



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.63/08
November 1, 2022

63rd GEF Council Meeting
November 28 – December 2, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 11

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

Recommended Council 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). Covering the period from April 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora. For the activities related to the International Waters Focal Area, this document provides information for the period from November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022.
2. The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNCCD was convened from May 9 to 20, 2022, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The resumed session of COP 10 of the Stockholm Convention took place from June 6 to 17, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland. The 56th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took place from June 6 to 16, 2022, in Bonn, Germany, and the fourth Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG-4) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 21 to 26, 2022.
3. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-5) 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) took place at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, from August 15 to 26, 2022. IGC-5 worked on the basis of the further revised draft of the BBNJ agreement released on May 30, 2022.¹ In its article 52 - Funding, the new draft identified, for the first time, the GEF as part of "a mechanism for the provision of adequate, accessible and predictable financial resources" that would be created by the BBNJ agreement.
4. The GEF CEO and senior level officials also took part in various engagements, including those organized by COP Presidencies and other partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.
5. The provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued, with finalization of the GEF-7 programming and the initiation of the GEF-8 period.

¹ A/CONF.232/2022/5: [Further revised draft text of an agreement 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.](#)

6. Highlights reported include:
- i. CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in preparatory meetings to COP 15, including the fourth OEWG; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
 - ii. UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in preparatory meetings to COP 27; Council approval of the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements for 2022-2026; support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT); submission of national reports; and ratifications.
 - iii. UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 15, responses to the COP Decision on the collaboration with the GEF, and meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat.
 - iv. Stockholm Convention: Updates on the resumed session of COP 10, national reporting, consultations on the GEF-8 replenishment and on related meetings ratifications and accessions, and national reporting.
 - v. Minamata Convention: Updates on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting.
 - vi. Special Programme: Updates of the sixth round of the program.
 - vii. International Waters: Report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in various meetings related to the International Waters Focal Area, including the International Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Conference, 9th World Water Forum, One Ocean Summit, Our Ocean Conference, UN Ocean Conference, and the World Water Week.
 - viii. Summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: the Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the BBNJ negotiation process, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (Plastic INC), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and the GCF.
7. An annex with the full list of GEF's responses to decisions from most recent COPs, including UNFCCC COP 26, UNCCD COP 15, and Stockholm COP 10, is also included. The Minamata COP 4 did not issue new guidance to the GEF.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The report also provides information on GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report presented to the 62nd GEF Council held in June 2022. It covers the period from April 1, 2022, to October 31, 2022. For the activities related to the International Waters Focal Area, the document provides information for the period from November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022.
3. During the reporting period, UNCCD and the Stockholm Convention held COP meetings. Convened from May 9 to 20, 2022, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, UNCCD COP 15 adopted a decision on collaboration with the GEF. Following a virtual segment held in July 2021, COP 10 of the Stockholm Convention resumed for an in-person session from June 6 to 17, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland. The COP issued guidance to the GEF based on the review of the financial mechanism and the needs assessment of the Convention. It decided to list a new group of chemicals, triggering obligations for Parties to review and update their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and for the GEF to provide corresponding support.
4. Other major Convention-related meetings took place during the reporting period. For CBD, the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-4) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 21 to 26, 2022. The meeting advanced the negotiations of the GBF with a view to its adoption at the resumed session of CBD COP 15 in Montreal, Canada, from December 7 to 19, 2022. The 56th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) convened from June 6 to 16, 2022, in Bonn, Germany to advance deliberations towards UNFCCC COP 27 scheduled to take place from November 6 to 18, 2022, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
5. The provision of finance through the GEF in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued in the reporting period, as well as consultations with countries and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat.
6. The GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground, and to help enhance ambition of landmark decisions and agreements to be reached, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

7. Initiated in early 2021, the GEF-8 replenishment process, which closely associated the Convention Secretariats through numerous meetings and draft reviews, successfully concluded during the reporting period.

8. The Programming Strategy for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the GEF-8 period also successfully concluded negotiations, and was approved by the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022. The UNFCCC Secretariat personnel participated in the process.

9. The Executive Secretaries of the UNFCCC, CBD, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, and the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCCD addressed the 62nd GEF Council in the Relations with Conventions session. They welcomed the record level of pledges achieved in the GEF-8 replenishment, discussed the implications of the recent Stockholm and Minamata COP meetings, and the status of negotiations under the CBD.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

10. The organization of CBD COP 15 has been adapted to the exceptional circumstances stemming from the COVID pandemic. COP 15 as well as the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 10) and fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP 4) have been organized in two phases. Phase one (COP 15.1) took place mainly virtually from October 11 to 15, 2021, with limited in-person participation in Kunming, China. Phase two (COP 15.2) is scheduled to be held in person, in Montreal from December 7 to 19, 2022. CBD COP 15.2 is expected to adopt the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which will set out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.

