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**PROGRESS REPORT  
ON  
LONG-TERM VISION ON COMPLEMENTARITY, COHERENCE AND COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN  
THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Long-term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration (LTV) between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was submitted to the GEF Council as a Working Document at its 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting, on June 14-18, 2021.<sup>1</sup>
2. The GEF Council welcomed the document and in particular the establishment of a joint Steering Committee to facilitate collaboration. The Council looked forward to receiving an annual joint progress report to be submitted to the GEF Council and the GCF Board and requested the GEF Secretariat to inform the Council at its 61<sup>st</sup> session about progress in LTV implementation.
3. The LTV was then presented to the twenty-ninth meeting of the GCF Board (B.29), on June 28, 2021, as Annex II to the “Report on the Activities of the Secretariat.”<sup>2</sup> The report, which was considered by the GCF Board as part of agenda item number 5 which covered a number of activities in addition to the LTV, was noted by the GCF Board after extensive comments from Board Members and Alternates.
4. During his remarks presenting the LTV to the GCF Board, the GCF Executive Director affirmed that the Secretariats of both GCF and GEF were deeply convinced of the importance of maximizing their synergies. The Executive Director also informed the GCF Board that it was not necessary for the Board to approve the LTV plan, since GCF has had a standing framework agreement on complementarity and coherence in place since B.17 with all climate funds.
5. In accordance with the decision taken at GEF 60<sup>th</sup> Council, a report was submitted to the GEF 61<sup>st</sup> Council on the presentation and discussion of the LTV at the GCF B.29 meeting.<sup>3</sup>
6. The LTV stipulated that the two Secretariats will prepare and submit a joint progress report to the governing bodies of both Funds every year on activities undertaken and results to date, highlighting how the two funds are supporting enhanced impact and outcomes through the implementation of the LTV. This document constitutes the first such report on the dedicated response of the two institutions to establish LTV implementation measures and an initial set of related joint programming and information sharing activities.<sup>4</sup>

## LONG-TERM VISION LAUNCH AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

7. The GEF and the GCF Secretariats began collaborating closely towards the operationalization of the LTV soon after the Council and Board deliberations. Senior

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> GCF, 2021, [Report on the activities of the Secretariat](#), Board Document GCF/B.29/Inf.07.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The GCF Secretariat will present this report to GCF Board as part of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board.

management of the two institutions jointly led the initial operationalization and launch process, complemented by consultations and collaborations at the technical level.

8. Countries and partners have responded positively to the LTV, recognizing that the shared and mutually reinforcing visions of the GEF and GCF through this initiative amplify impact and potential for harmony in the climate finance landscape through coordinated efforts to advance country-driven approaches and ownership, efficiency and effectiveness, while adhering to the highest international safeguards. By creating a shared space for collaboration, the LTV provides a 'climate finance hub' to mobilize resources to support projects with climate change benefits and beyond through strong integration and addressing the systemic nature of environmental issues that countries face.

9. Countries have welcomed the LTV as an opportunity for more proactive, joint programming efforts to help countries identify and pursue important common themes for climate action, including opportunities for blended, parallel and sequenced finance. Building on the GCF and GEF unique strengths, past experiences and ability to support innovation, countries see benefit in the initiative to facilitate scaled-up climate action and support streamlined and coordinated country consultation processes to develop investment plans. As a first launch event, the GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director jointly presented the LTV and reflected on on-going and future collaboration in a dedicated public event organized during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2021 in Marseille, France.

10. The GCF Executive Director and the GEF CEO discussed with the UN Secretary General about the LTV's contributions to help address partnership and climate change priorities articulated in the UN Secretary General's *Our Common Agenda* on October 22, 2021.

11. An in-person meeting on the LTV was held between the GCF Executive Director and the GEF CEO on the margins of 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow to discuss and agree on an agenda of actions to advance LTV implementation consistent with guidance received from the respective governing bodies of the two Funds. The GCF Executive Director and GEF CEO also held a meeting in the sidelines of Stockholm+50 in June 2022 to take stock of the progress made in implementing the LTV and explore ideas to further advance the initiative.

