It is equally essential that consideration be given to supporting measures that will reduce and increase carbon stocks on production landscapes through activities such as the rehabilitation of degraded areas, reduced tillage, and agroforestry practices and innovative methods to improve soil quality. It is appropriate for GEF-6 to support activities aimed at developing or strengthening financing mechanisms that contribute to the “continuity” of activities for the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks and to develop monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems in order to confirm the accuracy of carbon stock estimates.</p>
<b><i>Chemicals and Waste</i></b>	The prepared documents reflect the recommendations and discussions from the first round of negotiations.	
<b><i>International Waters</i></b>	The prepared documents reflect the recommendations and discussions from the first round of negotiations.	
<b><i>Land Degradation</i></b>	<p>This strategy’s approach is deemed appropriate to support efforts being made by the affected countries to combat forest and land degradation in rural production landscapes, focusing on the need for sustaining the flows of ecosystem services that underpin productivity of agricultural and rangeland systems. Great importance is also attached to the need for this strategy to promote the adoption of activities based on the landscape approach in order to promote the integrated management of natural resources, recognizing the existing interdependence between natural resource management and conservation and production activities such as agriculture, livestock production, and forestry.</p> <p>Mention must also be made of the intention to promote the joint programming of activities, taking into account aspects of the climate change mitigation and biodiversity focal areas as well as the sustainable forest management program. It is important to note that the content of the UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy was taken into account in the design of</p>	<p>It is believed that the proposed programs will help achieve the objective of reducing and reversing current land degradation trends, including desertification and deforestation, by promoting sustainable land management best practices that can generate environmental services at the national and global levels, as well as social and economic benefits at the local and national levels.</p>



	the programs for this focal area with a view to supporting the achievement of its strategic and operational objectives.	
<b><i>Sustainable Forest Management</i></b>	<p>The adoption of the incentive to promote the formulation of forest projects implemented, which meet the objectives of two or more GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation), through the SFM/REDD+ program and the funds specifically earmarked for it, was well received by countries, thereby underscoring its contribution to efforts to maximize synergies through the design of multi-focal programs and projects and promote an integrated approach to land management at the landscape level. This was the case with Mexico, which received an additional allocation of US\$10 million for the Watershed Program.</p> <p>With respect to the GEF-6, it bears noting that the proposal for the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy is consistent with the aims and directions set forth in the three Rio Conventions, as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests.</p>	In view of the success of this program during GEF-5, it is understandable and desirable that its expansion in GEF-6 is being sought. The program's approach is deemed appropriate to promote land management planning at the landscape level, the conservation and rehabilitation of forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value and the provision of ecosystem services, as well as the adoption of sustainable forest management to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, the sustaining of livelihoods of local communities, and, in general terms, social and economic development at the local and national levels.
<b><i>Corporate Programs</i></b>	The prepared documents reflect the recommendations and discussions from the first round of negotiations.	
<b><i>Flagship Programs</i></b>	The proposals designed to address global problems through sectoral approaches are very important for Mexico as this would allow for the use of a programming approach to shape the various strategies. With regard to pending reforms, for example, there would be a way to stress the issue of restructuring subsidies in the fishing sector, develop environmental criteria to calculate the lowest production costs for renewable energy sources and recalibration of biodiversity criteria and ecosystem services for subsidy programs in the forest and agricultural sectors relative to social criteria. GEF interventions could then be brought more in line with the development agenda in view of, among others, the themes identified in the OECD's environmental performance review.	<p>Mexico commends the GEF Secretariat for its work to transform the STAP recommendations into an innovative tool. Mexico supports the introduction of flagship programs as a new programming method to address the UNCSD recommendations through multifocal interventions at different scales.</p> <p>One suggestion to bring the flagship programs in line with the STAR would be to develop a formula that aligns the STAR with proposed flagship programs through incentives; for example, a percentage of the total allocation provided to a country could be set aside to be used as a reward if that country's projects are also consistent with flagship programs (replicating or adapting successful experiences of mechanisms such as REDD/REDD+ in the area of forest management).</p>