Summary of Key Activities

11. In the reporting period, the GEF CEO approved Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support grants (EAG) funded by the GEF-7 Biodiversity set-aside enabling activities window. Totalling \$43 million, these grants fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the GBF by providing financial and technical support to 138 GEF-eligible Parties to the CBD in their work to begin the process of reviewing and aligning with the GBF their national targets, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and identifying the finance needed to implement the GBF. A total of 22 Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) have been approved, including 20 MSPs providing \$300,000, inclusive of fees, per country for in-country work and two global technical assistance projects. The projects are implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

12. GEF Secretariat staff attended the Fourth Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG) from June 21 to 26, 2022 where Parties sought to make progress on the draft Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

13. The GEF CEO made an intervention in the opening plenary of OEWG-4. He announced the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support grants and the historic results of the GEF-8 replenishment. He emphasized that support to the implementation of the CBD will greatly increase GEF-8 in both share and volume, which demonstrated the commitment of the donor community to finance the implementation of the GBF and the leading role of the GEF on biodiversity. He committed to continuing in GEF-8 to streamline GEF procedures and improve efficiencies without jeopardizing necessary safeguards or project quality. GEF held two information sessions/side events during OEWG-4:

- (a) Overview of GEF-8 Programming: About 70 participants attended the session that included a presentation of GEF-8 Programming and recent progress made in improving GEF operations as well as a questions and answers session with the GEF CEO.
- (b) How the GEF-8 Programming and Biodiversity Focal Area Strategies support GBF implementation: About 65 participants attended the session, which included a technical presentation on the most biodiversity-relevant Integrated Programs in GEF-8 and an overview of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy. The aim was to show how the ambition embedded in the draft GBF was matched by the GEF-8 Programming Directions. Information was provided during the session on the EAG projects that were funded by the GEF-7 Biodiversity set-aside.

14. The GEF Secretariat participated in a EAG project launch hosted by UNDP and UNEP which was attended by EAG recipient countries. UNDP and UNEP also set up an "EAG help desk" in the main hallway between plenary rooms to talk with countries. 67 of the 138 EAG recipient countries benefited from the help desk over the week. In addition, representatives from eleven developed country Parties interacted with the "EAG Help Desk", which will be also established at the upcoming COP 15.2.

15. GEF Secretariat staff held numerous bilateral meetings on GEF-8 programming and GEF operations with recipient and donor countries. GEFSEC participated in a roundtable organized by the IPLC caucus on resource mobilization and talked about the work of Inclusive Conservation Initiative and approaches for IPLC funding.

16. While some progress was made during OEWG-4, considerable work is still needed to reach agreement on the GBF. All four goals of the GBF are still heavily bracketed. Out of the framework's 22 targets—that may become 23 if an additional suggested target on health is agreed upon—consensus was reached on just one and a half. Target 12 on green and blue spaces for urban areas was agreed upon as well as Target 19.2 on non-financial elements of resource mobilization. The Working Group forwarded "clean" negotiated text to COP 15 for

these targets. Target 19.1 on financing implementation may be the most difficult challenge for successfully completing the GBF.

17. With a view to facilitating the negotiations at COP 15.2, OEWG-4 thus agreed to hold a 5th meeting of the OEWG and, prior to OEWG-5, to organize an in-person meeting of an informal group with the mandate to (i) review the draft GBF resulting from OEWG-4 for addressing coherence, redundancies, consistency, and ease of communication; (ii) identify potential areas of technical solutions; and (iii) provide technical analysis of options for a way forward. Nominated by the Co-Chairs of the OEWG, the members of the informal group met from September, 26 to 30, 2022, in Montreal, Canada, to produce a streamlined version of the draft GBF that will be made available to OEWG-5, which will take place from December 3 to 5, 2022, in Montreal, Canada, before the official opening of COP 15.2.

18. OEWG-4 made some progress on Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources (DSI) and the elements of a corresponding draft decision at COP 15 have been considered, but further discussion is required on definition and scope of DSI, traceability and mechanisms for benefit sharing. Two additional meetings of the Informal Co-Chairs' Advisory Group on DSI were thus held online on October, 12 and 14, 2022.

19. While GBF remains the focus of the upcoming COP, multiple programmes of work under the CBD will be considered at COP 15.2 and must also be agreed, including COP guidance to the GEF.

20. The Executive Secretary of the CBD participated in the 62nd GEF Council in June 2022. Welcoming the GEF-8 replenishment, including its historic share and amount for biodiversity, she highlighted that ongoing negotiations on the GBF will be able to build on the successful results of GEF-8 replenishment. She further noted that GEF-8 responded well to the objectives of the convention. She also stressed that the GEF has demonstrated its capacity to rapidly conceptualize and approve much needed critical grants in to fast-track readiness and implementation of the GBF.