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

12. The two secretariats established a Steering Committee that supports the planning and implementation of initiatives under the LTV. The steering committee has four representatives of each institution serving on the body. The members nominated for the GEF Secretariat are: Gustavo Fonseca (Director of Programs), Chizuru Aoki (Lead Environmental Specialist), Filippo Berardi (Senior Climate Change Specialist), and Robert Bisset (Head of Communications). The members nominated for the GCF Secretariat are: Carolina Fuentes (Director of Country Programming), Veronica Galmez Marquez (Deputy Director Mitigation and Adaptation Division), Juan Pablo Hoffmaister (Multilateral Governance Manager), and Deborah Hong (Head of Communications).

13. The role of the LTV Steering Committee is to enhance the planning, implementation, and outcomes of GCF and GEF investments in line with their respective strategic investment plans, supporting the implementation of initiatives in current programming strategies and informing future programming periods in both funds. Agreement was reached on an initial LTV work plan and Terms of Reference for the steering committee comprising the following responsibilities:

- (a) To facilitate across secretariat the implantations of the LTV, including through the development of an annual work plan;
- (b) To maintain and enhance coordination between the GCF and GEF to implement the Long-Term Vision;
- (c) To provide strategic and policy-relevant advice on the operationalization of the Long-Term Vision;
- (d) To consider and agree on an annual work plan to be undertaken by the two institutions, including deliverables on, and outputs under, the three objectives of (I) collaborative and coordinated programming, (II) sharing information, lessons learned and knowledge, and (III) communication and outreach, and their timeline, division of responsibilities, budgetary considerations, and major strategic decisions to be made jointly;
- (e) To review and provide substantive comments on agreed deliverables and outputs as per the agreed annual work plan;
- (f) To be responsible for the preparation and submission of annual joint reports to the GCF board and GEF Council;
- (g) To facilitate and support joint engagements with UNFCCC, Entities/Agencies, countries, and other major stakeholders;
- (h) To provide advice and suggestions, as requested, to the GCF and GEF leadership on matters of relevance to the implementation and further development of the Long-Term Vision; and
- (i) To undertake any other duties as requested by the GCF and GEF leadership.

14. Following a preparatory Steering Committee meeting in the autumn of 2021, another informal Steering Committee meeting took place on November 4, 2021 at COP 26, where Steering Committee organizational matters were discussed.

15. The first formal LTV Steering Committee meeting took place virtually on February 28, 2022, with the following agenda: a) election of co-chairs; b) adoption of the Steering Committee's Terms of Reference; c) agreement on an initial LTV workplan; d) discussion of major initiatives and principles of programming; e) commissioning of support to the Steering Committee, including a study on the relevant processes and policies of the Funds; and f) collaboration with other Funds.

16. The second Steering Committee meeting took place virtually on April 26, 2022, covering:
- (a) Co-chairing arrangements;
  - (b) Advancing a study on processes and policies of the Funds;
  - (c) Jointly facilitating the investment planning of countries for climate action;
  - (d) Major joint initiatives to be carried out under the LTV;
  - (e) Plans for coordinated engagement at UNCCD COP15; and
  - (f) Preparing the joint annual report, among others.

### **STUDY ON PROCESSES AND POLICIES**

17. One key task included in the LTV as part of the way forward is for the two secretariats to conduct a “thorough analysis of processes and policies of both funds to identify recommendations to support complementarity and coherence and assist developing countries and partners generate long-lasting results in climate change adaptation and mitigation.” The two secretariats collaborated to develop a joint terms of reference to commission this study in the spring of 2022. The GEF Secretariat has taken the lead to post the terms of reference to receive proposals from qualified consultancies. Upon selection and appointment of a consultancy based on agreed criteria, the work is expected to commence over the summer of 2022.

18. Additionally, taking into account collaboration between GCF and GEF, the GCF secretariat is also preparing a review of GCF policy frameworks aimed at examining the performance, coherence, and impact of GCF policies and looking to assess challenges or delays in policy implementation, identify opportunities to simplify, streamline and harmonize policies and identify any priority policy updates needed.

### **INCLUSION OF LTV IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS**

19. Attention to LTV goals is being mainstreamed into the strategic approaches of both Funds. Commitment to enhance coherence and complementarity among multilateral climate funds has been included in the GEF-8 Programming Directions document.<sup>5</sup> The Programming Strategy for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the GEF-8 period also includes references to the LTV and its operationalization.<sup>6</sup> Key areas of cooperation between the two funds include coordinating work on the identification

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<sup>5</sup> GEF, 2022, [GEF-8 Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.08/29/Rev.01 (paras 463-465).

