



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.62/12
May 27, 2022

62nd GEF Council Meeting

June 21 - 23, 2022

Washington D.C.

Agenda Item 16

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.62/12, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

FOREWORD BY THE CEO

All of the world's environmental systems are under threat – from climate change, deforestation, land degradation, chemical pollution, and other human pressures on nature. Every country is impacted by these strains, and every country has a role to play in addressing them. Over the last year, we have been working to support ambitious outcomes from the international conventions that the GEF serves to help address these threats, in both virtual and in-person meetings.

Despite the many uncertainties, resultant delays, and challenges, during this reporting period, the Conventions and international institutions found new hybrid ways to deliver landmark Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and resume important negotiations. This political ambition and leadership at the COPs also helped the GEF to secure a record replenishment for our next funding cycle, GEF-8. It also makes me very optimistic about what the GEF partnership can deliver.

As the GEF CEO, it has been rewarding to have the opportunity to interact and work closely with the Conventions and international institutions at several meetings held this past year. This included the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille in September 2021; the UNFCCC COP 26 held in Glasgow in November 2021; the second, in-person segment of COP 4 to the Minamata Convention on Mercury held in Bali in March 2022, and most recently, the UNCCD COP 15 held in Abidjan in May 2022. In addition to these in-person meetings, the GEF team and I also actively engaged virtually in many of the online meetings and events such as the Minamata COP 4 first virtual segment, phase one of CBD COP 15.1 held virtually with limited in-person participation in Kunming, UN Forum on Forests, UNEA 5.2, amongst others. What struck me at all of these events was that the challenge and choices before us have never been clearer, and the need to be bolder, more ambitious, and scale-up critically needed action has never been greater. At all these events, there was a strong recognition of the role of the GEF as a partner of choice to provide catalytic and timely support to countries and partners to meet their international goals.

The engagement of the Conventions and other partners in the GEF-8 replenishment process has been crucial. The Convention secretariats' comments were reflected in the draft Programming Directions, and the interim and fourth GEF -8 replenishment meetings held earlier this year greatly benefitted from their participation. Similar contributions and engagement were made from the UNFCCC Secretariat to the second and third meetings on the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF and Operational Improvements also held earlier this year.

Similarly, to continue this regular engagement, at the 61st GEF Council, the Executive Secretaries of the CBD, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, and UNCCD, as well as the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNFCCC were invited to brief the Council Members on the status of negotiations, the impact of delays on negotiations and guidance provided to the replenishment, as well as financial needs for GEF-8.

The GEF team continued to prioritize and advance the efforts to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement with other climate funds. For instance, the collaboration with the Green Climate Fund led to the development of a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF (LTV), which is now in its implementation phase.

This reporting period and past year entailed a lot of hard work for the GEF and its partners to deliver, and we have done so successfully. I look forward to continuing to work closely with each of our international partners as we undertake the implementation of GEF-8.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). Covering the period from November 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.
2. Following two years of postponements and virtual interactions due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, in-person and hybrid negotiations resumed during the reporting period for some MEAs. The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC was convened from October 31 to November 12, 2021, in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The online segment of COP 4 to the Minamata Convention on Mercury took place from November 1 to 5, 2021, and the second, in-person segment of COP 4 took place in Bali, Indonesia, from March 21 to 25, 2022. The resumed sessions of the CBD's subsidiary bodies and preparatory meetings were held from March 13 to 29, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland. The GEF CEO and senior level officials also took part in various engagements, including those organized by COP Presidencies and other partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.
3. The provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued.
4. The Convention Secretariat representatives participated in the third, interim, and fourth GEF-8 replenishment meetings, held from February 2 to 4, 2022, March 8 to 9, 2022, and April 7 to 8, 2022. The UNFCCC Secretariat personnel also took part in the second and third meetings on the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and Operational Improvements, held on February 16, 2022 and April 26, 2022. The Convention Secretariats provided comments on programming directions and strategy documents.
5. Highlights reported include:
 - i. CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in the resumed sessions of CBD subsidiary bodies(SBSTTA-24, SBI-3) and preparatory meetings to COP 15, including the third Open ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG-3); consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
 - ii. UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC COP 26; consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment, LDCF/SCCF programming strategy development; support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Capacity-

- building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT); submission of national reports; and ratifications.
- iii. UNCCD: Updates on consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment, preparations for the upcoming UNCCD COP 15, and meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat.
 - iv. Stockholm Convention: Updates on national reporting, consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment and on related meetings, and events and preparations for the Stockholm Convention including the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP 15, RC COP 10, SC COP 10).
 - v. Minamata Convention: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation to COP 4; consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment, signatures, and ratifications, the Special Programme, the Specific international Programme,.
 - vi. 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, the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiation process, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword by the CEO	ii
Executive Summary.....	iv
Introduction	1
Convention on Biological Diversity	2
Summary of Key Activities	2
Joint Subsidiary Bodies and Open-Ended Working Group Meetings and Outcomes.....	4
Ratifications and Accessions	5
National Reporting	6
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	6
Summary of Key Activities	6
Programming Strategy Development	8
Ratifications and Accessions	9
National Reporting	9
COP 26 and Outcomes	10
Additional Meetings and Consultations.....	12
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	13
Summary of Key Activities	13
Ratifications and Accessions	14
National Reporting	14
Additional Meetings and Consultations.....	15
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	15
Summary of Key Activities	15
Ratifications and Accessions	15
National Reporting	16
Minamata Convention on Mercury	16
Summary of Key Activities	16
Ratifications and Accessions	18
National Reporting	19
Specific International Programme	19
Special Programme	19
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.....	20
Relations with Other International Institutions.....	20
Adaptation Fund	20
Green Climate Fund	22
UN Forum on Forests	24
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	24
SAMOA Pathway	25

Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)	25
United Nations Environment Assembly	26
Annex I: Decisions and Guidance of the Conferences of Parties to the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Stockholm Convention, and Minamata Convention and GEF Responses	27
Table 1: Decision Adopted by CBD COP 14 Decision 14/23 and GEF Responses	27
Table 2: Decision Adopted by UNFCCC COP26 and CMA 3, Conclusion of SBI 52 and SBI 55 and SBSTA 52 and SBSTA 55	32
Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 14 and GEF Responses	51
Table 4: GEF’s Response to the Guidance Received from the Online Segment of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	53
Table 5: GEF’s response to the Guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention – Updated for COP 4	55

INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The report also provides information on GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report presented to the 61st GEF Council held in December 2021. It covers the period from November 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.
3. International processes that were mostly confined to limited virtual engagements due to the COVID-19 pandemic started to resume in the reporting period. Planning for landmark Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and negotiation meetings that were originally scheduled in 2020 began, despite continued uncertainties and resultant delays.
4. During the reporting period, UNFCCC and Minamata Convention held their COP meetings. UNFCCC COP 26 and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), which met from October 31, 2021 to November 13, 2021, issued various guidance and decisions of relevance to the GEF, which informed the GEF-8 replenishment and LDCF/SCCF strategy development discussions. Following a first virtual segment held from November 1 to 5, 2021, the Minamata COP 4 resumed in-person from March 21 to 25, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia. Parties were briefed on the progress of the GEF-8 replenishment and support provided by the GEF. As the GEF continues to be covered by the initial guidance from Minamata COP 1, no specific guidance was provided to the GEF. The GEF Secretariat remained engaged in discussions to support and maintain momentum for the Conventions to reach outcomes that are individually successful and also mutually reinforcing.
5. Delays in the organizational process for other Conventions meant delays in the issuance of guidance and decisions of relevance to the GEF to inform the GEF-8 replenishment. As such, engagement of the Convention Secretariats in the replenishment process and regular consultations between the Convention and GEF Secretariats were viewed as important alternatives to help facilitate alignments between ongoing Convention themes and deliberations with the programming directions and policy.
6. The provision of finance through the GEF in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued in the reporting period, as well as consultations with countries and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat.

7. Despite the challenges, the GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground, and to help enhance ambition of landmark decisions and agreements to be reached, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

8. Initiated in early 2021, the GEF-8 replenishment process continued during the reporting period. As was done for the earlier drafts of the Programming Directions, the Convention secretariats provided comments on the third draft. Their feedback was reflected in the document posted for the third replenishment meeting, which took place from February 2 to 4, 2022. The Convention secretariats were also invited to take part in the interim and Fourth replenishment meetings held on March 8 to 9, and April 7 to 8, 2022.

9. The UNFCCC Secretariat personnel participated in the Programming Strategy meeting for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the GEF-8 period.

10. The Executive Secretaries of the CBD, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, and UNCCD, as well as the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNFCCC participated in the 61st GEF Council and discussed the status of negotiations, impact of delays on negotiations and guidance provision to the replenishment, as well as financial needs for GEF-8.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

11. The organization of CBD COP 15 has been adapted to the exceptional circumstances stemming from the COVID pandemic. COP 15 as well as the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 10) and Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP 4) are held in two phases. Phase one (COP 15.1) took place mainly virtually from October 11 to 15, 2021, with limited in-person participation in Kunming, China. Phase two (COP 15.2) is scheduled to be held in the third quarter of 2022 in Kunming, China.

12. The Executive Secretary of the CBD participated in the 61st GEF Council in December 2021. She highlighted how the results of COP 15.1 built ambition for the GBF to be adopted at COP 15.2. While postponements of the CBD subsidiary bodies' sessions would further delay Parties' input into the GEF-8 replenishment process, she noted that close collaboration and consultation with the GEF Secretariat were ensuring alignment between the draft GBF and the draft GEF-8 programming directions. She emphasized that a strong GEF-8 replenishment was essential for the many pivotal decisions to be made in multilateral processes in the coming months, including COP15.2.

13. After two and a half years of virtual discussions, the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the GBF convened for face-to-face discussions in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 14 to 29, 2022, to prepare the foundations for COP 15.2 to adopt the GBF.

14. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in these resumed sessions, which followed parts 1 of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, convened virtually in May-June 2021, and part 1 of OEWG-3, held online in August-September 2021. In addition to formal sessions and contact groups related to the financial mechanism, the GEF staff participated, upon invitation, to coordination meetings of a regional group and a major stakeholder group to inform on GEF's ongoing support to the CBD implementation, upcoming support to the GBF and answer questions. A synthesis of the SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and OEWG-3 outcomes that are of direct relevance to the GEF is provided in the next subsection.

15. The GEF report to CBD COP 15 was produced and provides information on the activities in the biodiversity focal area in response to the COP 14 guidance to the GEF, received in November 2018. The report covers the period from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021, corresponding to three years and six months of the GEF-7 period. The GEF plans to submit the report to the CBD by May 30, 2022 upon Council approval by mail.

16. GEF continued to work on the timely provision of Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support grants funded by the GEF-7 biodiversity set-aside enabling activities window. The objective of these grants is to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the GBF by providing financial and technical support to GEF-eligible Parties to the CBD in their work to review and align their national targets, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and finance with the GBF. Ten Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) have been approved thus far which will provide resources to 70 countries. An additional ten MSPs are expected to be approved in the month of May, 2022. They are implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

17. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat also participated in several events and meetings organised to maintain momentum and advance the preparations for COP 15:

- (a) On November 6, 2021, the GEF CEO participated in the side event to UNFCCC COP26 organized by the CBD Secretariat and entitled "*CBD COP 15: Strengthening Synergies through the Post 2020 GBF and Promoting Transformation Change to Restore Balance with Nature*".
- (b) The GEF CEO participated in the One Ocean Summit organized in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the support of the United Nations, in Brest, France, from February 9 to 11, 2022. He provided GEF's perspective in the workshop entitled "*What and whom are we protecting?*

Unlocking multiple MPA benefits for nature, climate and people” and contributed a video to the high-level segment.

