



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2017

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Decision by Mail – February 2017

Decision 1/2017 Offer of the Government of Vietnam to host the 6th GEF Assembly

1. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of Vietnam for offering to host the Sixth Assembly meeting during May/June 2018 (at a date to be determined) and accepted this kind offer.
2. The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare for the next Council meeting a report on the progress that has been achieved in preparing the Assembly.

52nd Council Meeting – May 2017

Decision 2/2017 Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Council Members, Alternates, and Advisers

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.52/04, [Proposed Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Council Members, Alternates, and Advisers](#), approves the Policy as contained in Annex I and the Terms of Reference for the Ethics Committee as contained in Annex II.

Decision 3/2017 Membership of the Ethics Committee

1. The Council approves the membership of the Ethics Committee as proposed by the elected Co-Chair:
 - (a) Peter Wisner, United States – Council Member, Chair of the Ethics Committee (3 years)
 - (b) Laura Camila Bermudez Wilches, Colombia – Council Member of the Constituency of Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador (2 years)
 - (c) Josceline Wheatley, United Kingdom – Council Member (2 years)
 - (d) Rachna Ramsurn, Mauritius – Alternate Member of the Constituency of Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda (3 years)
 - (e) Ayelen Maria Gherzi, Argentina – Alternate Member of the Constituency of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay (2 years)

Decision 4/2017 GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY18

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.52/06, [GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY18](#), takes note of the additional costs implied by the revised World Bank Recovery Rate on Non-Salary Staff Costs, and acknowledges the efforts by the Secretariat, IEO and the Trustee to partially offset these costs through a reduction of their original budget requests, which results in a reduction of the overall budget request from \$35.485 million to \$35.157 million. Against this background, the Council approves a FY18 budget from the GEF Trust Fund of \$35.157 million, comprised of:
 - (a) \$24.047 million for the Secretariat, including its core budget and Special Initiative;
 - (b) \$2.698 million for STAP;
 - (c) \$3.218 million for the Trustee, including its core budget and Special Initiative; and
 - (d) \$5.194 million for the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)
2. The Council also approves a total FY18 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) of \$20,790 comprised of the following allocations from the NPIF to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for NPIF administration and implementation:
 - (a) \$14,850 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) \$5,940 for the Trustee
3. The Council also approves a total of \$930,270 for the FY17 and FY18 budget for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Trust Fund, comprised of the following allocations to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for CBIT administration and implementation:
 - (a) \$320,000 for FY17 and \$485,100 for FY 18 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) \$72,700 for FY17 and \$52,470 for FY18 for the Trustee
4. The Council requests that a revised GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY18 be circulated for the Council's information by June 22, 2017.

5. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with STAP and the Trustee, to present a combined FY19 corporate budget and business plan for discussion at its 2018 spring meeting, which reflects an effort for costs savings within the Secretariat budget.

Decision 5/2017 Work Program

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.52/05/Rev.01, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program¹ comprising 30 project concepts and one programmatic framework, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by June 8, 2017.
2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$246.8 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Program Framework Document (PFD) and Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

Project/Program Proposals in the Work Program

Programmatic Approaches

1. **Regional (Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, and Regional):** EHPMP – Environmental Health and Pollution Management Program in Africa (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 42,201,835) GEF ID 9444 (resubmission²)

Multi Focal Area

2. **Global (Argentina, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Belarus, Colombia, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gambia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Malaysia, Nepal, Panama, Congo DR):** GEF SGP sixth Operational Phase- Strategic Implementation using STAR Resources Tranche 1, mainly in LDCs and SIDs (Part III) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$17,337,500) GEF ID 9774
3. **Regional (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal):** West Africa Regional Fisheries Program Phase 2 (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,305,936) GEF ID 9797
4. **Argentina:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) into Development Planning: Making Environmental Land Use

¹ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons and whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit, opposes the following projects and therefore does not join the Council decision that would support the: 1) *Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Busi, and Save Basins* in Zimbabwe, and 2) *GEF Small Grants Programme - Sixth Operational Phase, Part II* project in Eritrea and Belarus. The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit and have violated human rights, abstains from participating in the decision on the project: *Efficient and Green Freight Transport Project* in China.

