



## **GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2022**

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## Decision by Mail – February 2022

### Decision 1/2022      Report to the CoP 15 of the UNCCD

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification](#), approves the report for submission to the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties.

## Decision by Mail – March 2022

### Decision 2/2022      Addendum to the Report to the CoP 10 to the Stockholm Convention

1. The Council, having reviewed the [addendum to the Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#), approves the Report.

## Decision by Mail – April 2022

### Decision 3/2022      Offer of the Government of Canada to host the 7<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly

1. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of Canada for offering to host the Seventh Assembly meeting, in principle, during December 2022 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.

### Decision 4/2022      Topic for Discussion with CSOs at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting

1. The Council, recalling its [Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF](#), decides that the topic to be addressed as part of the GEF Consultations with Civil Society prior to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting will be: “Expanding microfinancing to support local actors and actions for the environment in GEF-8 and Beyond”.

## Decision by Mail – June 2022

### Decision 5/2022      Report to the CoP 15 of the UNCBD

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), approves the Report.

**Decision 6/2022      STAP Chemicals and Waste Panel Member**

1. The Council reviewed and approved the proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP to appoint Dr. Miriam Diamond as a Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

**62<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting – June 2022**

**Decision 7/2022      Summary of Negotiations of the 8th Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund**

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Summary of Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#) (Document GEF/C.62/03), welcomes the successful conclusion of the replenishment, takes note of the Summary, and endorses the programming directions (Annex I) including the allocations of resources set forth therein, the policy recommendations (Annex II), and the Draft Replenishment Resolution (Annex III). The Council requests the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to transmit this Summary to the World Bank with a request that the World Bank Executive Directors be invited to adopt Annex III to this Summary, Draft World Bank Resolution No. [IBRD 2022-xxxx], The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Eighth Replenishment of Resources, thereby authorizing the World Bank, as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, to manage the resources made available under GEF-8.

**Decision 8/2022      Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.62/04: [Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources \(STAR\)](#), approves the STAR Policy contained in Annex I, which replaces and supersedes all relevant previous Council decisions regarding STAR.
2. The Council takes note of the STAR Index descriptions and methodologies in Annex IA, and requests the GEF Secretariat to continue to explore options to reflect vulnerability considerations in the STAR for GEF-9.
3. The Council welcomes the STAR Guidelines in Annex IB, and the operational details of the competitive window in Annex IC.
4. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to monitor the utilization of STAR resources relative to portfolio-level targets on focal-area financing, monitor achievement of results over the GEF-8 period, and report on progress towards those targets with each Work Program of GEF-8 and in the semiannual Corporate Scorecard. The Council also requests that the Secretariat organize a mid-term review to assess portfolio

performance under full flexibility, and to identify potential measures if portfolio-level focal area financing are not progressing to meet the agreed targets.

5. The Council requests that the Independent Evaluation Office evaluate STAR as part of its Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS8), and that it shares its findings, conclusions, and recommendations in sufficient time to inform the negotiations on the ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

**Decision 9/2022      GEF-8 Integrated Programs Lead Agency Terms of Reference and Selection Process**

1. The Council, having considered GEF/C.62/05/Rev.01, [GEF-8 Integrated Programs Lead Agency Terms of Reference and Selection Process](#), agrees with the proposed process for the selection of Lead Agencies and asks to be provided with a detailed report on the process at the 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Council, including full transparency about the proposals received, and consideration of the potential impacts of Lead Agency selection relative to the aspirational targets on agency share for GEF-8.

**Decision 10/2022      Report of the Selection and Review Committee**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.62/06, Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC), requests the SRC to present the performance evaluations of the IEO Director and the GEF CEO for the Council's review at its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Decision 11/2022      Work Program for GEF Trust Fund**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.62/07, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 18 projects and 1 program, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 21, 2022<sup>1 2 3 4</sup>.
2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$165.8 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity:

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<sup>1</sup> The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security, opposes the following project and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: GEF project 10996 in Turkmenistan.

<sup>2</sup> The United States, in light of its policies related to development projects in Zimbabwe, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 10973 in Zimbabwe.

<sup>3</sup> The United States, in light of its concerns related to project implementation risks, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 10971 in Venezuela.

<sup>4</sup> The decision with respect to project review for UNDP projects (Decision GEF/C.61/04) will apply to all UNDP projects in this WP.