18. The CBD Secretariat participated in the third, the interim and the fourth GEF-8 replenishment meetings. The CBD Secretariat reviewed the third and fourth drafts of the GEF-8 Programming Directions document and provided comments on the document which the GEF Secretariat accommodated in the version presented to the third and interim Replenishment Meeting.

Joint Subsidiary Bodies and Open-Ended Working Group Meetings and Outcomes

19. SBSTTA-24 adopted 11 documents to be taken up by the COP, with a number of issues that need further deliberations. It provided scientific and technical advice to support the review of the draft GBF and addressed the monitoring framework for the GBF, the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5), the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), synthetic biology, invasive alien species, risk assessment and risk management, the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, and Biodiversity and health. SBSTTA agreed to carry out intersessional work on marine issues, as the two related recommendations were left mostly undiscussed to devote more time to matters more directly related to the GBF.

20. The GEF is cited in five documents approved by SBSTTA. Notably, the GEF is invited to support national, regional, and global biodiversity monitoring systems, support the implementation of the plan of action for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, and consider providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages. These invitations will be integrated in the draft decision providing consolidated guidance to the GEF and will be reviewed at COP 15. The GEF is also referenced in the recommendation on invasive alien species and in SBSTTA's proposition for the monitoring framework for the post-2020 GBF: the amount of funding provided through the GEF and allocated to the biodiversity focal area is suggested as a complementary indicator for the GBF target 19 related to means of implementation, for which the headline indicator would be total Official Development Assistance for biodiversity.

21. SBI-3 adopted 20 documents, some of which had bracketed text, to be taken up by the COP. The SBI notably adopted recommendations related to “The Financial Mechanism”, including the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, “Financial Mechanism: Elements of guidance to the GEF”, “Resource Mobilisation”, “Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention”, “Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer”, “Implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol”, and “Evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol”.

22. While containing many brackets, the draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the CBD for the 8th replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund is in line with the GEF-8 biodiversity focal area strategy and the overall GEF-8 Programming Directions as approved by the fourth GEF-8 Replenishment meeting.

23. The SBI-3 recommendation on Resource Mobilization was adopted with the insertion, at the request of the co-chairs of the related contact group, of a section capturing ideas expressed by Parties with regard to resource mobilization for the GBF, including a “Global biodiversity fund”, a “Placeholder for the elaboration of potential new funds and new functions to support the financial mechanism”, “Payment for environmental services schemes”, the “Global Environment Facility”, the “Task Force for Nature Related Financial Disclosures”, and a “Multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism”. The SBI-3 recommendation clarifies that these should be considered as placeholders to allow these issues to be further discussed in preparation for and during COP15. SBI-3 accordingly agreed on intersessional work on resource mobilization, which will take the form of virtual consultations to be held before the OEWG-4.

24. OEWG-3 made progress in various sections of the GBF and advanced work on indicators. One significant step accomplished during the session was the agreement to streamline the architecture of the GBF by deleting the proposed 2030 milestones and integrating relevant aspects in the goals and/or targets of the framework. Negotiations on Goal D and target 19, both related to means of implementations, echoed the discussions under the SBI-3 agenda item on Resource Mobilization, with divergent views expressed on the matter. Following complex deliberations, OEWG-3 also agreed on a way forward and a schedule of intersessional work on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources. The corresponding OEWG-3 recommendation notably contains a bracketed appendix entitled “Proposal for the establishment of a multilateral benefit sharing mechanism”, which designates the GEF to operate a global biodiversity fund to collect monetary benefits shared under the proposed multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism, and to support on-the-ground activities aimed at the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

25. With insufficient progress overall, and some draft GBF targets left undiscussed, OEWG-3 decided to convene a 4th session from June 21 to 26, 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ratifications and Accessions

26. As of April 26, 2022, there were 196 Parties to the CBD, 173 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 49 Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found at:
<https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

27. With the addition of Tunisia and Bahamas since the last report to the GEF Council, the total number of Parties increased to 133 for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD. Bahrain, St. Lucia and Ukraine are expected to become Parties in the next quarter.

National Reporting

28. The Convention Secretariat has received a total of 186 sixth national reports, 103 of which are available through the Convention's online submission system. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

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

30. The 26th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 26) and took place from October 31 to November 12, 2021, in Glasgow, United Kingdom. A GEF Secretariat delegation headed by the GEF CEO participated in the COP 26 meetings.

31. At COP 26, the GEF highlighted various tasks carried out to respond to guidance from COP 25 and its continued efforts to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including in relation to its role regarding the implementation of the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework (ETF). A Ministerial pledging meeting for the LDCF was organized, where eleven countries and one region announced contributions totalling \$413 million to the LDCF. More details on the GEF participation to COP 26 and the key aspects of the guidance the GEF received at COP 26 are included below.

32. The Deputy Executive Secretary participated in the 61st GEF Council session on December 8 2022, under the Relations with Conventions agenda item, and provided an overview of the major outcomes of the Glasgow COP, which was one of the biggest UNFCCC conferences in history. He briefed the Council that the Paris Agreement rulebook and the ETF had been completed after six years of negotiations. He also noted the critical importance of adaptation, given equal urgency and importance as mitigation. He also mentioned the compromise reached on article 6 of the Paris Agreement, among other key outcomes.

33. The GEF Secretariat staff continued to participate and be observers in events and meetings held virtually in an effort to advance work and to continue momentum and action, including the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues and meetings of Constituted Bodies, such as the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC).

34. Regarding mobilization of finance, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation projects, including through the programming of medium-sized projects and through full-sized projects included in the Work Program approved by the 61st Council in December 2021. The LDCF and SCCF continued to provide resources for urgent and immediate adaptation priorities in the reporting period, through one LDCF Work Program approved by the

31st LDCF/SCCF Council in December 2021, totalling approximately \$19.6 million, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The LDCF continued to make progress to “leave no LDCs behind,” aiming to support all 47 LDCs eligible for support in the GEF-7 period with concrete adaptation investments based on national priorities.

35. Since the last report, three GEF-8 replenishment meetings enabled the further development of the GEF Trust Fund programming strategy for the Climate Change focal area and for the Integrated Programs, which are expected to deliver a significant portion of the climate-related impacts during GEF-8, as summarized below.

36. The LDCF/SCCF programming strategy development process also continued during the reporting period, with the organization of the second meeting on February 16, 2022 and the third and final meeting on April 26, 2022, as summarized below.

37. Following the work carried out in the previous reporting period to define and communicate modalities of support provision for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), as requested by COP 24 and 25 decisions, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation. To date, the GEF has approved BTR support to 11 countries for 12 BTRs, and nine additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation. In addition, an Umbrella Program has been developed for consideration by the 62nd GEF Council. This Umbrella Program includes funding for up to 62 BTRs. The GEF Secretariat is working closely with these countries and GEF agencies to provide timely support, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024.

38. On February 24, 2022, the GEF organized a third informal consultation on BTRs. The consultation was organized to receive informal feedback from Parties and relevant stakeholders and help identify and assess any necessary adjustments to the current operational guidelines and costing related to the support for BTR preparation, in light of guidance received at CMA 3.¹ Participants included government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies.² The GEF Secretariat has subsequently prepared a Council information document that presents updated BTR support and modalities for the GEF-8 period.³

39. The GEF continued to provide funding to support countries through the CBIT. Each and every CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. During the reporting period, the GEF approved of one national project totalling \$1.5 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and project preparation grant (PPG). As of March 31, 2022,

¹ Decision 12/CMA.3, available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_L10E.pdf

² Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/third-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³ GEF, 2022, *Information Note on the Update to the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

the entire CBIT portfolio includes 81 projects covering 79 countries, one regional project and five global projects, totalling \$130.8 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs.

40. In the GEF-7 period, \$55.0 million of set-aside resources had been notionally allocated to the CBIT. As of March 31, 2022, \$77.6 million has been programmed to support 40 CBIT projects. Progress made on the CBIT including a portfolio analysis and outlook is presented to Council in an information document⁴.

41. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued to advance on the efforts to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Having collaborated to develop a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF (LTV), which was presented to the GEF Council at its 60th meeting in June 2021 and to the GCF Board at its 29th meeting in June 2021,⁵ the GEF and GCF Secretariats moved to the LTV implementation phase. A summary of the status of implementation is provided the LTV section below, as well as in a joint report submitted to the GEF Council and the GCF board.⁶

Programming Strategy Development

42. The GEF-8 climate change strategy is structured to respond to COP guidance and support climate action in developing countries in line with the GEF's role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC.⁷ The strategy rests on three key pillars to support developing countries with the implementation of their NDCs and with meeting their obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

43. The first pillar is the climate change focal area programming for climate action through the country STAR allocations. The second pillar is the climate change focal area set aside, which will provide financial support for BTRs and National Communications, and for CBIT programming. Finally, the third pillar is represented by the 11 GEF-8 integrated programs, which are expected to deliver more than half of the overall GEF-8 climate mitigation impacts.

44. UNFCCC Secretariat personnel participated to the process of defining the GEF-8 climate change strategy, including through participation and technical inputs to the technical advisory meetings which provided key directions on the further development of the programming strategy.

⁴ GEF, 2022, [Progress Report of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council document GEF/C.62/Inf.05.

⁵ GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council document GEF/C.60/08.

⁶ GEF, 2022, [Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council document GEF/C.62/Inf.14.

⁷ GEF, 2022, [GEF-8 Programming Directions](#), Replenishment document GEF/R.08/29/Rev.01.

45. The LDCF/SCCF programming strategy development process, which started during the previous reporting period, continued during the reporting period. The Secretariat organized the second meeting on February 16, 2022 and the third and final meeting on April 26, 2022. The UNFCCC personnel participated in the process, and delivered opening remarks for the first and third meetings to highlight the role of the two funds and expectations for enhanced adaptation support in light of the Glasgow Climate Pact. The LDC Group also participated actively as an observer, with the Chair providing remarks at all three meetings.

46. The meetings provided inclusive and constructive opportunities to discuss the LDCF and SCCF focus and operational improvements with contributing participants, recipient country and regional representatives, among others. The GEF Secretariat updated and refined the Programming Strategy document based on feedback received. At the third meeting, the participants reached consensus on the Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements, including financial scenarios for the GEF-8 period. The document is to be presented to the 62nd LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022 for its endorsement.⁸

47. The LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy for the GEF-8 period and Operational Improvements has an overall goal to facilitate transformational adaptation in developing countries, towards achieving the Paris Agreement's global goal on adaptation, and is fully aligned with the Glasgow Climate Pact, COP and CMA guidance. Latest findings of the IPCC reports are also reflected in the strategy.

Ratifications and Accessions

48. As of March 31, 2022, there are 197 Parties to the Convention. 195 Parties have signed and 193 Parties have ratified the Paris Agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

National Reporting

49. The following is the total number of National Communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of March 31, 2022:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **145**
- (c) Third National Communications: **93**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **17**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **2**

⁸ GEF, 2022, [*GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries and Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026, and Operational Improvements*](#), Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF/SM.3/01

(f) Sixth National Communications: 1

50. As of March 31, 2022, a total of 78 first BURs, 36 second BURs, 22 third BURs, and 10 fourth BURs from non-Annex I countries have been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

COP 26 and Outcomes

51. At COP 26, Parties agreed to the Glasgow Climate Pact, which consists of a number of actions ranging from strengthened efforts to build climate resilience, limiting greenhouse gas emissions, and the provision of \$100 billion annually to support climate action, including doubling of adaptation finance from the 2019 figure by 2025. Parties also agreed to reduce the gap between the required actions to meet the 1.5 degree goal and existing emission reduction plans. Nations are also called upon to phase down unabated coal power and inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels.