² This program was resubmitted per Council request from the June 2016 Council meeting and after having addressed all of Council and STAP previous comments on the PFD.

- Planning (ELUP) Operational in Argentina (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,995,434) GEF ID 9583
5. **Benin:** Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation Project in Central and South Benin (AfDB) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,627,226) GEF ID 9383
 6. **Colombia:** Contributing to the Integrated Management of Biodiversity of the Pacific Region of Colombia to Build Peace (FAO/UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,562,558) GEF ID 9441
 7. **Cote d'Ivoire:** Sustainability and Scaling Up Approaches for Transformational Management, Restoration and Conservation of Forests Landscapes and Biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire (SSATMARC –FOLAB) (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,831,050) GEF ID 9366
 8. **Grenada:** Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,659,775) GEF ID 9577
 9. **Mali:** Scaling up a Multiple Benefits Approach to Enhance Resilience in Agro- and Forest Landscapes of **Mali's** Sahel Regions (Kayes, Koulikoro and Ségou) (AfDB) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,605,023) GEF ID 9293
 10. **Mongolia:** Ensuring Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) of Green Landscapes in Mongolia (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,964,253) GEF ID 9389
 11. **Nepal:** Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors (WWF-US) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,697,248) GEF ID 9437
 12. **Rwanda:** Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga Region (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,213,538) GEF ID 9385
 13. **St. Vincent and Grenadines:** Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef **Approach** (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,757,102) GEF ID 9580
 14. **Thailand:** Applications of Industry-urban Symbiosis and Green Chemistry for Low Emission and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)-Free Industrial Development in Thailand (UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,966,000) GEF ID 9219

Biodiversity

15. **Regional (Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu):** Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Reduce the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Pacific (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,252,489) GEF ID 9410
16. **Cabo Verde:** Managing Multiple Sector Threats on Marine Ecosystems to Achieve Sustainable Blue Growth (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,787,864) GEF ID 9705

17. **Nicaragua:** Resilient Landscapes Management Project (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$4,389,261) GEF ID 9579

Climate Change

18. **Bhutan:** Bhutan Sustainable Low-emission Urban Transport Systems (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,639,726) GEF ID 9367
19. **China:** Achieving Efficient and Green Freight Transport Development in China (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,246,095) GEF ID 9682
20. **El Salvador:** San Salvador Low-emission Urban Development Path (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,420,548) GEF ID 9038
21. **Mauritius:** Realising Energy Savings and Climate Benefits of Implementing Mandatory Energy Auditing in Coordination with HCFC Phase-out and HFC Avoidance (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,532,164) GEF ID 9612
22. **Mexico:** Mexico Municipal Energy Efficiency Project (PRESEM) (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,790,000) GEF ID 9564

International Waters

23. **Global:** Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries Minimize the Impacts from Aquatic Biofouling (GloFouling Partnerships) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,980,000) GEF ID 9605
24. **Global (Chile, India, Namibia, Ukraine, South Africa):** Strengthening Capacity for International Cooperation in the Ecosystem-based Management of the Antarctic Large Marine Ecosystem. (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,192,694) GEF ID 9443
25. **Regional (Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam):** Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,479,123) GEF ID 9654
26. **Regional (Mozambique, Zimbabwe):** Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Busi and Save Basins (IUCN) (GEF Financing: \$6,000,000) GEF ID 9593

Land Degradation

27. **Iraq:** Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of Iraq (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,549,321) GEF ID 9745
28. **Turkey:** Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,388,584) GEF ID 9586

Chemicals and Waste

29. **Global:** Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,190,000) GEF ID 9771
 30. **Bangladesh:** Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,295,000) GEF ID 9076
 31. **Maldives:** Eliminating POPs through Sound Management of Chemicals (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,675,000) GEF ID 9562
3. With respect to the following 8 projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency.
1. **Global (Chile, India, Namibia, Ukraine, South Africa):** Strengthening Capacity for International Cooperation in the Ecosystem-based Management of the Antarctic Large Marine Ecosystem. (UNDP) (GEF ID 9443)
 2. **Regional (Mozambique, Zimbabwe):** Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Busi and Save Basins (IUCN) (GEF ID 9593);
 3. **Bhutan:** Bhutan Sustainable Low-emission Urban Transport Systems (UNDP) (GEF ID 9367);
 4. **China:** Achieving Efficient and Green Freight Transport Development in China (World Bank) (GEF ID 9682);
 5. **El Salvador:** San Salvador Low-emission Urban Development Path (UNDP) (GEF ID 9038);
 6. **Iraq:** Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of Iraq (FAO) (GEF ID 9745);
 7. **Mauritius:** Realizing Energy Savings and Climate Benefits of Implementing Mandatory Energy Auditing in Coordination with HCFC Phase-out and HFC Avoidance (UNDP) (GEF ID 9612)
 8. **Mongolia:** Ensuring Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) of Green Landscapes in Mongolia (UNDP) (GEF ID 9389)
4. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency,

provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

5. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.
6. With respect to the PFD approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.
7. The detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 52nd session of the work program is part of the associated [Annex 1](#) appended to this Joint Summary of the Chairs.

Decision 6/2017 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report May 2017 and Management Response

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: May 2017](#), endorses the recommendations of the evaluations.

Decision 7/2017 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.52/03, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision 8/2017 Review of the GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards

1. The Council, having reviewed the document GEF/ME/C.52/Inf.08, [Review of the GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), requests the Secretariat to prepare a paper on a plan to review the GEF's Social and Environmental Safeguards to be presented to Council at the November, 2017 Council Meeting.

Decision 9/2017 Review of the GEF Policy on Fiduciary Standards

1. The Council also requests the Secretariat to present a rationale and a plan to review the GEF's Fiduciary Standards to be presented to Council at the November 2017 Council Meeting.

Decision by Mail – June 2017

Decision 10/2017 Report to the COP13 of the UNCCD

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the GEF to the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#), approves the report for submission to the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of Parties.

53rd Council Meeting – November 2017

Decision 11/2017 Policy on Gender Equality

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/04, [Policy on Gender Equality](#), approves the Policy contained in Annex I to the document.

Decision 12/2017 Policy on Stakeholder Engagement

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/05/Rev.01, [Policy on Stakeholder Engagement](#), approves the Policy contained in Annex I to the document.

Decision 13/2017 Update on the Organization of the Sixth GEF Assembly

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Update on the Organization of the Sixth GEF Assembly](#) (GEF/C.53/09), takes note of the progress made and confirms the dates of June 27-28 for the Assembly and of June 24-26 for the 54th Council Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Decision 14/2017 Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/10/Rev.01, [Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF](#), approves its recommendations to implement the Updated Vision, and requests the GEF Secretariat to present a progress report on the implementation of the Updated Vision for information to the 55th Council in the fall of 2018.

Decision 15/2017 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report November 2017 and Management Response

1. Regarding the Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the Independent Evaluation Office. The Council, having reviewed the [Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: November 2017](#) endorses the recommendations of the individual evaluations included. The Council takes note of the OPS6 recommendations and advises the GEF Secretariat to address them in programming for GEF-7.

Decision 16/2017 Work Program

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/13, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 83 project concepts and one programmatic framework, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by December 14, 2017.
2. Total resources approved in this Work Program³ amounted to \$546.1 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Program Framework Document (PFD) and Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

Project/Program Proposals in the Work Program

Biodiversity

1. **Angola:** Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade and Human Wildlife Conflict in Angola (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,103,800) GEF ID 9735
2. **Colombia:** Sustainable Low Carbon Development in Colombia's Orinoquia Region (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,936,073) GEF ID 9578

³ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons and whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit, opposes the following projects and therefore does not join the Council decision that would support the CPIC Conservation Finance Initiative - Scaling up and Demonstrating the Value of Blended Finance in Conservation (beneficiaries unknown), Enhancing Conjunctive Management of Surface and Groundwater Resources in Selected Transboundary Aquifers: Case Study for Selected Shared Groundwater Bodies in the Nile Basin (in Sudan), Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management (in Sudan), Additional Financing Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources (in Sudan), and Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Wildlife Trade and Improving Protected Area Management (in South Sudan). The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit and have violated human rights, abstains from participating in the decision on the following projects: Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade and Human Wildlife Conflict in Angola, Promoting sustainable energy access for rural communities in Angola, Sustainable Land Management in target landscapes in Angola, Distributed Renewable Energy Scale-Up Project in China, Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development in China, GEF Small Grants Programme - Sixth Operational Phase, Part IV in China and Cuba, Promoting Better Access to Modern Energy Services through Sustainable Mini-grids and Lowcarbon Bioenergy Technologies among Forest-dependent Communities in Guinea-Bissau, Fostering multi-country cooperation over conjunctive surface and groundwater management in the Bug and Neman Transboundary River Basins and the underlying aquifer systems in Belarus, Promoting Accelerated Uptake of Environmental Technologies and Promotion of Best Practices for Improved Water, Chemicals, and Waste Management in the Black Sea Basin, in Belarus, Strengthening of the Enabling Environment, Ecosystem-based Management and Governance to Support Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem in Angola, Guinea Bissau, and Equatorial Guinea, and CReW+: An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region in Cuba.

3. **Congo DR:** Promoting the Effective Management of Salonga National Park through Creation of Community Forests and Improving the Well-being of Local Communities (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,694,749) GEF ID 9802
4. **Ecuador:** Safeguarding Biodiversity in the Galapagos Islands by Enhancing Biosecurity and Creating the Enabling Environment for the Restoration of Galapagos Island Ecosystems. (CI) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,301,472) GEF ID 9282
5. **Lesotho:** Promoting Conservation, Sustainable Utilization and Fair and Equitable Benefit-sharing from Lesotho's Medicinal and Ornamental Plants for Improved livelihoods (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,913,699) GEF ID 9799
6. **Madagascar:** Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Northwestern Landscape (Boeny region) - Madagascar (CI) (GEF Financing: \$6,817,431) GEF ID 9606
7. **Maldives:** Enhancing National Development through Environmentally Resilient Islands (ENDhERI) (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,532,968) GEF ID 9668
8. **Mexico:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Criteria in Mexico's Tourism Sector with Emphasis on Biodiversity-rich Coastal Ecosystems (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,238,613) GEF ID 9613
9. **Uganda:** Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Uganda (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,560,842) GEF ID 9481
10. **Vanuatu:** Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness (ECARE) in Vanuatu (IUCN) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,450,459) GEF ID 9847

Climate Change

11. **Chile:** Supporting the Chilean Low Emissions Transport Strategy CLETS (CAF) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,900,000) GEF ID 9742
12. **China:** China Distributed Renewable Energy Scale-up Project (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,278,600) GEF ID 9749
13. **Guinea-Bissau:** Promoting Better Access to Modern Energy Services through Sustainable Mini-grids and Low-carbon Bioenergy Technologies Among Guinea-Bissau's Forest-dependent Communities (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,912,702) GEF ID 9561
14. **Kiribati:** Promoting Outer Island Development through the Integrated Energy Roadmap (POIDIAR) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,379,452) GEF ID 9905

15. **Myanmar:** Climate Change Mitigation through Methane Recovery and Reuse from Industrial Wastewater Treatment (UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,984,589) GEF ID 9830
16. **Myanmar:** Myanmar Rural Renewable Energy Development Programme (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,934,228) GEF ID 9890
17. **Nigeria:** Improving Nigeria's Industrial Energy Performance and Resource Efficient Cleaner Production through Programmatic Approaches and the Promotion of Innovation in Clean Technology Solutions (UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,898,265) GEF ID 9714
18. **Niue:** Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Applications in Niue (AREAN) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,321,563) GEF ID 9752
19. **Solomon Islands:** Stimulating Progress towards Improved Rural Electrification in the Solomons (SPIRES) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,639,726) GEF ID 9787
20. **Trinidad and Tobago:** Energy Efficiency through the Development of Low-carbon RAC Technologies in Trinidad and Tobago (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,152,392) GEF ID 9789

Land Degradation

21. **Angola:** Sustainable Land Management in Target Landscapes in Angola' Southwestern Region (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,639,726) GEF ID 9798
22. **Djibouti:** Sustainable Management of Water Resources, Rangelands and Agropastoral Perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed of Djibouti (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,215,068) GEF ID 9599