1. **Regional (Gabon, Namibia):** Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation, WWF-US, [GEF Program Financing: \$22,635,780] [GEF ID 11014]
2. **Turkmenistan:** Developing National Capacity of Turkmenistan through Improving Regulatory Environment towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Building Sector, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,066,333] [GEF ID 10996]
3. **Brazil:** Strengthening the National Transparency System in Brazil Under the Paris Agreement (DataClima+), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,835,616] [GEF ID 10932]
4. **Colombia:** Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia, CAF/IADB, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,935,135] [GEF ID 10917]
5. **Argentina:** Comprehensive Land Management in Forestry and Agri-food Systems of Three Water Basins in Argentina to Contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, CAF, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,623,377] [GEF ID 10866]
6. **Costa Rica:** Strengthening the National Capacity for the Management of POPs in Costa Rica, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,000,000] [GEF ID 11015]
7. **Iraq:** Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$13,487,495] [GEF ID 10972]
8. **Regional (Argentina, Bolivia):** Integrated Water Resources Management in the Transboundary Bermejo River Basin, CAF, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,350,000] [GEF ID 10995]
9. **Regional (Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda):** Groundwater for Deep Resilience in Africa (G4DR in Africa), FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,786,073] [GEF ID 10970]
10. **Indonesia:** Protection of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-use in Conservation Landscapes in South Sulawesi, Gorontalo and East Nusa Tenggara, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,471,233] [GEF ID 10913]
11. **Djibouti:** Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mabla Mountains, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,269,028] [GEF ID 10874]
12. **Global (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo DR, Gabon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone):** Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$32,131,880] [GEF ID 10973]

3. With respect to the following 6 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.
  13. **Regional:** The Selva Fund, CI, [GEF Program Financing: \$10,000,000] [GEF ID 10937]
  14. **Nigeria:** Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of a Lowland Forest Mosaic Landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 10990]
  15. **Venezuela:** Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Caroni river Basin of Bolivar State, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$8,765,418] [GEF ID 10971]
  16. **Burkina Faso:** Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 11003]
  17. **Global (Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Senegal):** Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$10,733,945] [GEF ID 11011]
  18. **Chad:** Innovative Approach to Protect Ouadis through the Promotion of Non-connected Mini-grid Solar Energy in 3 Municipalities (Mao, Kekedena and Nokou) of Kanem region-Chad, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,954,534] [GEF ID 10998]
4. With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (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.
5. With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity 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 PFDs 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:

19. **Regional (Burundi, Congo DR, Liberia, Mali):** GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$867,045] [GEF ID 11009]

**Decision 12/2022      GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY23**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.62/08/Rev.1, [GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY23](#), takes note of the business plan, and approves an FY23 corporate budget from the GEF Trust Fund of US\$33.256 million, comprised of:
  - (a) US\$26.990 million for the GEF Secretariat
  - (b) US\$2.976 million for STAP; and
  - (c) US\$3.290 million for the Trustee
2. The Council also approves a total FY23 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) of US\$18,400, comprised of the following allocations from the NPIF to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for NPIF administration and implementation:
  - (a) US\$13,500 for the GEF Secretariat; and
  - (b) US\$4,900 for the Trustee
3. The Council also approves a total FY23 administrative budget for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) from the CBIT Trust Fund of US\$0.441 million, comprised of:
  - (a) US\$0.412 million for the GEF Secretariat; and
  - (b) US\$0.029 million for the Trustee
4. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with STAP and the Trustee, to present a combined FY24 corporate budget and business plan for discussion at its 64<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Decision 13/2022      Work Program and Budget of the Independent Evaluation Office**

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Work Program and Budget Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: June 2022](#) (GEF/E/C.62/01), acknowledges the progress made by the Independent Evaluation Office in the reporting period, and approves the IEO budget for FY23.

**Decision 14/2022      Management response to Evaluation of GEF support to Sustainable Forest Management**

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.62/02, [Evaluation of GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management](#), and GEF/C.62/14 /Rev.01, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

**Decision 15/2022      Management response to study on resilience, climate change adaptation and climate risks in the GEF Trust Fund**

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.62/03, [Study on Climate Risk, Adaptation, and Resilience in the GEF Trust Fund](#), and GEF/C.62/13/Rev.01, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

**Decision 16/2022      Report of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Governance**

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.62/09/Rev.01, [Report of the Group on Governance](#), decides:
  - 1) To extend the co-chairing arrangement pilot until the 65<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and to elect a new Co-Chairperson for the duration of one year from among the non-recipient country representatives in the Council at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting;
  - 2) To consider the proposed amendments to the [Rules of Procedures for the GEF Council](#) and to the [Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF](#) contained in the Annex of GEF/C.62/09 and to request the Secretariat to commence consultations with the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee with a view to the GEF Council at its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting:
    - a) taking a decision on the amendments of its Rules of Procedure;
    - b) taking a decision on recommending the amendments to the Instrument to the Assembly in accordance with paragraph 34 of the Instrument;
  - 3) To request the GEF Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the current and the previous elected co-Chairperson, a manual containing critical information for the elected co-Chairperson on the expectations and responsibilities attached with the role of the elected co-Chairperson to facilitate the handover from one co-Chairperson to the next.