52. The GEF CEO and Chairperson led the GEF delegation, and staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process.

53. During the COP, the GEF provided a statement on GEF initiatives and achievements based on its annual report as well as an update on National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, Biennial Transparency Report and funding provided for CBIT initiatives. The GEF delegation also participated in contact groups and other sessions as requested to provide briefings to Parties and to respond to questions on GEF activities, its support to Parties, and its responses to COP guidance.

54. The Glasgow Climate Pact included various elements of relevance to the GEF and the LDCF, for instance: welcoming of the pledges by developed countries to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties, including contributions to the LDCF; urging the Financial Mechanism and others to further scale up investments and calling for increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance, including grants and concessional finance; encouraging efforts to enhance access to finance by the Financial Mechanism. In addition, the Glasgow Climate Pact also re-affirmed the importance of the GEF's mandate to facilitate the provision of increased support for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, welcoming the guidance provided to the GEF which requested the GEF to continue to facilitate improved access to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency by developing country Parties.

55. The GEF received guidance from COP 26 and the third Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 3), which, along with GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 2 of Annex I to this document. The COP 26 guidance to the GEF:

56. Reaffirmed the key role of the GEF as provider of financial resources for climate action in developing countries, as well as for the implementation of the ETF.

57. Welcomed the work undertaken by the GEF on approval of climate change projects and programs, integration of climate change in its other focal areas, collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, and adoption of the private sector strategy.

58. Called for a robust eighth replenishment of the GEF and encouraged the GEF to consider ways to increase financial resources allocated for climate action and to prioritize projects that generate environmental co-benefits.

59. Requested the GEF, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to take note of and consider the needs and priorities for climate finance of developing country Parties, including with regards to the allocation of resources through the STAR system and the non-grant instrument.

60. Encouraged the GEF to reinforce its efforts to engage with and mobilize resources from the private sector under its eighth replenishments.

61. On transparency, CMA 3:

- (a) Welcomed the actions taken by the GEF to provide support to developing countries for the preparation of the biennial transparency reports (BTR) and to build their institutional and technical capacity for the ETF, including through the CBIT;
- (b) Encouraged the GEF, Parties and Implementing Agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that this support is delivered in a timely manner;
- (c) Requested the GEF to continue to facilitate improved access to the CBIT by developing country Parties; and
- (d) Also requested the GEF to consider increasing its support for the ETF as part of its eighth replenishment process and to consider combining the application processes for support for producing BTRs, including by considering raising the funding ceiling of expedited enabling activity projects, and for CBIT projects, as appropriate, and by developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing BTRs.

62. After the successful experience at COP 25, the GEF and the GCF again hosted a joint pavilion at COP 26 which served as a common space for events and meetings, and which allowed for enhanced interactions between the staff of the two Secretariats.

63. At the GEF-GCF Pavilion, the GEF organized several high-level events, including on the Great Green Wall initiative, pathways to reach net-zero, investing in climate adaptation for the most vulnerable, CBIT, the GEF Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, nature-based infrastructure, energy efficiency in buildings, green hydrogen, as well as the launch of the GEF-7 Global Electric Mobility Program. Events coverage and news articles related to GEF participation in COP 26 are available on the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-unfccc-cop26>.

64. The GEF CEO and Chairperson participated in several events, including most notably the following ones:

- (a) How to align public and private financial flows for the implementation of the three Rio conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification?, on November 1, 2021.
- (b) A new vision of climate finance from indigenous peoples and local communities, on November 1, 2021.
- (c) Great Green Wall: Promoting Transformational Change to accelerate the implementation of the GGW initiative, on November 1, 2021.
- (d) Leaders Pledge for Nature – High Ambition Coalition event, on November 2, 2021.
- (e) Net-zero pathways: Moving from Aspirations to Actions, on November 2, 2021.
- (f) Private sector leadership, innovation and ambition in climate and nature, on November 3, 2021.
- (g) GEF-GCF Long Term Vision - Mobilizing finance for climate action and nature protection, on November 5, 2021.
- (h) CBD COP 15: Strengthening Synergies through the Post 2020 GBF and Promoting Transformation Change to Restore Balance with Nature, on November 6, 2021.
- (i) GEF Side Event: Enhancing Climate Ambition through Enhanced Transparency: Perspectives on the Progress and Role of the CBIT, on November 6, 2021.
- (j) LDCF/SCCF pledging event, on November 9, 2021.

65. Staff from the GEF Secretariat and from other climate funds participated to the 5th Annual Dialogue of the Climate Finance Delivery Channels, organized by the GCF on November 3, 2021, at the GCF-GEF Pavilion in Glasgow during COP 26. This annual platform, attended by the GEF, GCF, Climate Investment Funds and the Adaptation Fund, is intended to provide a forum for the exchange of views and for the exploration of new areas of cooperation between the major multilateral providers of climate finance.

66. The GEF in its report to COP 27, stands ready to elaborate on the steps taken to fully implement the recent guidance provided. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2021, until June 30, 2022, is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2022, upon approval by the GEF Council.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

67. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has continued to actively consult with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the GEF-8 replenishment to ensure that the proposed GEF Programming Directions address UNFCCC and Paris Agreement priorities and guidance from COP 26 and CMA 3 and to facilitate synergies with other conventions towards greater effectiveness and impact. Input from the UNFCCC Secretariat has been sought through different

channels and at various levels, including through, technical bilateral discussions, engagement of the UNFCCC Secretariat in the third GEF-8 replenishment meeting and through written comments on proposed Programming Directions.

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

- (a) PATPA side-event at COP26 on November 10, 2021;
- (b) “Paris Committee on Capacity Building Toolkit” virtual webinar on March 15, 2022;
- (c) 41st Least Developed Countries Expert Group meeting (virtual participation) on March 21-23, 2022;
- (d) 27th Standing Committee on Finance meeting (virtual participation) on March 22 to 23, 2022;
- (e) 24th meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on March 22-25, 2022, and March 28, 2022;
- (f) 1st Technical Expert Dialogue on the New Collective Quantified Goal (virtual participation) on March 24-25 March 2022;
- (g) 19th meeting of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) Advisory Board on March 28-30, 2022.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

69. During the reporting period, the Secretariat undertook preparations for the UNCCD COP 15, to be held from May 9 to 20, 2022, In Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire.⁹ The GEF Secretariat has prepared and submitted the GEF report to the COP.¹⁰ The report was approved by Council by mail in February 2022 and subsequently submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat on March 9, 2022.

70. The Executive Secretary participated in the 61th GEF Council and highlighted the multiple benefits that accrue from efforts to restore degraded lands, including income for the poor, food for local communities, ecosystems and biodiversity restoration, and carbon sequestration. He also informed Council on the preparations for the upcoming UNCCD COP15.

71. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide feedback to GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and Agencies on the GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) focal area strategy, LD-related Impact

⁹ <https://www.unccd.int/cop15>

¹⁰ GEF, 2022, *Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*.

Programs and Enabling Activity support through country and constituency level outreach and engagement throughout the reporting period with the aim to fully program all available resources in GEF-7.

72. With regard to Enabling Support for countries to fulfil their reporting obligations to UNCCD, 122 countries provided their letters of endorsement to UNEP, which submitted them for funding in six tranches under the GEF umbrella project for UNCCD reporting. The funding for countries will be made available by UNEP as soon as their respective tranches are approved, which will be well-ahead of the upcoming UNCCD reporting exercise.

73. UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism representatives participated actively in the process of further refining the GEF-8 Programming Directions by providing written comments.

Ratifications and Accessions

74. As of March 31, 2022, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union. The details can be found here:

https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVII-10&chapter=27&clang_en

National Reporting

75. The next reporting by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework will be slightly postponed to the next Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) with a date still to be decided, which provides more time for Parties as they face pandemic-related delays. Enabling activity funding has been made available for all eligible countries in GEF-7 to build capacity for reporting and prepare the reports. GEF is making available \$100,000 each for GEF eligible countries for UNCCD Enabling Activities for national reporting and planning. This amount of \$100,000 is above the respective STAR allocations and includes GEF agency fees. Access to funding is provided through an umbrella project managed by UNEP. 122 countries have provided OFP endorsement letters and UNEP has submitted the funding requests to GEF accordingly. Out of six tranches submitted for funding, one has been approved in the reporting period and others are expected to be approved by the end of the GEF-7 cycle.

76. Additional support is being provided through an approved Global Support Program, in form of a medium-sized project, to enable the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate the reporting process through technical assistance and virtual regional workshops. GEF also provides support through an Enabling Activity project for implementing UNCCD COP 14 Decisions on drought to facilitate parties' active participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

77. The UNCCD Executive Secretary and GEF CEO had an in-person meeting at the margins of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, on March 4, 2022, in which the GEF-8 replenishment process, UNCCD-GEF collaboration towards a successful replenishment and GEF engagement in the upcoming UNCCD COP 15 were discussed.

78. GEF Secretariat staff participated virtually in a workshop for the development of the “Project Preparation Partnership for Transformative Land-based Solutions” held during the EXPO in Dubai, February 22-24, 2022.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

79. The online segment of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BC COP 15, RC COP 10, SC COP 10) held from July 26 to 30, 2021, requested the GEF to submit an updated report of the Council of the GEF to the COP for consideration during its face-to-face segment scheduled for June 6 to 17, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland. The report was transmitted for Council approval on March 2, 2022, and was approved by the GEF Council on March 16, 2022, in Decision 2/2022. The report was subsequently transmitted to the Convention Secretariat on March 18, 2022, and is posted on the COP website as the annex to document [UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36/Add.1](#).

80. The BRS Secretariat participated in the third, the interim and the fourth GEF-8 replenishment meetings. The BRS Secretariat were invited and subsequently provided comments on documents for the third replenishment meeting.

81. The Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO participated virtually on February 14, 2022, in an event of the Geneva Environment Network, co-organized by the secretariats of the BRS and Minamata conventions, on the topic of the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and ambitions for the Chemicals and Waste Cluster.

82. The Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions and the GEF CEO held a bilateral meeting during UNEA 5.2 in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 2, 2022, to discuss the participation of the GEF CEO in the high-level segment of the COPs as well as in the in-person segment of the COP.

Ratifications and Accessions

83. During the reporting period, Grenada ratified the Convention bringing the number of ratifications to 185. The status of ratifications is available at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabcid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National Reporting

84. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention's entry into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of April 30, 2022, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and updates are as follows:

NIP Phase	Number of Parties that have submitted	Change since last report
Initial NIP	176	1
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	107	3
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	98	4
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	64	3
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	42	2
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	25	3
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	9	2

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

86. The Convention Secretariat online reporting dashboard for Parties to directly upload their data on inventories can be found on this link:

<http://www.pops.int/Countries/Reporting/ReportingDashboard/tabid/7477/Default.aspx>

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

87. The Minamata Secretariat participated in the third, the interim and the fourth GEF-8 replenishment meetings. The Minamata Secretariat were invited and subsequently provided comments on documents for the third replenishment meeting.

88. The second segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP 4.2) was convened in an in-person format from March 21 to 25, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia.

89. The GEF Secretariat attended the COP with a limited delegation led by the GEF CEO.

90. The GEF provided an update on the GEF 8 replenishment to the COP as well as presented the GEF report on its support of the implementation of the Convention. There was support from all Parties on the Report provided by the GEF and many Parties welcomed the

work in the GEF-8 replenishment for a higher allocation of the Chemicals and Waste focal area. Some regions and Parties called for more ambition in resources for the focal area. No contact group on financial resources was established, as no new guidance to the GEF was envisaged at this COP.