21. On September 20, 2022, the GEF CEO participated in the event "Countdown to COP 15: Landmark Leaders' Event for a Nature Positive World" organized on the margins of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly by the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, the Global Ocean Alliance and, the Leaders' Pledge for Nature. The CEO recalled the record GEF-8 replenishment which will put nature positive investments at the centre of their new funding cycle. He emphasised that the GEF would contribute to supporting countries in realigning all financial flows with climate and nature.

Ratifications and Accessions

22. As of October 17, 2022, there were 196 Parties to the CBD, 173 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 51 Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 138 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

23. Since the last report to the GEF Council, Bahrain, Morocco, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, and Ukraine became party to the Nagoya Protocol, while Belgium and Nigeria became party to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

National Reporting

24. The Convention Secretariat has received two additional sixth national reports from Kiribati and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since the last report to Council. The list of 188 national submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

25. During the reporting period, efforts continued to support climate change activities with the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Of particular relevance to climate adaptation support is the successful conclusion of negotiations and Council approval of the Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements for the LDCF/SCCF. The roll-out of the new strategy, including consultations with LDCs, took place after the start of GEF-8 in July 2022.

26. The UNFCCC Executive Secretary participated in the 62nd GEF Council via video, sharing her appreciation for the support to countries provided by the GEF.

27. COP 27 is scheduled to take place from November 6 to 18, 2022, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. A GEF Secretariat delegation headed by the GEF CEO is expected to participate in the COP 27 meetings. The GEF report to COP 27 was prepared and submitted, as described further below. GEF Secretariat staff participated in person at the 56th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) from June 6 to 16, 2022, in Bonn. The GEF delegation highlighted various tasks carried out to respond to guidance from COP 26 and its continued efforts to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including in relation to its role regarding the implementation of the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework (ETF).

28. On this issue, the GEF confirmed that indicative cost structure for BTRs had been revised² following COP guidance from Glasgow. The GEF also highlighted that support can be obtained for multiple reports under expedited/one-step modalities for projects under \$2 million. In addition, the GEF delegation provided inputs and updates regarding GEF-7 activities and progress with provision of financial support, which were requested by Parties on several SBI 56 agenda items, including on SBI agenda item 4b “Provision of financial and technical support”, and SBI agenda Item 13, “Development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism”.

29. At the 56th session of the SBSTA and the SBI, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the following events:

- (a) Least Developed Countries Expert Group Side event on supporting LDCs on Adaptation, June 7, 2022;
- (b) Joint GEF-GCF Side Event on the Long-Term Vision of Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the GCF and GEF, June 8, 2022;
- (c) UNFCCC Side Event on Supporting the Implementation of the MRV Arrangements and Enhanced Transparency Framework, June 9, 2022;
- (d) UNFCCC Side Event on Technical Meetings for Implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), June 9, 2022;
- (e) Outreach event for LDCs on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF and Operational Improvements July 2022 to June 2026, June 10, 2022;
- (f) Informal Dialogue and Reception for SIDS Support through the SCCF, June 13, 2022;
- (g) SBSTA’s Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, June 15, 2022.

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

31. Regarding mobilization of finance, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), through the programming of medium-sized and full-sized projects. The Work Program approved by the 62nd Council in June 2022 included, among others, the approval of the Umbrella Programme for the Preparation of NCs and BTRs, with a total GEF

² GEF, 2022, [Information Note on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

funding of \$32 million to support up to 50 BTRs, either as stand-alone documents or combined with NCs.

32. The LDCF finalized GEF-7 support to LDCs with the approval of the Work Program by the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council totalling \$72.4 million, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees.³ The LDCF successfully provided support to all 47 LDCs eligible for support, and achieved an impressive, over 99 percent utilization rate of LDCF resources for national projects in the GEF-7 period.

Programming Strategy Development

LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements (2022-2026)

33. Following extensive consultations that began in September 2021, the 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 was endorsed at the LDCF/SCCF Council at the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council meeting. The Strategy received warm appreciation from Council Members and other stakeholders.

34. The LDCF/SCCF Strategy is ambitious and innovative. It raises the per-country access cap for LDCF from \$10 million in 2018-2022 to \$20 million for the 2022-2026 period, in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact, which called for doubling of adaptation financing by 2025. The SCCF Window-A has a focus on the adaptation needs of SIDS, filling an important void in the international adaptation finance space, and includes a financial outlay for grant finance for each non-LDC SIDS. SCCF Window-B focuses on technology transfer, private sector engagement, and innovation for adaptation.

35. Building on longstanding country adaptation needs as evidenced from the portfolio, the two Funds will continue to emphasize programming in the areas of (i) Agriculture, Food Security and Health; (ii) Integrated Water Resource Management to address water security, droughts and flooding; (iii) Nature-based Solutions; and (iv) Early Warning and Climate Information Systems. Additional themes will be supported based on country needs. Key cross-cutting themes of the Strategy are application of a ‘whole of society’ approach in projects, promoting inclusive interventions and the capacity building to enable this; and South-South learning and exchange.