<sup>6</sup> GEF, 2022, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 2022 to June 2026 and Operational Improvements](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/04/Rev.01.

and implementation of major initiatives, support for joint investment plan development, and related outreach and capacity building opportunities.

20. Commitment to pursue the LTV goals has also been incorporated by GCF into its Updated Strategic Plan (USP), for example as it relates to support for National Adaptation Program preparation and attention to helping countries identify financing sources, including from GEF and other international climate funds.<sup>7</sup> Consistent with the USP and the GCF governing instrument, the GCF Secretariat is also exploring how to continue to enhance coherence and complementarity as part of the GCF-2, and expects the LTV to be an element of relevant inputs to be discussed by the GCF Board.

## **PROGRESS ACHIEVED**

21. Guided by the senior leadership of the two institutions and under the oversight of the LTV Steering Committee, efforts have been carried out during the 2021-2022 implementation period to advance coherence and complementarity between GEF and GCF in three key areas identified in the LTV document:

- I. Facilitating collaborative and coordinated country programming;
- II. Sharing information, indicators, lessons learned and knowledge; and Facilitating collaborative and coordinated country programming;
- III. Communications and outreach.

Progress achieved under each key area is summarized below.

### **I. Collaborative and Coordinated Country Programming**

22. The two Funds have begun efforts to improve collaboration and coordination in supporting countries with articulating their climate action priorities and identifying GEF, GCF and other public and private financing sources to address these needs as laid out in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and consistent with each country's sustainable development strategy. This should reduce the potential for duplication of effort and help to ensure access by countries to available climate financing to realize their commitments under the Paris Agreement by aligning their funding proposals with the respective comparative advantage of GEF or GCF.

23. The general aims of joint programming efforts are to: identify and pursue important common themes for climate action; seek opportunities for blended, parallel and sequenced finance; minimize potential duplication of funding; and streamline country consultation processes, among others. Accordingly, activities have begun in the following areas: coordinated support for major initiatives and programming; facilitating national climate action investment

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<sup>7</sup> GCF, 2020, [Updated Strategic Plan for the Green Climate Fund: 2020-2023](#), GCF/B.27/21 GCF/B.27/21 (para 12).



planning; developing a list of activities/programs for joint prioritization; and supporting collaborative financing platforms. Criteria for the pilot exercise to facilitate national climate action investment planning is under development, taking into account the feedback received from countries and other partners during ongoing outreach activities.

24. The work on major initiatives seeks to advance coordinated investment between both institutions with significant climate benefits in support of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreements as well as generating benefits and synergies for the SDG Agenda 2030 and Rio Conventions through ecosystem-based action. This work will also explore options to maximize benefits for developing countries in areas such as e-mobility and clean energy. Specific examples undertaken include:

- (a) **Great Green Wall.** The GEF and GCF have been working together with countries of the Sahel region and regional institutions to support the Great Green Wall Initiative. The GCF and GEF are collaborating to support the new phase and financing of a regional support program for the Great Green Wall Initiative, with cross-approvals of complementary projects (see Box 1).
- (b) **Land Degradation and Climate Change.** Special attention was given during UNCCD COP 15 to identifying synergies between country efforts to address land degradation and meet climate adaptation needs, including opportunities for co-programming of GEF and GCF financial support in light of the GEF-8 land degradation focal area programming directions and ongoing planning for GCF-2 strategic programming.
- (c) **Caribbean Programming Dialogue.** In conjunction with the thirty-second GCF Board meeting (B.32) held in Antigua and Barbuda, the GCF Secretariat organized a “Technical Programming Dialogue with the Caribbean” on May 19-21, 2022, to which the GEF Secretariat was invited. This provided an opportunity to present and explore with Caribbean SIDS and other partners the readiness support and strategic programming approaches of both GCF and GEF, with preliminary ideas identified for country and regional joint programming and measures for improved coordination of climate and environmental financing.
- (d) **Oceans:** Efforts are underway to improve coordination GCF and GEF support to Pacific countries. GCF is working in the creation of a blended finance Sustainable Blue Economy Co-Investment Facility in the Pacific, supporting the enabling environment, capacity building and development of policy frameworks; pipeline development and maturation; deployment of innovative instruments; and investments and knowledge sharing. The GEF, through the LDCF, has submitted for the June 2022 LDCF/SCCF Council approval the Blue Pacific Finance Hub project proposed to be implemented by the Asian Development Bank to catalyze public and private support for climate-resilient and sustainability-oriented investments in the Pacific. The initiative seeks to create an enabling context in each participating country for the Hub to channel a large volume of suitable investments, including supporting access to other ocean-climate adaptation

financing mechanisms. The GEF also has a number of ongoing and planned initiatives in the Pacific through its International Waters portfolio and other programming efforts. The GCF and GEF are particularly exploring synergies to support developing countries' efforts in a coordinated manner for improved coastal ecosystems management.