91. The GEF hosted a high-level panel discussion during the COP titled "*Integration to end the use and emissions of mercury*". In the context of the implementation of the Minamata Convention, this panel discussion explored integration to address mercury in multiple sectors, how the convention's implementation promotes integration and how can we build projects and programs at national level to integrate more fully.

92. The COP took several major decisions that are relevant to the GEF's role in the financial mechanism including amending the Convention to accelerate the phase out of currently listed products and add new ones. The COP also decided to consider, at its next meeting, addition of products and processes that did not reach consensus at this COP. These amendments will be funded starting in GEF 8 by the GEF.

93. The following is a summary of the key decisions taken by the COP:

94. **Review of the Financial Mechanism:** The terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism which includes the GEF and the specific international program was adopted by the COP. The final text will be available once the report of the COP has been published.

95. Amendments to the Convention:

(a) Amendments to part I of Annex A to phase-out by 2025:

- i. compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner;
- ii. cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps of all lengths for electronic displays not already phased out;
- iii. strain gauges used in plethysmographs;
- iv. melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressure sensors, except those installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available;
- v. mercury vacuum pumps;
- vi. tire balancers and wheel weights;
- vii. photographic film and paper; and
- viii. propellant for satellites and spacecraft.

- (b) Amendments to part II of Annex A on dental amalgam to require parties to:
- i. exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners; and
 - ii. exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommend against the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of patients under 15 years, and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.

96. **Consideration for future amendments:** The COP decided to consider amending part I of Annex A to set the date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date) for:

- i. button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%;
- ii. very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge switch or relay;
- iii. linear fluorescent lamps for general lighting purposes: (a) halophosphate phosphor \leq 40 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 10 mg per lamp; (b) halophosphate phosphor $>$ 40 watts; and (c) triband phosphor $<$ 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg/lamp.
- iv. The COP decided to consider at COP-5 adding the production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts to part I of Annex B.

97. **Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining:** The COP called on parties to engage with indigenous peoples, local communities, and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans. It requests the Secretariat to compile views on the needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to the use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM).

Ratifications and Accessions

98. During the reporting period, two countries became Party to the Minamata Convention: Australia and Spain.

99. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention has 128 signatures and 137 Parties, as of April 30, 2022. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties>

100. The Minamata Convention has updated its website and can be found at:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en>

National Reporting

101. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has created a website to house national reports from Parties, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), National Action Plans (NAPs) for the ASGM sector, National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention.

102. There are currently 67 MIAs submitted, 18 NAPs, 3 NIPs and 99 reports submitted under Article 21.

103. MIAs that have been submitted are available at this link:

<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/minamata-initial-assessments>

104. NAPs that have been submitted are available at this link:

<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-action-plans>

105. NIPs that have been submitted are available at this link:

<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-implementation-plans>

106. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at this link:

<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/reporting>. The deadline for the full reports is 31 December 2021

Specific International Programme

107. There were no additional meetings of the Specific International Programme during the reporting period.

Special Programme

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

109. The fifth round of applications to the Special Programme was launched on April 7, 2021. The deadline for the submission of applications was August 7, 2021.

110. The Board met from March 28 to April 1, 2022. The GEF secretariat participated and provided an update on the ongoing replenishment of the GEF.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER

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

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund

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

113. In December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), at its fifteenth session (CMP 15), decided to adopt the amended and restated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the Council of the GEF regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB). At its fifty-seventh meeting, the Council of the GEF decided to approve the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services to the AFB as in December 2019.

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

115. The Adaptation Fund continued to draw upon the cross-support services of the GEF Secretariat, supporting the technical review of project and programme proposals submitted for the thirty-eighth meeting of the AFB, which took place from April 5 to 8, 2022. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of April 8, 2022, the AFB has approved 132 concrete projects amounting to \$ 923.88million in total. In addition, five small grants for innovation were approved for a total amount of US\$ 1.2 million. As of April 8, 2022, funds available to support funding decisions were \$ 237.37 million.

116. The GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. The AFB Secretariat shared with the GEF Secretariat the

publication of its study on '[Intersectional Approaches to Gender Mainstreaming in Adaptation-Relevant Interventions](#)' which aimed to help the Adaptation Fund and its stakeholders to understand about intersectional approaches to gender mainstreaming, the value addition of using it in adaptation-relevant interventions, as well as emergent practices, limitations and lessons learnt and recommendations for applying it in developing and implementing adaptation-relevant interventions. It also informed the GEF Secretariat that the user-friendly version of the study will be shared upon it is completed. Both secretariats continued to collaborate with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme.

117. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the AFB Secretariat have coordinated closely to review and provide comments on any issues that may arise in connection with the ongoing process of the second phase of the World Bank's Trust Fund reform. The reform process is reviewing issues and opportunities for reform relating to the wide range of Trust Funds at the World Bank, including Financial Intermediary Funds, while respecting the governance and operational requirements for funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF. The secretariats continued exchanging information and prepared for a negotiation with the World Bank management on the new cost recovery measures for Trust Funds, Financially Intermediary Fund (FIF) Trustee Services, FIF Secretariats and Externally Financed Outputs released by the World Bank in March 2021.

118. The AFB Secretariat attended the 61st GEF Council and 31st LDCF/SCCF Council (virtually held) on December 1, 2021, as an observer.

119. The AFB Secretariat also attended, as observer, the Eighth Replenishment of GEF Resources – Interim Meeting on March 8-9, 2022, as well as the second and third Meetings on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.

120. As agreed among the multilateral climate funds (AF, GEF, GCF, and CIF) at the fourth annual dialogue in November 2020, and as outlined in the joint statement published in July 2021, the four funds have continued to promote complementarity and synergies that will help maximize the impact of their respective programmes in support of developing country recovery efforts with a set of priority actions.

121. The fifth Annual Climate Funds Dialogue was held at the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP 26) on November 3, 2021 with the participation of the secretariats of multilateral climate funds, including GEF, AF, GCF and CIF. The meeting was organized in two sessions: 1) discussion on the Joint Funds Roadmap, and 2) an announcement of a Joint Funds statement on enhanced complementarity and collaboration.

122. In addition, the secretariats of the GEF and AF have engaged on collaborations to discuss several operational matters including fiduciary standards, knowledge management and results tracking as well as joint events at COP 26.

123. The GEF and AFB communications units along with those of CIF and GCF coordinated the November release of the Joint Statement of enhanced collaboration and complementarity, as they did for an earlier joint statement last July on working together to support a climate-resilient recovery from COVID-19. AF's communications unit submitted an AF project story for inclusion in the GEF February newsletter and is developing an update to the AF section of the GEF website. GEF and AF communications units also coordinated input from the Manager of the AFB Secretariat for GEF's 30th anniversary publication.

124. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration, including on common events held at COP 26 in Glasgow and participating in each other's virtual events organized around different topics.

125. In addition to the cooperation between the GEF and AFB secretariats, also the independent evaluation units of the funds have engaged in collaboration. The Chair of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund (AF-TERG) was invited to be a panel member at the 3rd Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) Conference and EvalFest (21-25 February 2022) and participated in the session "Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change: Lessons from Evaluations", which was moderated by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office.

126. Earlier work of the AF-TERG was published as chapters in the edited book "Transformational Change for People and the Planet", published by the GEF IEO in January 2022. One chapter contribution focused on innovation in climate change adaptation and the role for monitoring, evaluation and learning,¹¹ while a second chapter contribution focused on how to assess the evaluability of adaptation-focused interventions.¹²

Green Climate Fund

127. The GEF and GCF Secretariats continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance complementarity, collaboration and coordinated engagement throughout the reporting period. The GEF CEO and Chairperson, the GCF Executive Director, and the respective Secretariats held several discussions and joint engagements throughout the reporting period, including on articulating complementarity between the two funds, strengthening collaborations and shared support for major initiatives, and on further promoting joint efforts on communications, outreach and sharing of lessons learned through the implementation of the respective portfolios. The GCF also took part in the GEF-8 replenishment meetings and the second and

¹¹ Gregorowski R., Bours D. (2022) Enabling Systems Innovation in Climate Change Adaptation: Exploring the Role for MEL. In: Uitto J.I., Batra G. (eds) Transformational Change for People and the Planet. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78853-7_11

¹² MacPherson R., Jersild A., Bours D., Holo C. (2022) Assessing the Evaluability of Adaptation-Focused Interventions: Lessons from the Adaptation Fund. In: Uitto J.I., Batra G. (eds) Transformational Change for People and the Planet. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78853-7_12

third LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy meeting, held during the reporting period, as an observer.

128. The Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration of the GEF and GCF was presented to the June 2021 GEF Council.¹³ It was presented to the 29th meeting of the GCF Board, held on June 29 to July 2, 2021, as part of the GCF Secretariat report. As requested by Council, the GEF Secretariat has submitted an information document that presents a summary of the presentation and discussion of the 26th GCF board meeting.¹⁴ The LTV document identifies specific areas of cooperation where complementarity of action can increase efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the respective strategies and interventions.

129. During the reporting period, the GEF and the GCF Secretariats collaborated closely towards the operationalization of the LTV. The LTV Steering Committee (SC) was formed, with four representatives for each institution serving on the body. A preparatory meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Glasgow on November 4, 2021 during COP 26. Another meeting of the Steering Committee was held virtually, on February 28, 2022. The Committee discussed the development and adoption of the LTV workplan, the approach to prioritize major initiatives for joint programming and the key principles informing this work, the details of a study on methodologies and relative coordinated guidance for the two funds on this topic, and the collaboration with other climate funds.

130. The GCF and GEF also made progress on the major initiatives and communication and outreach. Consultations on the Amazon, the Great Green Wall (GGW), and e-mobility were held. A new initiative for GGW was approved by the GCF board in March 2022, while an interlinked proposal has been presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council for approval in June 2022. Furthermore, LTV and efforts to enhance complementarity were referenced in the GEF Trust Fund Programming Directions as well as the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy for the GEF-8 period, in order to facilitate the LTV implementation and to clarify opportunities support interested countries.

131. Finally, during the reporting period the GEF and the GCF collaborated closely in their respective participation to COP 26. Based on the successful piloting of a joint Pavilion at COP 25, the two funds had a joint Pavilion at COP 26 and have worked together to coordinate the calendar of events, hosting several in tandem.

132. Further details about the LTV progress are presented in a joint report to the GEF Council and GCF board.

¹³ GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council document GEF/C.60/08.

¹⁴ GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility: Summary of the Presentation and Discussion at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board](#), Council Document GEF/C.61/Inf.05.

UN Forum on Forests

133. GEF Secretariat staff continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), contributing on issues related to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and on the preparation of the 17th UN Forum on Forest (UNFF 17, May 9 to 13, 2022).

134. The GEF CEO took part of the high-level dialogue on “Upscaling actions to turn the Tide on Deforestation” organized by the CPF during UNFCCC COP26 on November 6, 2021. This initiative is a CPF response to the UN Secretary General’s call in 2019 to accelerate efforts to halt deforestation and restore forests, through ambitious, concerted action and advocacy across and beyond the UN system.

135. GEF Secretariat staff attended the Expert Group Meeting held on November 17-18, 2021, on the Preparations for the Midterm Review in 2024 of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). This Review aims at evaluating the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives. The GEF stands ready to contribute to the Review as needed as member of the CP, which is part of the IAF.

136. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in the CPF meeting held on December 13, 2021. The meeting contributed to prepare UNFF 17 and intersessional activities, including the preparations for the midterm review of the IAF, and CPF engagement in the XV World Forestry Congress (May 2-6, 2022).

137. The GEF Secretariat staff participated, on December 14, 2021, in the first Steering Committee of the Good Food Finance Network, an initiative established by the GEF project “Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes”. Approved in December 2020 as a CPF Joint Initiative co-led by UNEP and CIFOR, the project was launched on May 3, 2021, and established the Good Food Finance Network as one of its first action. The Network is expected to become a multi-sectoral community for collaborative innovation, working to bring sustainable food systems to the heart of the finance agenda.

138. As member of the group since May 2020, the GEF participated in one meeting of the CPF’s Consultative Group in support of the XV World Forestry Congress on March 14, 2022.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

139. No meetings of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues were held during the reporting period.

140. At the UNFCCC COP 26, the GEF’s first side event, held at the joint GEF-GCF pavilion, was “*A new vision of climate finance from indigenous peoples and local communities*”. It highlighted the necessity of supporting indigenous peoples and local communities to achieve the Paris agreement’s temperature goal.

141. GEF staff participated in an IPLC caucus meeting at the resumed session of CBD's subsidiary bodies and Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which took place from March 14 to 29, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. GEF Secretariat staff provided a short briefing on the replenishment, GEF's Inclusive Conservation Initiative, and other issues related to IPLCs.

SAMOA Pathway

142. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the SAMOA Pathway during the reporting period.

Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

143. In its resolution 72/249 of December 24, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. Originally planned in August 2020, the fourth IGC took place from March 7 to 18, 2022, at UN headquarters, in New-York.

144. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat staff continued to monitor the negotiation process and to make itself available to clarify GEF's procedures, relations with Conventions it serves, and its work in areas beyond national jurisdiction to all negotiating Parties. GEF staff notably participated in IGC-4, which, after two years of virtual intersessional work, enabled negotiations based on the revised draft text issued by the President of the IGC in November 2019. IGC-4 discussed a potential Financial Mechanism to be established under the BBNJ agreement. Discussions were notably held on utilizing the GEF as a core financial mechanism, providing funding in line with priorities set by the COP, with different views expressed in that regard. As synthesized in the report of the session, "further work was needed on the sources of funding to assist States parties in their implementation of the agreement, including on the question of mandatory contributions from States parties".

145. COVID restrictions did not allow for break-out rooms, so that neither line-by-line negotiations were undertaken, nor all articles of the revised draft could be discussed over the two weeks of IGC-4. While considerable progress was made, substantial work remains. Since IGC-4 was the last of the four negotiation sessions mandated by the General Assembly (resolution 72/249), it was agreed by consensus that the IGC would ask the UNGA to convene another session, IGC-5, tentatively in the last two weeks of August 2022. The President of the IGC is to issue early May a new revised draft text based on the outcomes of IGC-4 and written comments received by March 31, 2022.

United Nations Environment Assembly

146. A GEF Secretariat delegation headed by the GEF CEO participated in the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), which took place online and in Nairobi from February 28 to March 2, 2022. The overall theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,” which highlighted the pivotal role nature plays in our lives and in social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

147. The GEF CEO took part in several high-level dialogues. He participated, alongside Heads of MEAs, in the “Leadership Dialogue with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements” organized by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on March 1, 2022. The dialogue highlighted the need and the different ways to strengthen the coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at both the national and international level. The GEF CEO also participated in several side events, such as “Stepping up to Strengthen Ocean Governance under SDG14” organized by the Government of the United Kingdom on March 1, 2022, to raise the profile of ocean governance issues. The discussion focused on how effective ocean governance both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction could contribute to achieving the targets under SDG 14.

148. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in many side events related to circular economy, sustainable oceans, food systems, marine litter, and plastic pollution. In addition, the GEF Secretariat organized two key side events. The first, entitled “UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: From commitments to action for nature”, was organized in partnership with FAO and UNEP on February 28, 2022, . Ahead of the UNCCD COP15, it highlighted the tangible and measurable steps needed to protect and restore nature under the auspices of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and focused on the strategic role of GEF-8 in providing financial, technical, and policy support to enable countries to meet restoration targets. The second side event, “Time for Action: Integrated efforts for a healthy planet and people” was organized in partnership with UNEP on March 2, 2022. It underlined the need for integrated multilateral action to achieve the long-term vision and short-term objectives of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The many leading voices at the event demonstrated the joint ambition and strong cohesion between the MEAs, the donor and recipient states, and the different UN Agencies, with the GEF as a cornerstone of this integrated environmental action.

149. UNEA 5.2 adopted fourteen resolutions, one decision, and a Ministerial Declaration, as well as a political declaration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Underlining that further international action is needed by developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the resolution “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument” created an intergovernmental negotiating committee set to begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024.

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

Table 1: Decision Adopted by CBD COP 14 Decision 14/23 and GEF Responses

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<i>Welcomes the successful conclusion of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and expresses its appreciation for the continuing financial support from Parties and Governments for carrying out the tasks under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in its remaining years, and for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its first two years;</i>	No response needed.
<i>Notes that the biodiversity programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Trust Fund reflect the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, which includes the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism and the four-year framework of programme priorities (July 2018 to June 2022), as well as further guidance;¹⁵</i>	No response needed.
<i>Welcomes the Global Environment Facility's process to review and upgrade its environmental and social safeguards and the related systems of its agencies, as well as its guidance to advance gender in its new gender implementation strategy, noting that the results will be applicable to all projects funded by the Facility, and invites the Facility to inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms in this important process;</i>	The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018. ¹⁶ The updated policy is substantially consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines. The Secretariat is currently facilitating a process to review Agencies' compliance with the minimum standards contained in the updated policy.
<i>Notes the ongoing review and updating against criteria of best practice of the Global Environment Facility's policy on safeguards and rules of engagement with indigenous peoples;</i>	The GEF Council approved the updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards in December 2018. ¹⁷ The updated policy is aligned with international best practice, including with respect to engagement with indigenous peoples

¹⁵ See decision XIII/21.

¹⁶ GEF, 2018, [Updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), Council document GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01.

¹⁷ Ibid.

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
<i>Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020;</i>	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 consistent with the GEF-7 Programming Directions and the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<i>Invites the Global Environment Facility, in line with the consolidated guidance provided in decision XIII/21, to continue to provide all eligible Parties with support for capacity-building:</i> (a) On issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies; (b) On the use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, on the basis of experiences and lessons learned during the Project on Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and using resources under the biodiversity focal area;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects that aim to build capacity in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy including the ABS Clearing House taking into account the current use of the Portal housed at the CBD Secretariat.
<i>Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue making funds available to assist eligible Parties in implementing the Cartagena Protocol, in particular:</i> (a) To assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol; (b) To support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol; (c) To support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy, including the fourth national reports.
<i>Invites the Global Environment Facility and other relevant funding agencies to provide funds for</i>	The GEF will continue to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Cartagena

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;	Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<i>Expresses its appreciation</i> for the financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility for a number of eligible Parties to support the preparation of their interim national reports on the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, and notes the importance of timely availability of financial resources to support the preparation and submission of national reports by the reporting deadline;	No response needed.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements, and to make funds available to this end;	The GEF continues to support country driven projects in GEF-7 to implement the Nagoya Protocol as described in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.
<p><i>Considers</i> the sixth overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility, conducted by the Facility's Independent Evaluation Office and completed in December 2017, as a good basis for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as well as the related submissions received from Parties, and <i>invites</i> the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take the following action in order to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Continue to improve the design, management, and performance of the sixth-replenishment Integrated Approach Pilots, the seventh-replenishment impact programmes, other programmatic approaches, and multi-focal area projects in addressing drivers of environmental degradation; (b) Promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism; 	<p>As part of its ongoing support to the implementation of the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilots and the formulation, development and implementation of the GEF-7 IPs, and other programmatic approaches, the GEF remains committed to improving all elements of design, management and implementation performance.</p> <p>The GEF continues to make GEF-eligible countries aware of the processes and procedures that fall under the responsibility of the Conflict Resolution Commissioner.</p> <p>The GEF remains committed to ensure sustainability of all its projects and programs, and in particular GEF's support to sustainable financing of protected area systems, which remains a priority investment area in the GEF-7 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>The GEF continues to improve the efficiency and accountability of the GEF partnership using</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
<p>(c) Further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;</p> <p>(d) Continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;</p> <p>(e) Include the following information in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Progress in implementing the new co-financing policy; (ii) Performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies; 	<p>existing accounting and management mechanisms.</p>
<p><i>Encourages the Executive Secretary to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</i></p>	<p>Since COP 14, the GEF has been actively engaged with the CBD on the transition to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and GEF aims to continue this collaboration.</p> <p>GEF Secretariat staff have participated in the Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean sharing GEF's experiences in supporting implementation of the CBD. GEF Secretariat staff have also attended all meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary attended the 57th (December 2019), 59th (December 2020), 60st (June 2021), and 61st (December 2021) GEF Councils and presented an overview of the post-2020 framework discussions. One of OEWG co-chair also presented a summary of progress to date by the OEWG in developing the zero draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the 57th GEF Council.</p> <p>The CBD Secretariat has been consulted on the GEF-8 replenishment from the onset of the replenishment process, through participation in Technical Advisory Groups and review of draft programming directions.</p> <p>GEF Secretariat communicates and collaborates on an ongoing basis with the CBD Secretariat and</p>

CBD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	the Executive Secretary in the context of this process.

Table 2: Decision Adopted by UNFCCC COP26 and CMA 3, Conclusion of SBI 52 and SBI 55 and SBSTA 52 and SBSTA 55

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²¹	GEF's Response
COP 26 DECISIONS (2021)	
Decision 1/CP26 Glasgow Climate Pact	
<p>Paragraph 13:</p> <p><i>Welcomes the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts;</i></p>	<p>The GEF appreciates a pledge of \$413 million to the LDCF²² accounted at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for LDCF and SCCF held at COP26 in Glasgow.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF during GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 28:</p> <p><i>Urges the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action, and calls for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;</i></p>	<p>The GEF-8 Programming Strategy confirms the role of the GEF as a provider of grants and other forms of highly concessional climate finance to developing countries and integrates the consideration of climate change results across all its focal areas. The GEF-8 also continues to offer to developing countries other forms of concessional finance through its non-grant instruments (NGI) window to help unlock, mobilize and scale-up private financing.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-</p>

¹⁸ COP 26 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-26>

¹⁹ CMA 3 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-3>

²⁰ SBI 52-55 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-52-55>

²¹ SBSTA 52-55 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-52-55>

²² The GEF Secretariat organized a very successful Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for LDCF and SCCF at the COP26 in Glasgow on November 9, 2021 and generated substantial pledge of \$413 million in the new funding for the LDCF. Twelve donors, namely Belgium, the Belgian region of Walloon, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America made these historic pledges to the LDCF at the event

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
	2026) also reaffirms the catalytic role of the two funds in scaling adaptation finance in the LDCs, and presents enhanced financial scenarios to mobilize additional support to countries. The LDCF will continue to provide grant financing. The SCCF will be primarily grant based, with opportunities for non-grant support.
<p>Paragraph 30:</p> <p><i>Emphasizes the challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing finance and encourages further efforts to enhance access to finance, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism</i></p>	<p>The GEF takes note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continues to work towards streamlining its operational procedures and increasing efficiency of access to its funds.</p> <p>GEF-8 strategy incorporates some important shifts in key areas to increase operational efficiency and support to recipient countries.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat is committed to work with the rest of the GEF Partnership to revisit, over the coming months, its suite of policies, procedures, and guidelines to determine what adjustments need to be made to streamline the project cycle and increase efficiency. These adjustments will enable the GEF to pursue a more effective, responsive, and agile delivery model.</p>
<p>Paragraph 40:</p> <p><i>Urges developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change</i></p>	<p>While the GEF has not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it has been supporting activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance.</p>
<p>Decision 4/CP.26 Long-term climate finance</p>	