#### **Decision 17/2022      Report of the Ethics Committee**

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.62/10, [Report of the Ethics Committee](#), decides that paragraph 4.4 of the GEF Ethics Policy will be amended to read as follows: 4.4 Covered Individuals who refuse to complete a Declaration of Interest shall lose access to GEF Council meetings and the related non-public information and documents. The Ethics Committee, immediately upon being informed by the Ethics Officer, will present a resolution to that effect to the Council whenever a Covered Individual (i) has explicitly refused to fill in a Declaration of Interest or (ii) has not filed a Declaration of Interest or (iii) has filed a manifestly incomplete or erroneous Declaration of Interest.

#### **Decision 18/2022      GEF'S Private Sector Advisory Group Summary Report**

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.62/11, [GEF's Private Sector Advisory Group Summary Report](#), extends its deep appreciation to the members of PSAG for their contribution to the development of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy (PSES). As the PSAG ceases its operation, the Council invites the Secretariat and the wider GEF Partnership to continue to maintain close links with PSAG members and other private sector interlocutors for activities that are relevant to the implementation of the PSES.

#### **Decision 19/2022      Relations with Conventions & Other International Institutions**

1. 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.

#### **Decision 20/2022      Paper on GEF-8 Programming Risk Framework**

1. The GEF Council requests the GEF Secretariat, in consultation with the STAP and interested Council Members and Alternates, to prepare a paper on GEF-8 programming risk framework for consideration by Council at its 64<sup>th</sup> session.

### **Decision by Mail – August 2022**

#### **Decision 21/2022      Dates for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting**

1. The Council, recalling Decision 34/2020, decides that it will hold its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting the week of November 28, 2022.

## **Decision 22/2022      Report to the CoP 27 of the UNFCCC**

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), approves the Report.

## **Decision by Mail – October 2022**

### **Decision 23/2022      GEF Submission on the Status of National Communications, Biennial Update Reports and Status of Biennial Transparency Reports to the UNFCCC**

1. The Council, having considered the GEF submissions on the [Status of National Communications](#) and [Biennial Update Reports](#) to the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the [Status of Biennial Transparency Reports](#) to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session, approves the submissions and requests the GEF Secretariat to transmit them to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

### **Decision 24/2022      Topic for Discussion with CSOs at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting**

1. The Council, recalling its Decision 14/2017 on the [Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF](#), decides that the topic to be addressed as part of the GEF Consultations with Civil Society prior to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting will be: “A dialogue with civil society on the roles they play at national, regional and global levels in the work and implementation of the environmental conventions that the GEF serves.”

### **Decision 25/2022      GEF Submission of the Addendum related to the Reporting Systems to the CoP 27 of the UNFCCC**

1. The Council, having considered the GEF submission of the [Addendum](#) related to the Reporting Systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session, approves the submissions and requests the GEF Secretariat to transmit them to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

## **Decision by Mail – November 2022**

### **Decision 26/2022      Appointment of Members of the Selection and Review Committee**

1. The Council, as prescribed in the relevant Council decisions, endorses Mrs. Laura Elisa Aguirre Tellez, representing Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico,

Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela; Mrs. Annette Windmeisser, representing Germany; Ms. Hongxia Li, representing China; and Ms. Gabriela Blatter, representing Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, as members of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC) until December of 2025 or until their term as Council Member ends.

#### **Decision 27/2022      Appointment of STAP Member**

1. The Council reviewed and approved the proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP to appoint Dr. Ngonidzashe Chirinda as the Climate Change Mitigation Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

#### **Decision 28/2022      Appointment of Member of the Selection and Review Committee**

1. The Council, as prescribed in the relevant Council decisions, endorses Mr. Khulekani Mpofo, representing Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia, Zimbabwe, as member of the SRC until December of 2025 or until his term as Council Member ends.

### **63<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting – December 2022**

#### **Decision 29/2022      The GEF Monitoring Report 2022**

1. 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.