### **Box 1: New Phase of the Great Green Wall Initiative**

The GEF and GCF collaborated to develop the latest phase of the Great Green Wall Initiative as a centerpiece of cooperation under the LTV. Complementary proposals supporting the new umbrella financing framework have been brought to the GCF Board in March 2022 and the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022. The GCF project, entitled *IGREENFIN I, and its associated Regional Support Programme* together with the LDCF project titled *Great Green Wall Climate Change Adaptation Regional Support Project*, are both implemented by IFAD. GEF-GCF engagement has taken place at both the strategic joint planning level to support climate adaptation in GGW countries and also at the operational level through project coordination committees, knowledge platforms and joint funding of an adaptation innovation grant under the project. GEF and GCF are also coordinating on efforts to raise the visibility of their concerted actions under GGW, including at such key events as UNCCD COP15, through engagement in key side events and in stakeholder and partner engagements.

Additional GCF and GEF projects developed by participating countries and agencies are contributing to the overall Great Green Wall efforts and to this major initiative.

## **II. Sharing Information, Indicators, Lessons Learned and Knowledge**

25. The GEF and GCF continued to participate in the Climate Funds Collaboration Platform on Results, Indicators and Methodologies for measuring impact, where different international climate related financial mechanisms exchange ideas and collaboratively seek to identify and follow best practices in the areas of results management. In addition to the GEF and GCF, the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds and the NAMA Facility have participated.

26. The first phase of the workplan of the Climate Funds Collaboration Platform on Results, carried out in 2021, focused on gaining mutual understanding on the respective processes and result monitoring practices. The second phase of the workplan, which started in 2022, is focused on specific topics of relevance for the climate funds' monitoring practices, including mitigation results and tracking, results management in the AFOLU sector and tracking of co-benefits. The GEF and the GCF co-chaired the first workshop of this second phase which took place on June 2, 2022 and focused on GHG measurement and reporting methodologies.

27. In addition, as part of the programming strategy development process covering the GEF-8 period for the LDCF and SCCF, the GEF Secretariat sought to align its indicators with the GCF as well as other funds. For example, the LDCF/SCCF results framework and GCF's newly revamped Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF) both include the tracking of sex-disaggregated direct beneficiaries and hectares of area managed for climate resilience as indicators of adaptation impact.

### **III. Communications and Outreach**

28. The most significant efforts undertaken with respect to communications and outreach this past year were connected to organization of the jointly branded GCF-GEF Pavilion at COP 26 in Glasgow and its associated events.<sup>8</sup> Many of the events within its extensive 12-day program showcased enhanced GEF-GCF collaboration, including a special session focused specifically on the LTV's establishment and implementation with the participation of many country partners as well as the GEF CEO and GCF Executive Director.

29. Furthermore, the GEF and GCF organized a joint side event at the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body meetings in June 2022. The side event helped inform Parties and interested institutions regarding progress made in the LTV and entry points for engagement. Representatives from LDCs, countries benefiting from Great Green Wall efforts, and entities/agencies welcomed GCF and GEF taking more proactive, joint programming efforts building on the unique strengths of GCF and GEF to support options for blended, parallel and sequenced finance as well as coordinated country consultation processes to develop investment plans. Countries welcomed efforts during the first year of the LTV to advance collaboration initiatives, especially noting potential to create synergies between actions to restore the environment and to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable people.

#### **FURTHER ACTIONS PLANNED**

30. Consistent with the key elements of the agreed joint LTV work plan, efforts during the 2022-2023 implementation period will center on deepening collaboration around country and regional programming, moving forward to better understand opportunities to further LTV goals around GEF and GCF processes and policies and to enhance cooperation on outreach and knowledge sharing. The Steering Committee, under the guidance of the GEF CEO and GCF Executive Director, will hold a programming retreat in the summer 2022 to provide further momentum to the implementation of the LTV.