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>Welcomes the recent pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totalling USD 356 million) and to the Least Developed Countries Fund (totalling USD 605.3 million);</p>	As mentioned in response to paragraph 13 of decision 1/CP.26 above, the GEF appreciate additional pledge of \$413 million to the LDCF.
<p>Paragraph 22:</p> <p><i>Reiterates</i> that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, will continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action</p>	The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, technology needs assessments (TNAs), and other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.
Decision 5/CP.26 Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other institutions providing climate finance to consider the operational definitions of climate finance of the Standing Committee on Finance with a view to ensuring that finance provided addresses the needs of developing country Parties, while respecting their existing policies</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 18:</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to make use of the information contained in the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement when supporting developing country Parties in identifying and costing needs</p>	This invitation is noted.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
Decision 7/CP.26 Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1:</p> <p><i>Welcomes the reports of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session and their addenda, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to guidance received from the Conference of the Parties;</i></p>	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p><i>Also welcomes the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021), including with regard to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Approval of the climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund; (b) Integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through such integration; (c) Improvement in coordination with the Green Climate Fund; (d) Adoption of its private sector engagement strategy; (e) Adoption of the sustainable bond strategy for the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund; 	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p> <p>The GEF Trust Fund Programming Directions for the eighth replenishment period (2022-2026), and the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026) build further on the integration agenda, partnership with GCF, and private sector engagement to present enhanced opportunities for programming with impact.</p> <p>The GEF has made progress on the development and implementation of the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the GCF. Such progress is reported to the GEF Council and GCF Board as a joint report.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Encourages the Global Environment Facility, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to duly consider ways to increase the financial resources allocated for climate action, including the climate</i></p>	<p>Resources available for programming in GEF-8 for the climate change focal area have increased compared to those available in GEF-7.</p> <p>In addition, the GEF-8 strategy builds on and expands the GEF-7 integration agenda, with the</p>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>change focal area and climate co-benefits, taking into account the reporting requirement referred to in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.3, and to apply a coherent approach across its focal areas to prioritizing projects that generate environmental co-benefits;</p>	<p>approval of funding envelopes for 11 new Integrated Programs (IPs). The IPs will complement focal area investments in contributing to provide additional financing for climate action in developing countries.</p> <p>Furthermore, and in line with the guidance received in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.3, participants to the replenishment negotiations decided to increase the notional allocation to the climate change focal area set-aside window to finance enabling activities under the UNFCCC by approximately 30 percent.</p> <p>The set-aside window for enabling activities supports developing country Parties with the preparation and submission of National Communications and with the operationalization of the Enhanced Transparency Framework for action and support (ETF). The GEF supports the ETF through the provision of financial support for the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports and capacity development for transparency-related reporting through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT).</p>
<p>Paragraph 4:</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> developed country Parties to make financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility to contribute to a robust eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries in implementing the Convention and <i>encourages</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>Country pledges for GEF-8 have reached a record replenishment of \$5.25 billion for the period 2022-2026, a 30 percent rise over the previous period. More pledges could be committed to the fund later this year.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of ongoing discussions on the eighth replenishment process regarding its allocation policies under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to duly consider the needs and priorities of developing country Parties when</p>	<p>The GEF-8 strategy incorporates some important shifts in key areas to increase operational efficiency and support to recipient countries. This included most notably the adjustments to the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and measures to improve streamlining and efficiency and reduce transaction costs.</p>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>allocating resources to developing country Parties;</p>	<p>With respect to STAR, the GEF Secretariat conducted a detailed review and analysis of the GEF-7 experience of increased flexibility in the use of STAR resources by GEF recipient countries.²³ The analysis, which was presented to the GEF Council at its 61st meeting, pointed to an increasing demand for, and use of, flexibility in the utilization of STAR resources by developing country Parties. In consideration of these findings, replenishment participants decided to adopt a methodological advancement and move onto introducing the possibility for GEF recipient countries to make use of full flexibility in the programming of their allocated STAR resources.</p> <p>With respect to operational adjustments, with the adoption of the GEF-8 Policy Directions, replenishment participants agreed that “[...] Throughout GEF-8, a review of the project and program cycle will seek to identify areas for further streamlining and efficiency. Through consultations with Agencies, recipient countries and others, including STAP and the Trustee, and taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of OPS7, concrete measures will be identified and operationalized by the Secretariat”.²⁴</p> <p>The important shifts described above, which rest on the duly consideration of the needs and priorities of developing countries, will enable the GEF to pursue a more effective, responsive, and agile delivery model during the GEF-8 cycle.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p><i>Takes note of the ongoing work of the Global Environment Facility in monitoring the concentration and geographical and thematic</i></p>	<p>The GEF-8 Policy Recommendations clearly recognize the need to avoid high concentration of funding in a small number of Agencies, and to reduce the risks associated with it.²⁵ The GEF-8 Policy Recommendations also reaffirmed the</p>

²³ GEF, 2021, [The Use of Flexibility of STAR](#), Council document GEF/C.61/Inf.08.

²⁴ GEF, 2022, [GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation](#), Replenishment document GEF/R.08/31.

²⁵ GEF, 2022, [Revised Policy Recommendations](#), Replenishment document GEF/R.08/32.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement, of the Global Environment Facility Partnership and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from developing country Parties in the Partnership, including by allowing them to serve as executing agencies, as appropriate;</p>	<p>importance of country ownership in the GEF and that countries are free to choose their preferred GEF Agency to implement GEF projects.</p> <p>In an effort to find the balance between these two objectives, as requested by the Replenishment Participants to the GEF-8 replenishment negotiations, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10 percent of the approved amounts during GEF-8.</p> <p>In addition, also in line with the GEF-8 Policy Recommendations, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational ceiling for any one Agency of no more than 30 percent of approved amounts during GEF-8.</p> <p>With regards to the participation of national and regional entities from developing country Parties, the GEF already allows, and indeed encourages, national and regional entities to serve as executing entities. Such executing entities typically work directly with the eighteen GEF Implementing Agencies and the use of government agencies as project executing entities was indeed embedded in over two-third of the projects approved in GEF-7.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) also builds on the improvements made in GEF-7 period in terms of agency concentration and engagement of additional Agencies in adaptation programming. In GEF-8, the whole-of-society approach and inclusive adaptation support is expected to generate additional opportunities to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from recipient countries as executing partners.</p>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to further enhance the role of national agencies and civil society organizations as executing agencies in order to enhance country ownership of projects and programmes funded by the Global Environment Facility and prevent implementing agencies from serving simultaneously as executing agencies;</i></p>	<p>The GEF continues to make concerted efforts to encourage engagement of local stakeholder as executing partners at the project level.</p> <p>Arrangements for Implementing Agencies to serve also as executing partners are approved only on an exceptional basis, with request from recipient countries.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Welcomes with appreciation the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund, amounting to USD 605.3 million, and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to support adaptation and technology transfer;</i></p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges to the LDCF, and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF to support adaptation and technology transfer.</p> <p>Refer paragraph 9 below on SCCF.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund, to continue to assist developing country Parties in accessing resources in an efficient manner;</i></p>	<p>The SCCF has had limited donor support throughout GEF-7 period. During this reporting period, optimization of SCCF was discussed as a part of the Adaptation Programming Strategy development. Participants have agreed to focus the SCCF support on two areas building on its strengths and capacity to support SIDS and vulnerable geographies, and to promote technology transfer, through innovation and private sector engagement for all developing countries. The GEF stands ready to engage with donors to encourage support to the SCCF, so that the fund can address its mandate and serve developing countries in an efficient manner.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Calls upon the Global Environment Facility to continue to improve the governance framework</i></p>	<p>The GEF-8 Replenishment Participants, having also considered the findings of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office's Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF,²⁶</p>

²⁶ GEF IEO, 2022, *Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF: Working Toward a Greener Global Recovery*.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>for its agencies and the standards to which the implementing partners are accountable;</p>	<p>recognized the considerable advances made by the GEF through extensive revisions and updates to its policies and approaches related to Stakeholder Engagement, Gender Equality and Environmental and Social Safeguards, and supported the continued implementation of these policies and approaches.</p> <p>Over the GEF-7 cycle, the GEF Council continued to improve the governance framework and the relative accountability standards for its eighteen implementing Agencies. As recently as 2019, the GEF Council upgraded the policies for GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards²⁷, Project Monitoring²⁸, and the policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards²⁹. The policy on Gender Equality was updraged in 2018.³⁰</p> <p>In addition to the policy updates highlighted above, the GEF Secretariat will take action to implement the GEF-8 Replenishment Recommendations related to measures to continue to reduce the concentration of funding among a small number of Agencies, while respecting the principle of country ownership,</p> <p>Finally, the GEF will also undertake a comprehensive independent Third Party Review of Agency alignment with these policies, including implementation capacity, starting before the end of the GEF-7 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11:</p> <p><i>Takes note that financial resources allocated for the non-grant instrument under the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility increased to USD 136 million from USD 110 million under the sixth replenishment and encourages the Global Environment Facility,</i></p>	<p>The GEF continues to recognize the principle of country ownership and takes into account the priorities for developing countries. Under the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the indicative allocation to the non-grant instrument to \$191 million from \$149 million in GEF-7.</p>

²⁷ GEF, 2019, [Updated Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards](#), Council document GEF/C.57/04/Rev.02.

²⁸ GEF, 2019, [Policy on Monitoring](#), Policy document ME/PL/03.

²⁹ GEF, 2019, [Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), Policy document SD/PL/03.

³⁰ GEF, 2017, [Policy on Gender Equality](#), Policy document SD/PL/02.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
during its discussions on the instrument under the eighth replenishment, to continue to take into account needs and priorities of developing countries, as well as their different national circumstances;	
<p>Paragraph 12:</p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider updating its policy on gender equality to include protection against discrimination;</i></p>	<p>The GEF Gender Equality Policy³¹, and the accompanying Guidelines³² are still at the early stages of implementation. The guiding principles of the existing Policy address the issue of protection from discrimination by specifying that GEF activities address and do not exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities, by stipulating inclusive stakeholder engagement in the design and implementation of GEF-Financed Activities and in decision-making.</p> <p>GEF-8 Policy Directions³³ extends the GEF's Inclusion Agenda to capture important human rights principles including non-discrimination, participation; and gender-responsive approaches was reaffirmed as one of the cross-cutting themes in GEF programming.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13:</p> <p><i>Recognizes that the Global Environment Facility does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programmes;</i></p>	<p>The GEF policy on co-financing (GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01) establishes that while "Co-Financing is required for all GEF-financed Full-Sized Projects, Medium-Sized Projects and programs", "the Secretariat does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of Co-Financing or Investment Mobilized in its review of individual projects and programs."</p> <p>Co-financing is not required for the LDCF/SCCF projects.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14:</p> <p><i>Encourages the Global Environment Facility to reinforce its efforts to engage with and mobilize</i></p>	<p>As mentioned in GEF's response to Paragraph 11 above, under the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the allocation to the non-grant instrument compared to the GEF-7 allocation.</p>

³¹GEF, 2017, [Policy on Gender Equality](#), Policy document SD/PL/02

³² GEF, 2017, [Guidelines on Gender Equality](#), Guidelines document SD/GN/02.