36. Among the three new Dedicated Programs laid out in the Strategy, one is focused on ‘Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming’, responding directly to gaps and needs.

³ GEF, 2022, [Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#), Council Document GEF /LDCF.SCCF.32/03.

Ratifications and Accessions

37. As of October 31, 2022, there are 198 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 194 ratified, the Paris Agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

National Reporting

38. The following is the total number of NCs submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of October 31, 2022:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **145**
- (c) Third National Communications: **95**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **19**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **2**
- (f) Sixth National Communications: **1**

Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/non-annex-I-NCs>

39. The following is the total number of BURs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of October 31, 2022:

- (a) First Biennial Update Reports: **80**
- (b) Second Biennial Update Reports: **37**
- (c) Third Biennial Update Reports: **24**
- (d) Fourth Biennial Update Reports: **10**

Full details are available at: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>

COP 27 Related Processes

40. The GEF Secretariat has taken part in the UNFCCC negotiation process and preparation for COP 27. To comply with reporting requirements as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the GEF Council and UNFCCC COP, the GEF submitted its annual report to COP 27 on August 22, 2022.⁴ The report covers the fiscal year from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. In addition, the GEF submitted an addendum to the GEF report to COP 27, on the status

⁴ GEF, 2022, [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](#).

of resources approved by the GEF for the preparation of NCs, Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and BTRs from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on October 10, 2022.⁵

41. An additional addendum to the GEF report to COP 27 was submitted in late October, 2022, upon approval by the GEF Council.⁶ The addendum presents information provided in response to Decision 12/CMA.3 paragraph 7(a), which requested the GEF to estimate "the cost to developing countries of implementing the enhanced transparency framework, which includes establishing and enhancing a reporting system".

42. The addendum summarizes the information presented during a workshop organized by the GEF Secretariat on October 12, 2022, to discuss how the GEF, countries, and agencies are addressing issues related to establishing and enhancing the reporting system referred to in paragraph 7 (a) of decision 12/CMA.3.⁷ Participants included government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies.

43. The GEF was requested by Parties at COP 24 to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTRs. An updated costing structure for BTRs and NCs was rolled out on July 1, 2022, informed by the inputs received from parties during a third informal consultation on BTRs hosted by the GEF Secretariat in February 2022.

44. Since the roll-out of the operational modalities, response from countries has been robust. As of October 31, 2022, the GEF has approved support for 48 countries for the preparation of the first BTR. In GEF-8 expedited support continues to be available along with multiple modalities that provide flexible options for developing first and subsequent BTRs. Countries can access resources for the BTR preparation at full cost, from the Climate Change focal area set-aside resources.

45. The GEF also continued to provide reporting-related support to developing countries through the CBIT. Every CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of October 31, 2022, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 88 projects covering 82 individual country projects, one regional project (with four countries), and five global projects, totaling \$144.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. By the end of GEF-7, on June 30, 2022, \$91.5 million were programmed to support 47 CBIT projects. Progress

⁵ GEF, 2022, [Status from National Communications, Biennial Update Reports and Biennial Transparency Report from Parties not included in Annex I of the Convention](#).

⁶ GEF, 2022, [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. Addendum, Part III: GEF's Response to the COP Guidance. Reporting Systems Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework](#).

⁷ [Workshop on Reporting Systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework](#), October 12, 2022.

made on the CBIT including a portfolio analysis and outlook is presented to Council in an information document.⁸

46. The GEF Secretariat continued to advance on the efforts to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GEF and GCF Secretariats collaborated to develop a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity of the GEF and GCF, which was presented to the GEF Council at its 60th meeting in June 2021 and to the GCF Board at its 29th meeting in June 2021.⁹

47. The LTV and collaboration with the GCF have been integrated and mainstreamed into the new LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy as well as the GEF-8 Programming Directions. The GCF and GEF are also collaborating with the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, notably with the recent agreement to support the GEF-GCF joint national investment planning efforts in five pioneer countries of the Taskforce. This work is expected to be launched at COP 27.

48. Furthermore, the two institutions have started the process to commission an independent, in-depth analysis of policies and processes of the GEF and GCF, focusing on the project cycle and requirements. This analysis is expected to generate suggestions for streamlining and potential harmonization to enhance access by countries. The GCF and GEF have also joined forces on outreach efforts, with a GCF-GEF Pavilion at COP 27 and several joint events.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

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

- (a) 24th meeting of the TEC from March 22 to 25 and March 28, 2022 (virtual participation);
- (b) 19th meeting of the CTCN Advisory Board from March 28 to 30, 2022 (virtual participation);
- (c) GCF Technical Programming Dialogue with the Caribbean from May 19 to 21, 2022 (in person participation);
- (d) UNFCCC training workshop on climate finance access for Indian Ocean SIDS, May 23 to 26, 2022, Male, Maldives (in person participation);
- (e) UNFCCC training workshop on Climate Finance Mobilization and Access for LDCs in Asia, August 8 to 11, 2022, Bangkok, Thailand (in person participation);

⁸ GEF, 2022, *Progress Report of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency*, Council document GEF/C.63/Inf.14

⁹ 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.