International Waters

23. **Regional (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro):** Implementation of the SAP of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System: Improving Groundwater Governance and Sustainability of Related Ecosystems (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$5,145,000) GEF ID 9919
24. **Regional (Belarus, Ukraine):** Fostering Multi-country Cooperation over Conjunctive Surface and Groundwater Management in the Bug and Neman Transboundary River Basins and the Underlying Aquifer Systems (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,731,050) GEF ID 9767
25. **Regional (Benin, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Congo DR):** Strengthening of the Enabling Environment, Ecosystem-based Management and Governance to Support Implementation of the Strategic

- Action Programme of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (UNEP/FAO, UNDP, UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,416,210) GEF ID 9911
26. **Regional (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda):** Enhancing Conjunctive Management of Surface and Groundwater Resources in Selected Transboundary Aquifers: Case Study for Selected Shared Groundwater Bodies in the Nile Basin (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,329,452) GEF ID 9912
27. **Regional (Colombia, Ecuador):** Integrated Management of Water Resources of the Mira-Mataje and Carchi-Guaitara, Colombia–Ecuador Binational Basins (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,850,000) GEF ID 9566
28. **Regional (Mali, Niger, Chad):** Economic Growth and Water Security in the Sahel through Improved Groundwater Governance (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$13,577,982) GEF ID 9886
29. **Regional (Mauritania, Senegal):** Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation for Improved Ecosystem Management and Restoration in the Senegal delta (Mauritania and Senegal) (IUCN) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,061,009) GEF ID 9594

Chemicals and Waste

30. **Regional (Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo):** Impact Investment and Capacity Building in Support of Sustainable Waste Management to Reduce Emissions of Unintentional POPs (UPOPs) and Mercury in West Africa (BOAD) (GEF Financing: \$ 15,924,771) GEF ID 9371
31. **Regional (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan):** Demonstration of Non-thermal Treatment of DDT Wastes in Central Asia (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 15,120,000) GEF ID 9421
32. **Brazil:** Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Of Lindane In Brazil (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 11,000,000) GEF ID 9412
33. **Kazakhstan:** HCFC Phase-out in Kazakhstan through Promotion of Zero ODS Low GWP Energy Efficient Technologies (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,586,200) GEF ID 9788
34. **South Africa:** Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls [PCBS] in the Republic of South Africa (DBSA) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,242,500) GEF ID 9576

Programmatic Approaches

35. **China:** PRC-GEF Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (UNDP/FAO, World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 12,303,945) GEF ID 9768

Non-grant Instrument Projects

36. **Global:** CPIC Conservation Finance Initiative - Scaling up and Demonstrating the Value of Blended Finance in Conservation (IUCN) GEF Financing: \$ 8,250,000) GEF ID 9914

Multi Focal Area

37. **Global (Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bahamas, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jordan, St. Kitts And Nevis, Lao PDR, St. Lucia, Marshall Islands, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Tuvalu, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uganda):** GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase- Strategic Implementation using STAR Resources, Tranche 2 (Part IV) (UNDP) GEF Financing: \$ 19,167,177) GEF ID 9857
38. **Regional (Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, St. Kitts And Nevis, St. Lucia, Mexico, Panama, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and Grenadines):** CReW+: An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP/IADB) (GEF Financing: \$ 14,943,938) GEF ID 9601
39. **Regional (Benin, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo):** Investments Towards Resilient Management of Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystems (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 20,247,607) GEF ID 9906
40. **Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela):** Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change. (UNEP) GEF Financing: \$ 11,735,780) GEF ID 9770
41. **Algeria:** Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,411,644) GEF ID 9806
42. **Bahamas:** Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,243,004) GEF ID 9791
43. **Burkina Faso:** Integrated and Sustainable Management of PONASI Protected Area Landscape (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,279,452) GEF ID 9764
44. **Cambodia:** Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) in the Productive, Natural and Forested Landscape of Northern Region of Cambodia (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,340,320) GEF ID 9781