³³ GEF, 2022, [GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation](#), Replenishment document GEF/R.08/31.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
resources from the private sector under its eighth replenishment;	<p>The non-grant instrument window aims at helping developing countries to unlock and scale-up private financing.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) includes opportunities to foster and leverage private sector investments.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15:</p> <p><i>Takes note of ongoing discussions within the Global Environment Facility concerning the Small Grants Programme under the eighth replenishment and invites the Global Environment Facility to consider increasing the funding ceiling per project to provide adequate financial and technical support to communities and civil society organizations;</i></p>	<p>Under the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the allocation to the Small Grants Programme compared to the GEF-7.</p>
<p>Paragraph 16:</p> <p><i>Urges the Global Environment Facility to enhance its support for projects that engage with stakeholders at the local level, and to continue to provide funding for projects related to technology training and scale up South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network;</i></p>	<p>The GEF will continue to work with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, as consistent with national priorities and based on countries' requests. The ongoing cooperation with the Technology Executive Committee will also be continued as appropriate.</p>
<p>Paragraph 17:</p> <p><i>Welcomes the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility and requests the Global Environment Facility Council to enhance coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work;</i></p>	<p>The GEF has made progress on the development and implementation of the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the GCF. The GEF in collaboration with GCF is supporting major initiatives that focus on adaptation in SIDS, the Great Green Wall, and zero emissions transportation, among others.</p>
Paragraph 18:	<p>The GEF continues to recognize the needs and priorities for climate finance, including also in the</p>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²¹	GEF's Response
<p><i>Also requests the Global Environment Facility, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to take note of the needs and priorities for climate finance, including those identified in the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions, national communications and national adaptation plans, as well as in other sources of available information, including the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows and other relevant reports;</i></p>	<p>GEF-8 Programming Strategy. For instance, the GEF held an informal consultation on Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) in February 2022, to get feedback on the costing of BTRs and the operational procedures related to the support modalities for the first and subsequent reports.</p> <p>Also, as a part of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026), needs and priorities for climate finance as articulated in various documents, including national reports, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, Adaptation Gap report, as well as the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, have been taken into consideration</p>
<p>Paragraph 19:</p> <p><i>Invites Parties to submit views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility via the submission portal no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2022);</i></p>	<p>This decision is for Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 20:</p> <p><i>Requests the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 19 above when preparing its draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022);</i></p>	<p>This is a request to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).</p>
<p>Paragraph 21:</p> <p><i>Also requests the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision;</i></p>	<p>The report includes information on the steps taken from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (FY22) to implement the guidance received from COP 26.</p>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²¹	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 22:</p> <p><i>Takes note of decision 12/CMA.3 and decides to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 2–10 of that decision.</i></p>	This is a decision for Parties.
Decision 9/CP.26 Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism	
<p>Paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Welcomes the collaboration between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism and encourages the continuation of this collaboration.</i></p>	GEF representatives continue to regularly participate in the meetings of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, provide various inputs to technical papers and official documents, and present the latest information and updates concerning GEF's support for technology.
<p>Paragraph 22:</p> <p><i>Welcomes with appreciation the continuing collaboration between the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Global Environment Facility.</i></p>	See response to Paragraph 3 above.
Decision 11/CP.26 Second review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network	
<p>Paragraph 20:</p> <p><i>Encourages the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and in consultation with the Advisory Board, to liaise with the UNFCCC secretariat to further enhance resource mobilization from various sources, including the Financial Mechanism; bilateral, multilateral and private sector channels; philanthropic sources; and financial and in-kind contributions from the host organization and participants in the Network.</i></p>	The GEF continues to encourage the CTCN to utilize GEF's Country Support Program as an entry point to facilitate further coordination with the GEF's Operational Focal Points (OFPs) to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 21:</p> <p><i>Invites the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue working with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to further strengthen their linkages with the aim of scaling up the Climate Technology Centre and Network's provision of technical support to developing country Parties.</i></p>	<p>The GEF continues to encourage the CTCN to utilize GEF's Country Support Program as an entry point to facilitate further coordination with the GEF's Operational Focal Points (OFPs) to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner.</p>
CMA 3 Decision (2021)	
Decision 1/CMA.3 Glasgow Climate Pact	
<p>Paragraph 17:</p> <p><i>Welcomes the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts;</i></p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges to the LDCF, and looks forward to additional contributions.</p>
Decision 12/CMA.3 Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1:</p> <p><i>Recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–10 below</i></p>	<p>This is a decision for Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p><i>Calls upon developed country Parties to make financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility to contribute to a robust eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</i></p>	<p>The GEF acknowledges country pledges for GEF-8 have reached a record replenishment of \$5.25 billion for the period 2022–2026, a 30 percent increase over the previous GEF cycle. More pledges could be committed to the fund later this year.</p>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Welcomes the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to provide support to developing country Parties in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement for preparing their biennial transparency reports and building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement;</i></p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 4:</p> <p><i>Also welcomes that the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, established pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84, will continue to support developing country Parties, upon their request, in building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework and encourages the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that this support is delivered in a timely manner;</i></p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility to continue to facilitate improved access to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency by developing country Parties;</i></p>	Under the GEF-8 Climate Change focal area strategy, countries will have access to resources intended for Convention obligations, including CBIT support, from set-asides that do not draw on country allocations.
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p><i>Also requests the Global Environment Facility to consider increasing its support for implementation of the enhanced transparency framework as part of its eighth replenishment process;</i></p>	Under the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the GEF has increased the resources allocated to support countries in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. This support is provided from set-asides that do not draw on country individual allocations.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Further requests the Global Environment Facility to contribute to the consideration of the support provided to developing country Parties referred to in decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 42, by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Estimating the cost to developing countries of implementing the enhanced transparency framework, which includes establishing and enhancing a reporting system, as well as the full agreed cost of reporting and the cost of capacity-building for reporting; (b) Considering how to adequately incorporate the costs referred to in paragraph 7(a) above into the set-aside of the eighth replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility, while taking the necessary measures to ensure, as appropriate, that the set-aside does not impact the allocation of resources to developing countries under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources; (c) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022) on any actions taken to implement the guidance contained in paragraph 7(a–b) above and any changes to the estimated costs referred to in paragraph 7(a) above; (d) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on activities and provision of support under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and on the provision of support for reporting under the Paris Agreement, as well as monitoring and reporting on the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each element 	<p>Following the informal consultation on BTR held by the GEF in February 2022³⁴ to get feedback on the costing of BTRs and the operational procedures related to the support modalities for the first and subsequent reports, the GEF has revisited the costing structure for the BTRs. More information on the new costing structure is included in a Council information document on this subject.</p> <p>As mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, under the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the GEF has increased the set-aside resources allocated for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. These set-aside resources do not impact the allocation of resources to developing countries under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources.</p> <p>Updated information on the activities and support provided by the CBIT can be found in the CBIT Progress Reports, which is submitted to each GEF Council meeting as an information document.</p> <p>The GEF will continue to report on the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each element of project development.</p>

³⁴ Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/third-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and disbursement through implementing agencies);	
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider combining the application processes for support for producing biennial transparency reports, including by considering raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activity projects, and for Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency projects, as appropriate, and by developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports;</i></p>	<p>The possibility to submit a bundled application to request support for two subsequent BTRs is already contemplated under the current GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy and will continue to be available for Parties through GEF-8.</p> <p>The adoption of the modalities, procedures, and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and the stipulation of the GEF's mandate to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTRs occurred at COP 24, in December 2018. By that time, the seventh replenishment negotiation process of the GEF had been completed and no resources had been allocated specifically for BTR support in the GEF-8 replenishment package. Given this and the December 2024 deadline, the GEF prioritized support for the first BTR for as many countries as possible in GEF-7, which limited the possibility to combine the applications for two BTRs for the same country. In GEF-8, considering the specific funding allocation for enabling activities under the CCM set-aside, which explicitly considered the GEF's mandate to support the preparation of the first and subsequent BTRs, applications for bundled requests will be considered.</p> <p>The GEF continues to use a simplified template for all enabling activities.³⁵ As part of the request of GEF-8 Replenishment Participants to improve operational efficiency, the GEF Secretariat is working to further streamline the template for</p>

³⁵ Enabling Activity Form <https://www.thegef.org/documents/request-focal-area-enabling-activity-form-march-2019>

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
	<p>Enabling Activities, as well as for full-sized and medium-sized projects.</p> <p>With regards to the funding ceiling, the current Guidelines on Project and Program Cycle (2020 Update),³⁶ regarding expedited Enabling Activities, specify that: “single country enabling activity project up to USD 2 million is processed under the CEO expedited approval authority procedures, either as an expedited Enabling Activity up to USD 1 million or as an MSP above USD 1 million but up to USD 2 million”. The current funding ceiling therefore can accommodate the bundling of two subsequent BTRs in one single application.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Encourages the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that financing for national inventory reports and biennial transparency reports is delivered in a timely manner, including by utilizing the bundled application modality and expedited procedures for enabling activities, and requests the Global Environment Facility to monitor the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each phase of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and disbursement through implementing agencies) and report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session on the actions taken to implement the guidance contained in this paragraph;</i></p>	<p>In the reporting period, the GEF has continued to work with GEF implementing Agencies to ensure that financing for national inventories and BTRs is delivered in a timely manner. To date, GEF has approved BTR support to eleven countries for twelve BTRs, and nine additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>In addition, a large Umbrella Program is included in the Work Program to be approved at the 62nd GEF Council Meeting. This Umbrella Program will include funding for up to 62 BTRs, 26 of which have already received a Letter of Endorsement from the respective GEF Operational Focal Point. The GEF Secretariat is working closely with these countries and GEF agencies to provide timely support, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024.</p> <p>Regarding the request to monitor the timeliness of each phase of the project development and to report to the COP/CMA, specific information will</p>

³⁶ GEF, 2020, *Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy*, Council document GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

UNFCCC COP 26 Decision ¹⁸ / CMA 3 Decision ¹⁹ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁰ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²¹	GEF's Response
	be developed and included in the GEF Report to COP 27.
<p>Paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Also requests the Global Environment Facility to consider raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activities</i></p>	See response to Paragraph 8 above.
<p>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-second to fifty-fifth session, held in Glasgow from 31 October to 6 November 2021</p>	
<p>Koronivia joint work on agriculture</p> <p>Paragraph 51:</p> <p>The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the participation in the workshops referred to in paragraphs 43–44 above of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; the Adaptation Fund; the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (both administered by the GEF); and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They also welcomed the work already undertaken by these entities on issues related to agriculture.</p>	The GEF continued to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attended the related meetings, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat participated in the two parts of the Koronivia Intersessional Workshop: a) "Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security" from 1-16 June 2021; and b) "Strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances" from 12-30 October 2021. On this occasion, the GEF presented its experience and views related to the themes of the workshop.
<p>Matters relating to the least developed countries</p> <p>Paragraph 70:</p> <p>The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totalling USD 307 million, made by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the Fund</p>	The GEF appreciates pledges to the LDCF and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF to support adaptation and technology transfer.