- (f) Botswana Global Adaptation Week 2022: NAP Expo 2022 and UN for NAPs Forum, August 22 to 26, 2022 (in person participation);
- (g) 2nd workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation, August 30 to 31, 2022 (virtual participation);
- (h) 25th meeting of the TEC from September 6 to 9, 2022 (virtual participation);
- (i) 20th meeting of the CTCN Advisory Board from September 9 to 14, 2022 (virtual participation);
- (j) Least Developed Countries Group on Climate Change Ministerial and Strategy Meetings, September 12 to 14, 2022, Dakar, Senegal (in person participation);
- (k) UNFCCC training workshop on Climate Finance Access in the Arab States, from September 18 to 20, 2022, in Gammarth, Tunisia (in person participation);
- (l) First Meeting of the Nairobi Work Program Expert Group on Agriculture and Food Security, September 20 and 21, 2022 (virtual participation);
- (m) 29th Standing Committee on Finance Meeting, from September 29 to October 1, 2022, Cairns, Australia (in person participation);
- (n) Workshop on Reporting Systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, October 12, 2022 (virtual participation).

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

50. A GEF delegation led by the CEO participated in the UNCCD COP 15, held from May 9 to 20, 2022, in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire.¹⁰ The GEF Secretariat presented the GEF report to the COP.¹¹ Having considered the GEF report, the COP adopted decision 9/COP.15 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.¹² The Decision is focusing on GEF’s continued support to countries to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought and to achieve their voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. It welcomes the strong eighth GEF replenishment including a robust increase of LDFA resources and calls for continuous focus on land-based actions through GEF Impact/Integrated Programs. Other main elements of the decision are invitations to the GEF, within its mandate, to support the implementation of national drought plans and other drought-related policies, as well as to assess the feasibility of establishing a focal area for drought in order to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought. Initial responses by the GEF Secretariat to these decisions are contained in Annex I, Table 3.

¹⁰ <https://www.unccd.int/cop15>

¹¹ GEF, 2022, [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#).

¹² <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/cop23add1-advance.pdf>

51. The GEF CEO participated in the Heads of State Summit convened ahead of the opening of COP 15, in which governments adopted the Abidjan Call, which urges giving the highest priority to the issue of drought and reinforces the commitment towards achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030.¹³ President Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire announced the ambitious Abidjan Legacy Programme as a global and integrated response to restore degraded land and increase agricultural production in Côte d'Ivoire by 2050. Initial pledges made during the Summit towards this goal include those by the African Development Bank, the European Union, the Green Growth Initiative, and the World Bank Group. The GEF is contributing \$2 million to the Abidjan Legacy Programme focusing on regional knowledge management activities.

52. The High-level segment (HLS) of the COP 15 opened with the Gender Caucus held under the theme "Gender equality for strong land stewardship", hosted by the First Lady of Cote d'Ivoire, brought together the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, and a former President of Finland. The Caucus also included a Ministerial Dialogue and a panel discussion on supporting countries to accelerate efforts in pursuit of gender equality in the context of desertification, land degradation and drought. The GEF CEO shared his experience and reflections on incorporating gender in GEF's work in the panel.

53. During the second day of the HLS, the GEF CEO and other members of the GEF delegation participated in the a round table dedicated to "Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery", co-chaired by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, and the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Environment of Nepal. The GEF CEO provided opening remarks on key considerations and priorities for restoration from the GEF perspective.

54. During COP 15, the GEF delegation organized two official side events and a GEF-half day in the Rio Conventions Pavilion. The side event on the *Present and Future of GEF Support to UNCCD: From GEF-7 to GEF-8* featured the GEF CEO as the keynote speaker, with panelists from the UNCCD Secretariat, SCCF/LDCF, Adaptation Fund, Ecuador, and the Caribbean-based Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM). Perspectives and views on addressing land degradation in an integrated manner was a common theme throughout the session. Further information including presentations made at the side events are available on the GEF website.¹⁴

55. The GEF CEO chaired and facilitated an engagement session with GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and UNCCD Focal Points, with over 40 persons in attendance and active discussions on programming and operational issues across GEF projects. Follow-up actions were agreed upon to improve communication with the MEA focal points on GEF matters, and to facilitate increased collaboration between the GEF OFPs and MEA focal points. The GEF CEO

¹³ <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/press-releases/time-now-future-proof-land-world-leaders-say-abidjan-summit>

¹⁴ <https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-unccd-cop15>

also met with representatives of the UNCCD Civil Society Organizations (CSO) network to discuss GEF support to CSOs in their engagement with the convention, which will be provided through a \$2 million MSP funded by the GEF-7 LD Focal Area set-aside.