#### **Decision 30/2022      Work Program for GEF Trust Fund**

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C63/04, [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<sup>56</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> The United States, in light of its policies related to development projects in Zimbabwe, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF projects 11048 in Zimbabwe and 11049 in Zimbabwe.

<sup>6</sup> The decision with respect to project review for UNDP projects (Decision GEF/C.61/04) will apply to all UNDP projects in this WP.

2. 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), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity:
  - 1) **Yemen:** Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,016,210] [GEF ID: 11056]
  - 2) **Zimbabwe.** Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Zimbabwe-GEF planetGOLD Zimbabwe, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000] [GEFID 11048]
  - 3) **Regional** (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe): Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa, UNEP, [GEF project financing: \$11,000,000] [GEF ID: 11049]
  - 4) **Armenia:** Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP), World Bank, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,450,000] [GEF ID: 11046]
  - 5) **Brazil:** Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,700,000] [GEF ID 11052]
  - 6) **Global** (Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe): Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$18,690,000] [GEF ID 11054]
  - 7) With respect to the following 2 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:
  - 8) **Regional** (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru): Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000] [GEF ID 11047]
  - 9) **Regional** (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen): An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA), UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$7,350,000] [GEF ID 11050]
3. With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (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.

4. With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity 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.

**Decision 31/2022      Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8**

1. The Council, having considered 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.
2. 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
3. The Council approves a set aside US\$27 million in GEF Trust Fund resources for use by the Secretariat to fund these activities.
4. 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

**Decision 32/2022      GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8**

1. The Council, having considered GEF/C.63/06/Rev.01, [GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8](#):
  - a. endorses the proposed arrangements,
  - b. approves the approach and timeline to start the selection process in 2023 of up to two new Agencies from the existing cohort of accredited GEF Agencies to serve, in addition to UNDP, as Core SGP Implementing Agencies, and that a portion of SGP Core resources is opened to these agencies to begin implementation during the GEF-8 period,
  - c. 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%.

**Decision 33/2022      Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs**

1. 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.

**Decision 34/2022      Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions**

1. 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.

**Decision 35/2022      Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards**

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/09/Rev.01, [Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards](#),
  - a. Notes with appreciation the collaboration of GEF Agencies in the self-assessment and review process.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Notes the findings of the additional self-assessment and review of UNDP showing UNDP in full compliance.



- d. Decides that the measures related to UNDP described in Decision 26/2021 should continue; to be reviewed after Council has considered the additional UNDP self-assessment and review planned for 2023.
- e. 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.

**Decision 36/2022      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)**

1. 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.

**Decision 37/2022      Amendments to the Instrument of the Establishment of the Restructured GEF**

1. 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.

**Decision 38/2022      GEF Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update**

1. 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.

**Decision 39/2022      Management Response to the Review of the GEF Management Action Record**

1. 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.

**Decision 40/2022      Timely Preparation of IEO Evaluations for GEF Management Responses**

1. The Council, following its discussion of documents GEF/E/C.63/01 ([Review of the GEF Management Action Record \(MAR\)](#)) and GEF/C.63/13 ([Management Response](#)), requests the Independent Evaluation Office to provide the GEF Secretariat with complete evaluations at least 4 weeks prior to the Council document posting deadline, and therefore at least 8 weeks prior to the Council meeting, in order to facilitate the timely preparation of management responses.

**Decision 41/2022      Management Response: Evaluation of the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities**

1. 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.

**Decision 42/2022      Report of the Selection and Review Committee**

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.63/15, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC)*:
  - a. Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF CEO's performance for the Performance Year 22 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) and its recommended performance rating. The World Bank will provide its standard salary increase, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.
  - b. Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF IEO Director's performance for the Performance Year 22 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) and its recommended performance rating. The World Bank will provide its standard salary increase, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.

- c. Takes note of the 2023 performance objectives for the GEF CEO and IEO Director and requests the SRC present the performance evaluations of the GEF CEO and IEO Director for the Council's review at its 65<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Decision 43/2022      Dates for the 64<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

1. The Council, recalling its decision 20/2021, decides that it will hold its 64<sup>th</sup> Session, in person, the week of June 26 to 28, 2023.

**Decision 44/2022      Appointment of Member of the GEF Ethics Committee**

1. The Council, recalling its decision 35/2021 and as provided in the [GEF Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest](#), approves Ms. Judith Torres, Alternate Council Member for the constituency of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, as a member of the GEF Ethics Committee for a term of two years (December 2024) or until the expiration of her term on the Council, whichever comes first.