Table 3: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 14 and GEF Responses

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
Welcomes the signature and the entry into effect of the new memorandum of understanding concluded with the Global Environment Facility Council;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Also welcomes the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and acknowledges the increase in the focal area allocation, focus on land-based actions through Impact Programs, and opportunities to enhance synergies;	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming Global Environment Facility Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;	The GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. GEF Secretariat is also encouraging project proponents to use the “Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes” for GEF-7 project design.
Requests the Global Mechanism to continue its collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF continues to collaborate with the Global Mechanism in the context of GEF-7 through various means and activities.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting Parties to meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and encourages the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate financial resources in a timely manner;	Reporting, voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and capacity-building for implementation is being supported in the context of GEF-7 UNCCD enabling activities. Global support projects have been approved and are being implemented. GEF Secretariat also informed parties during CRIC 19 on the availability of funding for national Enabling Activities and procedures to access the funding. Up to date, 86 OFP letters of endorsement to request funding for the UNCCD reporting exercise in 2022 have been submitted to UNEP for subsequent submission to the GEF.
Invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention;	In the context of the GEF-7 programming directions, and within its mandate, the GEF provides countries with options to financing relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought mitigation activities through the LD focal area funding window as well as other funding windows, including multi-trust

UNCCD COP 14 Decision	GEF's Response
	fund projects with the LDCF. An approved Enabling Activities project facilitate parties' active participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought.
Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;	Within the context of the GEF-7, the GEF continues to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.	Noted. GEF has timely submitted its report to the Conference of the Parties ahead of COP 15. The report was GEF Council approved by mail in February 2022 and submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat on March 9, 2022.

Table 4: GEF's Response to the Guidance Received from the Online Segment of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

	COP 10 (Online Segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
1	Decision SC-10/3 (Financial mechanism) Requests the Secretariat to forward the report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism and the report of the full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for the period 2022–2026 to the Global Environment Facility;	This request is to the Convention Secretariat, and both reports have been shared with the GEF Secretariat.
2	Recalls decision SC-9/15 and strongly encourages the donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund, at its eighth replenishment, to increase significantly the allocation for the Convention, to assist recipient country Parties, in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention, in fulfilling their commitments related to, among others, the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls ³⁷ as soon as possible and no later than 2028, in line with the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision; ³⁸	This guidance has been brought to the attention of donors during the replenishment process.
3	Requests the Global Environment Facility:	
(a)	To consider the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision in the negotiations of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund;	The report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism and the report of the full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for the period 2022–2026 ³⁹ were used in the preparation of the Programming Directions for the Second Replenishment Meeting for the GEF-8 in September 2021. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm

³⁷ Having a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention.

³⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/32 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33

³⁹ Ibid.

	COP 10 (Online Segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
		(BRS) Secretariat provided comments on the draft before and after this Meeting. The post-Meeting comments have been incorporated in the Draft Programming Directions considered at the Third Replenishment Meeting, scheduled for February 2022.

Table 5: GEF's response to the Guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention – Updated for COP 4

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
I. Eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources		
2	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>The GEF's eligibility policy for mercury incorporates the criteria for funding enabling activities (EAs). The guidelines for EAs are found in the information document of the 45th GEF Council meeting held in January 2014.⁴⁰</p> <p>In GEF-5 and GEF-6, prior to the first COP, both signatory countries and Parties were eligible to receive funding from the GEF. In GEF-7, only Parties are eligible to access GEF resources, except for EAs. According to the COP guidance, signatories to the Convention are eligible for GEF funding from for EA, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party.</p>
3	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>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 EAs, pursuant to</p>

⁴⁰ GEF, 2014, *Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury*, Council Document GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
		Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
4 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>Up to June 30, 2018, the GEF supported a total of 110 countries through GEF-5 and GEF-6 to implement Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and 32 countries to conduct their Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) National Action Plans (NAPs). Seventy-eight out of 89 signatories received funding for these EAs. Of the remaining eleven countries, six have become Parties as at June 30, 2018. Twenty-three countries that were non-signatory and non-Party have accessed EA resources; at the request of the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC 6) to allow non-signatory, non-Party States to access resources for EAs from the GEF, the GEF Council varied the eligibility criteria through a decision by mail on January 14, 2015. This variation of the eligibility for non-signatories, non-Parties is no longer applicable, as the COP 1 guidance only applies to signatories and Parties with respect to access of funding of EAs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3:</p> <p>Up to June 30, 2019, the GEF supported a total of 111 countries to implement MIAs and 35 countries to conduct their ASGM NAPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>Up to June 30, 2021, the GEF supported a total of 117 countries to implement MIAs and 43 countries to conduct their ASGM NAPs.</p>
II. Overall strategies and policies		
5	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	This guidance was used to inform the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming in and was addressed in the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which were concluded in April

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>implementation of the Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, including costs arising from activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Are country-driven; (b) Are in conformity with programme priorities as reflected in relevant guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties; (c) Build capacity and promote the utilization of local and regional expertise, if applicable; (d) Promote synergies with other focal areas; (e) Continue to enhance synergies and co-benefits within the chemicals and wastes focal area; (f) Promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, including from the private sector, if applicable; and (g) Promote sustainable national socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and activities consistent with existing national sound environmental management programmes geared towards the protection of human health and the environment. 	<p>2018. The new strategy is included in the summary of negotiations of GEF-7.⁴¹</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>The projects approved in the reporting period follow this guidance. Throughout GEF-7, there has been a focus on synergies within the chemicals and waste focal area and with other focal areas. Private sector engagement is also a priority. In the reporting period, the 59th GEF Council meeting in December 2020 approved GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy (PSES).⁴² The PSES is supported by an Implementation Plan that sets out actions and deliverables up to the end of the GEF-7 period. The <i>Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)</i> Program achieves synergies across the chemicals and waste focal area while the project <i>Integrated Watershed Management of the Putumayo-Içá River Basin</i> combines mercury and international water resources as a multi-focal area project in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.</p>
III. Programme priorities	
<p>6 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 GEF strategies.</p> <p>In GEF-7, \$206 million is 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.</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p>

⁴¹ GEF, 2018, [Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council Document GEF/A.6/05/Rev.01

⁴² GEF, 2020, [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/07/Rev.01

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
	In the reporting period, the GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. Other programmed resources for projects that are aimed at early implementation address several areas of priorities of the Minamata Convention that meet the agreed incremental costs of mercury reduction, such as chlor alkali, mercury products including medical devices and ASGM.
7 In particular, it should give priority to the following activities when providing financial resources to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition: (a) Enabling activities, particularly Minamata Convention initial assessment activities and national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining; (b) Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, affording priority to those that: (i) Relate to legally binding obligations; (ii) Facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party; (iii) Allow for reduction in mercury emissions and releases and address the health and environmental impacts of mercury.	<p>This guidance was used in the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming and was addressed in the priorities of the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area Programming Strategy. All projects and programs in GEF-7 that seek to implement the Minamata Convention have been designed consistently with this guidance.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: In the reporting period, four EAs, including one MIA and three ASGM NAPs, were approved in accordance with (a). All approved full-sized projects (FSPs) met the guidance under (b).</p> <p>Update for COP 4: In the reporting period, 13 EAs, including 6 MIA and 8 ASGM NAPs⁴³ were approved in accordance with (a). All approved medium-sized projects (MSPs) and FSPs met the guidance under (b). For example, the project to address chlor alkali in Mexico, the <i>GOLD+</i> Program addressing ASGM in 15 countries, and the projects addressing mercury products, all support legally binding obligations that facilitate early implementation and address health and environmental impacts.</p>
8 In providing resources for an activity, GEF should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its	In GEF-7, projects with potential for significant mercury reductions have been approved. The GEF continues to work with

⁴³ One country opted to combine MIA and NAP under one EA.

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
costs in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Convention.	countries and Agencies to look at the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs.

IV. Indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support

A. Enabling activities

<p>1. Minamata Convention initial assessments</p> <p>2. Preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 7 and Annex C</p> <p>3. Other types of enabling activities as agreed by the Conference of the Parties</p>	<p>This guidance was used to inform the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming and was addressed in the priorities of the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area Programming Strategy. In GEF-6 and GEF-7, all eligible EAs that were submitted to the GEF received funding.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: The GEF-7 notional allocation for Minamata Convention EAs was \$14 million.</p> <p>Update for COP 4: In the reporting period, all eligible EAs that were submitted to the GEF received funding.</p>
--	--

B. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention

1. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that relate to legally binding obligations

<p>9 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; 	<p>These have been included in the GEF-7 chemicals and waste focal area Programming Strategy. This guidance was used to inform the GEF-6 and GEF-7 programming.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: Projects approved in the reporting period follow this guidance. One project addresses mercury sources and trade. All projects include capacity building, and other projects, including the <i>ISLANDS</i> Program and the <i>Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facilitate Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in African LDCs</i> project, address mercury waste and mercury-containing products.</p>
--	---

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury wastes; • Reporting; • Relevant capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer in relation to the above. 	<p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>Projects approved in the reporting period follow this guidance. All MSPs and FSPs include capacity building. There are projects on mercury-added products, manufacturing processes, ASGM, emissions, releases, environmentally sound storage, and mercury waste. The chlor alkali project in Mexico is the first addressing the sector and has the potential to serve as a model for other projects in the region and globally.</p>
2. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party	
10 When considering activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force, GEF should also consider providing support for activities that, although they are not the subject of a legal obligation under the Convention, may significantly contribute to a Party's preparedness to implement the Convention upon its entry into force for that country.	<p>This was addressed during the GEF-7 programming, to be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3:</p> <p>GEF projects primarily focus on implementing obligations of the Convention that reduce mercury. Other activities are considered on a case-by-case basis. Projects typically include technical assistance and capacity building that address a legally binding obligation. For example, training of customs officers in the <i>ISLANDS</i> Program will support the countries in meeting the phase-out date in Annex A for mercury-containing products and devices.</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>GEF-funded projects in the reporting period primarily focus on implementing obligations of the Convention that reduce mercury. Others are considered on a case-by-case basis. Projects typically include technical assistance and capacity building that address a legally binding obligation. For example, the knowledge-sharing and communication component of the <i>GOLD+</i> Program will support formalization, access to financing, and technology transfer within the sector leading to mercury reductions.</p>

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
11	<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. 	<p>This was addressed during the GEF-7 programming, to be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3:</p> <p>GEF projects primarily focus on implementing legal obligations of the Convention and reducing mercury. Other activities are considered on a case-by-case basis. Activities that are not subject to legal obligations under the Convention were considered in projects funded in the reporting period, such as information exchange, public awareness, and development of implementation plans.</p> <p>Update for COP 4:</p> <p>GEF projects primarily focus on implementing legal obligations of the Convention and reducing mercury. Other activities are considered on a case-by-case basis. Activities that are not subject to legal obligation under the Convention were considered in projects funded in the reporting period, such as information exchange, public awareness, and capacity building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury and, as appropriate, their remediation. For example, the chlor alkali project in Mexico includes an assessment of the site contaminated with mercury and a plan for remediation.</p>
3. 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		
12	<p>Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury may encompass activities relating to both binding and non-binding provisions, with priority to the legally binding provisions discussed above, that accord with the GEF mandate to deliver global</p>	<p>This was addressed during the GEF-7 programming, to be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3:</p> <p>The projects approved in the reporting period contributed to the reduction of 1,163 metric tons of mercury.</p>

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
environmental benefits and reflect the GEF chemicals and wastes focal area strategy.	Update for COP 4: The projects approved in the reporting period will contribute to the reduction of 793 metric tons of mercury.
V. Review by the Conference of the Parties	
13 In accordance with paragraph 11 of Article 13, the Conference of the Parties will review, no later than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF as one of the entities entrusted with operationalizing the mechanism established under this Article and the mechanism's effectiveness and ability to address the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such review, the Conference of the Parties will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by updating and prioritizing as necessary its guidance to GEF.	At the request of the COP, the GEF has provided information that relates to the review described in paragraph 11 of Article 13 of the Minamata Convention.