Ratifications and Accessions

56. As of October 14, 2022, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 states and the European Union. The details can be found here: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVII-10&chapter=27&clang=en

National Reporting

57. The next reporting by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework has been postponed to the next Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in 2023 with an exact date still to be decided. Postponement provides more time for Parties as they face pandemic-related delays. GEF has made \$100,000 available for each GEF eligible country for UNCCD Enabling Activities for national reporting and planning. This amount of \$100,000 is in addition to the respective STAR allocations and includes GEF agency fees.

58. Access to funding is provided through umbrella projects implemented by UNEP. 122 countries have provided OFP endorsement letters and the funding requests that were submitted to the GEF by UNEP through six umbrella projects have been approved by the GEF CEO between March to May 2022. The subsequent disbursement of funding to countries is handled by UNEP, and it is ongoing and in various stages in the process. The GEF Secretariat is closely monitoring the process to ensure timely delivery of funding to countries.

59. GEF provides additional support through a Global Support Program implemented by UNEP, as a \$2 million MSP, to enable the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD to facilitate the reporting process through technical assistance and regional workshops.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

60. The UNCCD Executive Secretary and GEF CEO had virtual and in-person meetings prior to and at the margins of COP 15, in which the GEF-8 replenishment results, UNCCD-GEF collaboration towards a successful implementation of the GEF-8 cycle, and GEF engagement in the Abidjan Legacy Programme were discussed.

61. The GEF Secretariat staff held bilateral meetings with the UNCCD Global Mechanism team at the margins of the COP 15 to discuss their current priorities in terms of LDN implementation, developing LDN transformative projects and programs, support to Enabling Activities, and the Great Green Wall Accelerator.

62. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNCCD participated in the 62nd GEF Council Meeting. She provided an update of the recent COP 15 outcomes and highlights including an outlook to future collaboration with the GEF in the implementation of the UNCCD agenda.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

63. The face-to-face segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-15), the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-10) and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-10) were held back-to-back from June 6 to 17, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland.

64. The high-level segment took place on June 1, 2022, in Stockholm, Sweden during the UNEP Stockholm+50 conference.

65. The 2022 BRS COPs were opened on June 6, 2022, with statements from the host country, Executive Director of UNEP, the Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions, COP Presidents and the GEF CEO. By referring to the high-level segment that took place in Stockholm during Stockholm +50 and UNEA decision reached earlier this year, speakers highlighted the global attention on emerging issues such as plastics and e-waste. The CEO gave his opening remarks in the morning plenary. The CEO highlighted the successful replenishment of GEF-8 and emphasized that the GEF's Chemicals and Waste Focal Area will receive close to \$800 million, or more than 30 percent increase compared to the GEF-7 level. He also underscored his expectation to increase the chemicals and waste results in GEF-8, not only directly through chemicals and waste resources, but also through co-benefits from the IPs and other focal areas.

66. The Executive Secretary of the Convention participated in the 62nd Council in June 2022 and addressed the Council during the relations with conventions and other international processes session. He congratulated the GEF on the successful GEF 8 replenishment particularly on the robust allocation to the chemicals and waste focal area. He also provided highlights of the resumed COP 10 including the guidance to the GEF and the listing of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.

GEF Report to the COP

67. The GEF Secretariat on behalf of the Council presented the report of the GEF to the COP, highlighting the support to the Convention.

68. There was general appreciation for the work of the GEF in mobilizing funding and assisting Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Stockholm Convention. Many Parties, both developed and developing, commended a successful GEF-8 replenishment, and some appreciated GEF support to their country. Some urged other countries to stress their financial

needs on chemicals at the GEF Council. One Party raised its concern about lack of access to GEF support.

Decisions

69. SC-10/16 on Financial mechanism provides guidance to the GEF based on the review of the financial mechanism and the needs assessment of the Convention. The guidance received and GEF response is contained in table 4 of annex I.

70. The COP listed a new group of chemicals that will require action from the GEF in supporting Parties at are developing countries or countries with economies in transition. Decision COP-10/13 lists perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.

71. PFHxS, its salts and related substances have unique properties with a high resistance to friction, heat, chemical agents, low surface energy and used as water, grease, oil and soil repellent. It is widely utilized in a variety of consumer goods such as carpets, leather, apparel, textiles, firefighting foam, papermaking, printing inks, sealants, non-stick cookware.

72. PFHxS are very resistant to chemical, thermal and biological degradation due to their strong carbon-fluorine bonds and a resistance to degradation which makes it persist in the environment. PFHxS concentrations are found in biota and human alike and its elimination takes approximately 8 years. Effects of PFHxS in humans are found to influence on the nervous system, brain development, endocrine system and thyroid hormone.