31. Several activities are planned to deepen programming collaboration. Both to provide practical support to countries and to develop improved joint programming approaches, the two institutions aim to organize several in-depth joint GCF-GEF national climate investment planning exercises. These are meant to better facilitate country-driven planning and priority setting by ensuring it is backed by clear understanding of opportunities to access GEF and GCF

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<sup>8</sup> [Programme » GCF @ COP26 \(gcfatcop.com\)](https://www.gcfatcop.com/).

financing. Under the oversight of the LTV Steering Committee and linked to GEF and GCF country programming mechanisms, these planning exercises will be carried out in targeted countries to: develop co-investment platforms and joint investment strategies; and identify relevant GCF Accredited Entities and GEF Agencies to support national-level processes, among others.

32. These joint country programming activities will take place in the context of ongoing efforts by both Funds to improve support to countries in accessing climate financing. For example, GEF-8 Programming Directions include measures to enhance capacity development, in part as a response to recommendations drawn from the GEF Independent Evaluation Office's recent "Evaluation of the Country Support Program (GEF/E/C.60/03), which will be presented separately to the 62<sup>nd</sup> GEF Council. Such revised Country Support Program elements include explicit attention to increasing synergies and complementarity with other multilateral climate funds, including the GCF and support for the Country Programming Pilot under GEF-GCF Joint Investment Planning included in the LTV work plan.

33. Likewise, and with specific attention to climate adaptation programming and the GCF's Updated Strategic Plan, GCF readiness support is being mobilized to support countries in preparing their National Adaptation Plans (NAP). Particular emphasis is being given to upstream facilitation of NAP investment planning that can be translated into GCF Funding Proposals. With increasing efforts to conduct such dialogues in cooperation with GEF, this should result in better coordinated support for NAP implementation from both GCF and from GEF through LDCF and SCCF in accordance with the GEF-8 programming strategy on adaptation to climate change.

34. Further work is anticipated on the initial set of topics and geographies targeted for joint GEF and GCF programming. These include additional efforts to: support the Great Green Wall initiative according to the comparative advantage of each Fund; seek closer alignment between the existing and prospective GEF e-mobility investment pipeline, including the GEF-7 Global e-Mobility Program, and emerging GCF e-Mobility portfolio, especially in the Latin America and Caribbean region; and improve knowledge sharing while exploring coordinated financing between country and regional forest carbon and biodiversity conservation programs in the Amazon biome. In addition, the LDCF/SCCF and the GCF have agreed to define and pursue major initiatives on climate adaptation, such as technology transfer and a special focus on meeting the needs of SIDS.

35. Building on these initial joint programming efforts, a range of new topics and/or geographies is being considered, with special attention given to meeting the needs of LDCs and SIDS. Opportunities currently under review center on support for nature-based solutions to simultaneously generate multiple global and local benefits including climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. These may include working with countries to identify sequential or joint financing opportunities from GEF and GCF for forest conservation, coastal and marine resources management (e.g., in the Caribbean), private sector engagement under the GEF Challenge Program on Climate Adaptation, and innovative programming in the Zambezi corridor or Congo River Basin.

36. In the context of the GCF revised Updated Simplified Approval Process (SAP) agreed at the thirty-second GCF Board meeting (Decision B32/05), the GCF Secretariat will develop templates and guidelines for fast-tracking preparation and review of SAP proposals to reduce the time and effort needed for preparation and review of SAP proposals, including by identifying certain small-scale activities ready to be scaled up/replicated in coordination with other climate funds. This work will be done in close cooperation with the GEF.

37. As noted above, the study being commissioned on GEF and GCF processes and policies is expected to identify opportunities for strengthening complementarity and coherence through closer alignment. Results of this study should include policy- and process-oriented suggestions that may help inform relevant discussion and decisions by the GEF Council and GCF Board.

38. Finally, several steps are anticipated to further enhance outreach and knowledge sharing between the two Secretariats and with their shared stakeholders. Principal among these are plans to build on prior experience to replicate and scale up organization of a joint GCF-GEF Pavilion in Sharm-El-Shaikh at COP 27. Among many potential topics to be covered within the program of events will be a presentation and discussion with stakeholders of progress made implementing the LTV while articulating a roadmap for further collaboration to achieve the LTV's goals.