



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.63/02
November 17, 2022

63rd GEF Council Meeting
November 28 – December 02, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 02

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item 01.**Opening of the Meeting**

1. The meeting will be opened by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO/Chairperson of the Facility.
2. Council will recall that Ambassador Aliioiga Feturi Elisaia, Council member for the Constituency of Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, had been designated as Elected Chairperson for the calendar year 2022 by decision 37/2021 adopted on December 10, 2021.

Agenda Item 02.**Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The Provisional Agenda has been issued as document GEF/C.63/01, for consideration by the Council.
4. Additional items to be included in the agenda can be requested at this moment and will be brought up under Agenda Item 18: Other Business.
5. The Council is invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

Agenda Item 03.**The GEF Monitoring Report 2022**

6. Document GEF/C.63/03, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2022*, assesses the contribution made by GEF-financed activities to global environmental benefits and provides an overview of the size and distribution of the portfolio of projects under implementation. The report details the progress made by the portfolio of projects under implementation with financing from the GEF Trust Fund over the past year. This includes a review of the GEF partnership's efforts to strengthen its portfolio and make projects and programs more effective. The report covers the period from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.
7. Draft decision: *The Council, having considered The GEF Monitoring Report 2022 (GEF/C.63/03), welcomes the report, its implementation of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework, and enhanced assessment of the risk to achieving project outcomes. The Council requests Agencies, through engagement with the Secretariat, to lend their support in ensuring a strong uptake of Core Indicators across projects and conducting effective risk assessments).*

Agenda Item 04.**Work Program for GEF Trust Fund**

8. Document GEF/C.63/04, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including programming trends in the GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, and highlights of innovative elements inherent in the programs and projects. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested.

9. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.63/04, Work Program for GEF Trust Fund, approves the Work Program comprising 8 projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 6, 2023.*

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$64.7 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs): [See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (i) 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.

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.

In light of the recent audit report by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) of UNDP GEF Management, all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval. This shall take place as actions of the Management Action Plan that address the OAI recommendations are being implemented, and as the independent, risk-based third-party review of compliance by UNDP with the GEF Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards is being completed. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and the UNDP management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to the Council during the 4-week review period.

Agenda Item 05.

Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8

10. Document GEF/C.63/05, *Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*, presents for Council consideration the strategic framework to deliver an expanded and coordinated approach to the GEF's effort to empower countries in the ownership of their portfolios, and in turn, maximize the impact of GEF resources through a coordinated approach. The draft decision requests approval of the budget for each of the activities.
11. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed GEF/C.63/05, Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8, approves the proposal for the*

Secretariat to execute the Country Engagement Strategy according to the procedures contained therein.

- i. The Country Engagement Strategy will include the following elements, funded by the GEF Trust Fund, with a total of US\$27 million, to be allocated for each activity as specified below:*
 - a) Upstream Technical Dialogues & National Dialogues: US\$ 2.1million*
 - b) GEF Workshops and GEF Introduction Seminars: US\$ 12.0 million*
 - c) GEF Constituency Meetings: US\$ 4 million*
 - d) Building execution capacity of stakeholders: US\$ 1.1 million*
 - e) Financial Support to GEF Operational Focal Points: US\$ 5.8 million*
 - f) Knowledge Exchange and Learning: US\$ 2 million*

- ii. The Council approves a set aside of US\$27 million in GEF Trust Fund resources for use by the Secretariat to fund these activities.*

- iii. The Council also approves the addition of the following activities under the expanded scope of CES and directs the GEF Secretariat to finance such activities from the previously approved funding cycles for CSP. As such, no new funding is requested for the below mentioned activities:*
 - a) Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership Program: US\$ 10 million*
 - b) Site visits for Council Members: US\$ 1.2 million*
 - c) Support for Country Delegations and Relevant Stakeholders to Attend COPs to the Conventions and Related Meetings: US\$ 2 million*

Agenda Item 06.

GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8

- 12. Document GEF/C.63/06, *GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*, presents for Council consideration the framework of implementation arrangements for the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in GEF-8. It aligns closely with the renewed ambition, size, and objectives for SGP 2.0 endorsed by GEF-8 Replenishment Participants as well as evaluative evidence and lessons learned from the recent Joint Evaluation of the Programme. Further to the SGP Strategy of the GEF-8 Programming Directions and the subsequent Position Paper of the 62nd Council, this document provides additional details on the financing model, governance, and operational structure of the Programme as well as other cost efficiency and reporting measures leading to a more phased approach.

13. Draft decision: *The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/06, GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8:*
 - i. *endorses the proposed arrangements, and*
 - ii. *approves an amendment to paragraph 3.c of the Agency Fee Policy (FI/PL/03) to specify that fees for the Small Grants Program are set at 9.0 percent.*

Agenda Item 07.

Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs

14. Document GEF/C.63/07, *Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs*, outlines the process facilitated by the GEF Secretariat, including steps taken to address council requests concerning engagement by STAP, securing inputs from recipient countries, and potential impacts of selected agencies on aspirational targets of agency share for GEF-8.
15. Draft Decision: *The Council, recalling its decision 9/2022 and having considered document GEF/C.63/07, Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs, notes the technical and analytical steps taken by the GEF Secretariat and endorses the agencies selected to lead the Integrated Programs.*

Agenda Item 08.

Review of the GEF Management Action Record (MAR)

16. Document GEF/E/C.63/01, *Review of the GEF Management Action Record (MAR)*, aims at understanding the principal themes for recommendations in IEO evaluations, the factors that affect the level of adoption and follow-up of IEO evaluation recommendations. It also provides early feedback on the management responses, including the action plans, to the evaluations presented by the IEO since the transition to a revised MAR process in 2021. By assessing the MAR systems of other multilateral institutions, the review also draws lessons from their experience.
17. Document GEF/C.63/13, *Management Response to the Review of the GEF Management Action Record*, will be presented by the Secretariat indicating actions to be taken by the Secretariat to make effective those recommendations.
18. Draft decision: *The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.63/01, Review of the GEF Management Action Record (MAR), and GEF/C.63/13, the Management Response, takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.*

Agenda Item 09.

Evaluation of the Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities

19. Document GEF/E/C.63/02, *Evaluation of the Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities*, presents an assessment of the effects of the pandemic on GEF

activities through (a) an analysis of the GEF portfolio and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports, (b) an analysis of the impacts on GEF-supported Protected Areas, and (c) an analysis of the effects of COVID-19 within GEF intervention areas and in neighboring areas on (1) vegetation productivity, and (2) nighttime lights.

20. Document GEF/C.63/14, *Management Response: Evaluation of the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities*, will be presented by the Secretariat indicating actions to be taken by the Secretariat to make effective those recommendations.
21. Draft decision: *The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.63/02, Evaluation of the Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities, and GEF/C.63/14, the Management Response, takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.*

Agenda Item 10.

Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the 63rd GEF Council

22. The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will be invited to make a statement to the Council on the work of the Panel. A written report of the Chairperson can be found in document GEF/STAP/C.63/Inf.01, *Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the 63rd GEF Council*. An opportunity will be provided for Council Members to comment on the report, address questions to the Chairperson, and provide guidance to the Panel, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 11.

Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions

23. The Council will be addressed by the Executive Secretaries of the Conventions that the GEF serves, followed by an exchange of views.
24. Document GEF/C.63/08, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, 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).
25. Draft Decision: *The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/08, 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.

Agenda Item 12.

Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards

26. Document GEF/C.63/09, *Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards*, presents the final report of the independent Third-Party Review of compliance by all GEF Agencies with the four GEF policies that comprise GEF minimum standards: i) the Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards, ii) Policy on Gender Equality, iii) Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards, and iv) Policy on Stakeholder Engagement. The Third Party Review was prepared independently by a Reviewer, in accordance with the decision of Council and requirements of GEF policy. The Secretariat provided a facilitation role vis a vis the GEF Agencies and oversaw the administration of the consulting firm contract, but all findings and recommendations contained therein are those of the Reviewer. Representatives of the reviewer (KPMG) will address the Council and be available to answer questions.
27. Draft Decision: *The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/09, Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards,*
 - i. *Notes with appreciation the collaboration of GEF Agencies in the self-assessment and review process.*
 - ii. *Requests the GEF Agencies found not to be fully compliant in all components to prepare time-bound Action Plans to address any gaps identified by the Review, submit these to the Secretariat no later than January 31, 2023, for circulation to Council.*
 - iii. *Notes the findings of the additional self-assessment and review of UNDP showing UNDP in full compliance.*
 - iv. *Decides to discontinue the review period for UNDP projects introduced by Decision 4/2021, paragraph 7, and the additional monthly reports from UNDP introduced by Decision 26/2021, in light of the additional UNDP self-assessment and review planned for 2023.*
 - v. *Requests AfDB, BOAD and DBSA to provide the additional information required to complete the review of outstanding components as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2022.*

Agenda Item 13.

Proposed framework for GEF's role in a financial mechanism for the internationally legally binding instrument under negotiation 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)

28. The Council will be addressed by Ms Rena Lee, President of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference to update the Council on the status of negotiations.
29. Document GEF/C.63/10, *Proposed framework for GEF's role in a financial mechanism for the internationally legally binding instrument under negotiation 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)*, provides the Council with background and an update on the intergovernmental process elaborating 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). It most notably reports on the fifth session of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-5), which took place from August 15 to 26, 2022, and worked on the basis of the further revised draft of the BBNJ agreement released on May 30, 2022. In its Article 52 - Funding, the new draft identified, for the first time, the GEF as a potential operator of part of "a mechanism for the provision of adequate, accessible and predictable financial resources" that would be created by the BBNJ agreement.
30. *Draft decision: The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/10 Proposed Framework for GEF's Role in a Financial Mechanism for the International Legally Binding Instrument under Negotiation 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), takes note of the progress of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to prepare a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine BBNJ; and, if requested by the IGC, would welcome the GEF becoming the Financial Mechanism or part of the Financial Mechanism of the instrument, within the framework of the GEF.*

Agenda Item 14.

Amendments to the Instrument of the Establishment of the restructured GEF

31. Document GEF/C.63/11, *Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility*, presents for Council consideration a list of amendments to the Instrument to the Assembly in accordance with paragraph 34 of the Instrument.
32. *Draft decision: The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/11, Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, decides to recommend to the Assembly the updated text of the Instrument as contained in Annex II.*

Agenda Item 15. GEF Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update

33. Document GEF/C.63/12, *GEF-8 Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update*, establishes the GEF-8 Blended Finance Program strategy, guided by the approved GEF-8 Programming Directions and GEF-8 resource allocation decisions. It also provides policy updates for the GEF Non-Grant Instruments (NGI) Policy, last updated in 2014, referenced as GEF/FI/PL/2. That policy covered the GEF-6 and GEF-7 cycles and was instrumental in guiding innovative non-grant investments and mobilizing private capital into GEF's strategic priorities. This updated policy will be applicable upon Council approval, for all NGI activities approved during the GEF-8 period.
34. Draft decision: *The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/12, GEF-8 Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update, approves the proposed GEF-8 Blended Finance Global Program and Policy Update. The Council also requests the Secretariat to work with the GEF Trustee to provide an annual report on blended finance expected reflows to be submitted at the second Council meeting of each year.*

Agenda Item 16. Note on the organization of the GEF 7th assembly

35. An oral update on preparation for the GEF 7th Assembly will be presented.

Agenda Item 17. Report of the Selection and Review Committee

36. The Selection and Review Committee will present its report to the Council for consideration and appropriate decision in Executive Session.
37. Draft decision: To be confirmed during Council

Agenda Item 18. Other Business

38. Members and the Chairs may raise any other business under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 19. Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs

39. The CEO/Chairperson will present a summary of the decisions approved during the meeting.