45. **Cameroon:** Removing Barriers to Biodiversity Conservation, Land Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management through Community-Based Landscape Management – COBALAM (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,105,023) GEF ID 9604
46. **Chile:** Mainstreaming Conservation of Coastal Wetlands of Chile’s South Center Biodiversity Hotspot through Adaptive Management of Coastal Area Ecosystems (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,146,804) GEF ID 9766
47. **Congo DR:** Mai-Ndombe REDD+ Integrated Project (GEF) (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,210,046) GEF ID 9760
48. **Fiji:** Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management Project (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,119,425) GEF ID 9880
49. **Gambia:** Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services, and Livelihoods, Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,644,685) GEF ID 9772
50. **Guinea:** Integrated Management of Natural Resources in Middle and Upper Guinea (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,060,274) GEF ID 9783
51. **Guyana:** Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction in Small and Medium-scale Gold Mining Operations (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,543,352) GEF ID 9565
52. **Indonesia:** Integrated Management of Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (IMPLI) (IFAD) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,895,872) GEF ID 9239
53. **Indonesia:** Strengthening of Social Forestry in Indonesia (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 14,317,909) GEF ID 9600
54. **Jamaica:** Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using an Integrated Landscape Approach (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,210,046) GEF ID 9862
55. **Liberia:** Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia’s Coastal Natural Capital (CI) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,944,220) GEF ID 9573
56. **Madagascar:** Conservation and Improvement of Ecosystem Services for the Atsinanana Region through Agroecology and the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Production (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,789,955) GEF ID 9793
57. **Myanmar:** My-Coast: Ecosystem-Based Conservation of Myanmar’s Southern Coastal Zone (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,046,347) GEF ID 9261
58. **Namibia:** Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 10,823,744) GEF ID 9426

59. **Niger:** Integrated Management of Oasis Ecosystems of Northern Niger (IMOE -NN) (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,596,588) GEF ID 9405
 60. **Panama:** Ecosystem-based Biodiversity Friendly Cattle Production Framework for the Darien Region of Panama (CAF) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,519,725) GEF ID 9589
 61. **Philippines:** Enhancing Biodiversity, Maintaining Ecosystem Flows, Enhancing Carbon Stocks through Sustainable Land Management and the Restoration of Degraded Forestlands (FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,639,726) GEF ID 9554
 62. **Philippines:** Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors (IA-Biological Corridors) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 12,260,241) GEF ID 9584
 63. **Seychelles:** A Ridge-to-Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$3,898,914) GEF ID 9431
 64. **Sierra Leone:** Sustainable and Integrated landscape management of the Western Area Peninsula (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,209,910) GEF ID 9903
 65. **Solomon Islands:** EREPA - Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (IUCN) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,918,364) GEF ID 9846
 66. **Sri Lanka:** Managing Together: Integrating Community-centered, Ecosystem-based Approaches into Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism Sectors (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,346,708) GEF ID 9372
 67. **St. Kitts And Nevis:** Improving Environmental Management through Sustainable Land Management in St. Kitts and Nevis (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,015,982) GEF ID 9785
 68. **Sudan:** Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,100,913) GEF ID 9425
 69. **Sudan:** Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project- Additional Financing (World Bank) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,504,586) GEF ID 9575
 70. **Tanzania:** Safeguarding Zanzibar's Forest and Coastal Habitats for Multiple Benefits (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,181,671) GEF ID 9400
 71. **Thailand:** Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Thailand (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,381,620) GEF ID 9558
3. With respect to the 13 projects below, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO

within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency.

72. **South Sudan:** Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Wildlife Trade and Improving Protected Area Management Effectiveness in South Sudan (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,329,452) GEF ID 9551
73. **Nigeria:** De-risking Sustainable Off-grid Lighting Solutions in Nigeria (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,639,726) GEF ID 9743
74. **Macedonia:** Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Through Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework, Capacity Building and Restoration of Most Vulnerable Mountain Landscapes (UNEP) (GEF Financing: \$3,662,545) GEF ID 9759
75. **Bangladesh:** Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,046,347) GEF ID 9913
76. **Regional (Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine):** Promoting Accelerated Uptake of Environmental Technologies and Promotion of Best Practices for Improved Water, Chemicals, and Waste Management in the Black Sea Basin (EBRD) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,933,105) GEF ID 9571
77. **Regional (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine, Serbia):** Danube River Basin Hydromorphology and River Restoration (DYNA) (WWF-US) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,422,018) GEF ID 9801
78. **Micronesia:** Safeguarding Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species in the Federated States of Micronesia (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,141,509) GEF ID 9917
79. **Haiti:** Sustainable Management of Wooded Production Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation (UNDP/FAO) (GEF Financing: \$ 6,186,964) GEF ID 9777
80. **Cote d'Ivoire:** Sound Management of Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Polychlorinated Biphenyl Ether (PBDEs) to Reduce their Emission from the Industrial Waste Sector (UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,325,000) GEF ID 9263
81. **Congo DR:** Promotion of Waste to Energy Options for Sustainable Urban Management in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNIDO) (GEF Financing: \$3,959,589) GEF ID 9683
82. **Belize:** Integrated Management of Production Landscapes to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,108,933) GEF ID 9796
83. **Angola:** Promoting Sustainable Energy Access for Rural Communities in South-Eastern Angola (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,540,468) GEF ID 9810