73. The listing of this group of chemicals triggers the obligation for Parties to review and update their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and that the GEF will need to fund developing country Parties or Parties with economies in transition accordingly.

74. In total the COP in June adopted 22 additional decisions to the four that were adopted during the 2021 online segment.

75. Several of the decisions relate to the effectiveness of the Convention, which the GEF supports through the funding of the Global Monitoring Plan as well as projects that phase out the use, production and emissions of POPs.

76. The venue and date of the next meeting of the COPs are decided as: Geneva, Switzerland, from May 1 to 12, 2023.

Ratifications and Accessions

77. During the reporting period, Grenada ratified the Convention bringing the number of ratifications to 185. The status of ratifications is available at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National Reporting

78. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention's entry into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of October 31, 2022, the status of submission of NIPs and updates are as follows:

<i>NIP Phase</i>	<i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i>	<i>Change since last report</i>
Initial NIP	176	0
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	108	1
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	98	0
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	65	1
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	44	2
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	27	2
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	11	2

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

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

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

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

81. The Executive Secretary of the Convention participated in the 62nd Council meeting in June 2022 and addressed the Council during the relations with conventions and other international processes agenda. In her address the Executive Secretary congratulated the GEF on the successful GEF 8 replenishment, particularly on the robust allocation to the chemicals and waste focal area. She provided an overview of the resumed session of COP 4 which took place in March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia including the decisions on the second review of the financial mechanism of the Convention, the agreement on an effectiveness evaluation mechanism and on amendments to the Convention that accelerates the phase out of several products containing mercury.

82. The GEF Secretariat and the Convention Secretariat met to discuss the second review of the financial mechanism of the Convention.

Ratifications and Accessions

83. During the reporting period, Türkiye became a party to the Convention.
84. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention has 128 signatures and 138 Parties, as of October 31, 2022. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties>
85. The Minamata Convention has updated its website and can be found at:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en>

National Reporting

86. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has created a website to house national reports from Parties, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), National Action Plans (NAPs) for the ASGM sector, National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention.
87. There are currently 68 MIAs submitted, 21 NAPs, 3 NIPs and 99 reports submitted under Article 21. MIAs that have been submitted are available at this link:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/minamata-initial-assessments>
88. NAPs that have been submitted are available at this link:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-action-plans>
89. NIPs that have been submitted are available at this link:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-implementation-plans>
90. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at this link:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/reporting> . The deadline for the full reports is 31 December 2021

SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

91. No meetings of the Specific International Programme were held during the reporting period.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

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

BRS Conventions, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). UNEA 5 in February 2022 extended the program for another five years.

93. The sixth round of applications to the Special Programme was launched on April 11, 2022. The deadline for the submission of applications was August 12, 2022. The internal task team met virtually on September 22 and 23, 2022, to review project proposals submitted for this round. The Executive Board will meet in the first quarter 2023 to finalise and approve the projects for the sixth round.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

94. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the Montreal Protocol during the reporting period. The Chief Officer of the Multilateral Fund wrote the GEF CEO to initiate discussions on energy efficiency in the context of the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol. A meeting was held on October 21, 2022. The discussion included the re-engagement of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat in the GEF Council and inter-Secretariat dialogue to enhance collaboration, reassurances of the inclusion of questions about complementary support in respective project reviews, exploration of further collaboration at the country level on joint programs and coordination, among others.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS FOCAL AREA

Summary of Key Activities

95. The GEF occupies a critical place in international environmental finance, supporting countries in jointly managing their transboundary surface and groundwater basins and shared marine ecosystems, as well as the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), to enable healthy ecosystems and the sharing of benefits from their utilization.

96. This section includes information on activities related to the GEF International Waters (IW) focal area that have taken place since the 61st GEF Council meeting, covering the period from November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022.

97. The GEF Secretariat was actively engaged in the UNESCO-hosted International Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Conference on “Transboundary Aquifers: Challenges and the Way Forward”, which took place in Paris in December 2021. The conference brought together 1,000 participants to discuss concept and approaches to sustainable groundwater and transboundary aquifer management across sectors and within different contexts, in both developed and developing countries. The conference contributed to the UN-Water Global Acceleration Framework and to the agenda for the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater taking place in December 2022 in Paris.

98. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2022. This triennial event, which brought together more than 8,000 participants from 104 countries, is the world’s largest meeting on addressing global water challenges. The GEF

Secretariat sat on several panels to demonstrate the impact of its multi-stakeholder, multi-country approach, in particular in Africa, to improve water resources management and governance. Panel topics included “progress, gaps and challenges in the development and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water cooperation” and “the source-to-sea approach in governance of transboundary waters and adjacent coast and seas/oceans.” The 9th Forum was the first held in sub-Saharan Africa.