84. Bangladesh: Promoting Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,767,810) GEF ID 9368

4. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
5. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.
6. With respect to the PFD approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.
7. The Detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 53rd session of the work program is part of the associated [Annex 1](#) appended to this Joint Summary of the Chairs.

Decision 17/2017 Plan to Review GEF's Social and Environmental Safeguards

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/07, [Plan to Review the GEF's Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), welcomes the plan and requests the Secretariat to present an updated policy on environmental and social safeguards for consideration at its 55th meeting.

Decision 18/2017 Rationale and Plan to Review GEF's Fiduciary Standards

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/08, [Rationale and Plan to Review the GEF's Fiduciary Standards](#), agrees that the 2007 GEF policy GA/PL/02, Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies should be reviewed in light of evolving best practice and requests the Secretariat in collaboration with the Trustee to present the findings of such a review at the 55th Council meeting in the Fall of 2018.

Decision 19/2017 Updated Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Council Members, Alternates, and Advisers

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.53/11, [Updated Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Council Members, Alternates, and Advisers](#), approves the Policy as contained in Annex I and the Terms of Reference for the Ethics Committee as contained in Annex II.

Decision 20/2017 Membership of the Ethics Committee

1. The Council approves the updated membership of the Ethics Committee as proposed by the elected Co-Chair, as follows:
 - (a) Mitchell Silk, United States, to replace Peter Wisner, United States, as Member of the Ethics Committee for the remainder of the original term (3 years) of Mr. Wisner [Spring 2020].
 - (b) Jose Antonio Gonzalez Norris, Peru, to replace Ayelen Maria Gherzi, Argentina, as Member of the Committee, and also to serve as the new Chair of the Committee, for the remainder of the original term (2 years) of Ms. Gherzi [Spring 2019].

Decision 21/2017 Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report 2017

1. The Council, having reviewed GEF/C.53/03, [Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report 2017](#), welcomes the overall finding that the GEF portfolio under implementation in FY17 performed satisfactorily across all focal areas. The Council also welcomes the latest GEF Corporate Scorecard.

Decision 22/2017 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.53/12, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision 23/2017 Report of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.53/06, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC)*, agreeing that the following be approved if no objections have been received within one week, i.e. by December 6, 2017⁴:
 - (a) Takes note of the FY18 goals for the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and the GEF CEO and requests the SRC to present the performance evaluation of the IEO Director and the GEF CEO for the Council's review at its second meeting in 2018;
 - (b) Agrees with the SRC's positive assessment of the GEF CEO's FY17 performance and the recommendation to provide the GEF CEO with a "4" rating and taking into account the GEF CEO's current salary zone placement, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix the SRC recommends a merit-based salary increase in FY18 for the GEF CEO that is consistent with World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.
 - (c) Agrees with the SRC's positive assessment of the GEF IEO Director's FY17 performance and the recommendation to provide the GEF IEO Director with a "4" rating on the World Bank's 5-point scale, and taking into account the IEO Director's current salary zone placement, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix the SRC recommends a merit-based salary increase in FY18 for the IEO Director that is consistent with World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.
 - (d) Requests the SRC to present a proposal to improve the quality and timing of the CEO and IEO Director's performance assessments, informed by Council members views and World Bank HR advice, for consideration at the 54th Council.

Decision 24/2017 Dates for Spring 2019 Council Meeting

1. The Council decides that it will hold its spring 2019 meeting during the week of June 3, 2019.

⁴ The Council Members representing France, Spain, and Italy abstained from participating in the items contained in paragraph 1 (b) and (c).