99. In the reporting period, the GEF IW team contributed to other regionally hosted water-related conferences and dialogues on the African continent, including the 2nd Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Water Forum and South African Development Community (SADC)- and African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)-hosted meetings on surface water and groundwater challenges.

100. In 2022, a series of major ocean events were synchronized to build collective effort to conserve and sustainably use the oceans for today and generations to come. This series began with the One Ocean Summit organized in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the support of the United Nations, in Brest, France, from February 9 to 11, 2022. The Summit included the participation of Heads of State and Government, leaders of multilateral institutions, business leaders, and civil society policymakers making ambitious commitments. The GEF CEO contributed a video to the high-level segment to present the GEF’s investments and plans for GEF-8 in the marine space, including supporting formulation of marine spatial plans and marine protected areas, tackling IUU and moving fisheries toward sustainable management, and improving governance of the ABNJ. The GEF CEO also provided GEF’s perspective in the One Ocean Summit workshop entitled “What and whom are we protecting? Unlocking multiple MPA benefits for nature, climate and people”.

101. At the Our Ocean Conference in Palau in April 2022, the GEF announced more than \$280 million in new programming commitments across the conference’s six areas of action: marine protected area, marine pollution, climate change, sustainable blue economy, sustainable fisheries, and maritime security.

102. The ocean series culminated with the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 2022. The conference set out to galvanize action to tackle the major anthropogenic threats to the ocean, including deoxygenation, ocean acidification, marine pollution, and overfishing. Delegates announced more than 300 voluntary commitments, with about fifty high-level commitments and pledges. The GEF CEO was a lead discussant on the high-level interactive dialogue on addressing marine pollution. The GEF Secretariat hosted a side event with AOSIS on “Enhancing Support for the Sustainable Blue Economy” and participated in more than 20 main program events, workshops and side events, including “Implementing Strategic and Scalable Actions to Save the World's Coral Reefs Under Rapid Climate Change”; “Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor: A New Paradigm”; “Enduring Earth: Sustainably Financing the 30x30 Marine Goals”; and “Ocean Solutions to Tackle the Climate and Biodiversity Crises.”

103. In addition to expressing support for rapid movement on a plastic pollution treaty, many delegations at the UN Ocean Conference supported a new agreement on the conservation and

sustainable use of marine BBNJ and signalled hope that this agreement could be concluded by the end of 2022.

104. The IW team participated in the World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2022. This key annual global event brings together experts, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs from various sectors and countries with the aim of developing solutions for water-related challenges, including variability and change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This year's Week—with the theme "Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water," with a focus on the diverse aspects of water, how others view and value water, and the exploration of water's full value to society—offered online, hybrid and onsite events for more than 5,400 participants from 160 countries. The GEF and its IW:LEARN project partners co-organized sessions on groundwater quality and groundwater governance, source-to-sea management, and innovation for freshwater biodiversity metrics.

105. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the GEF's biennial International Waters Conference (IWC), which has been delayed since October 2020, was further postponed. The IWC's principal objective is to facilitate cross-sectoral and GEF IW portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing. It brings together about 300 GEF project managers, technical experts, participating country representatives, NGOs, the private sector and GEF Agency staff. The planning processes are now being reinitiated and the conference is expected to take place sometime in the fourth quarter of 2023 in Uruguay.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund

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

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

108. In line with decision 9/CMA.1 related to guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the Adaptation Fund, along with the GCF, the GEF, the Climate Technology Center and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, continued channelling

support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communications.

109. The Adaptation Fund continued to draw upon the cross-support services of the GEF Secretariat, supporting the technical review of project and programme proposals submitted for the thirty-ninth meeting of the AFB, which took place from October 13 to 14, 2022. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of October 14, 2022, the AFB has approved 138 concrete projects amounting to \$983.21 million in total.¹⁵ In addition, one enhanced direct access project was approved for a total amount of \$4.99 million and one small grant for innovation for a total amount of US\$ 250,000. As of October 14, 2022, funds available to support funding decisions were \$219.25 million.

110. The GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. The AFB Secretariat shared with the GEF Secretariat the publication of the user-friendly version of the study on ‘Intersectional Approaches to Gender Mainstreaming in Adaptation-Relevant Interventions’. Both secretariats continued to collaborate with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme.

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

112. The AFB Secretariat attended the 62nd GEF Council and 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council on June 21-23, 2022, as an observer.

113. The AFB Secretariat also attended, as observer, the third Meeting on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.

¹⁵ At the thirty-ninth meeting of the AFB, two projects were placed on the waitlist pursuant to Decisions B.17/19, B.19/5, B.28/1 and B.35.a-35.b/46.

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

115. In addition, the secretariats of the GEF and AF have engaged on collaborations to discuss several operational matters including fiduciary standards, knowledge management and results tracking as well as joint events at COP 27.

116. The GEF and AFB communications units along with those of CIF and GCF strive to coordinate and collaborate to enhance complementarity where relevant. The GEF and AF communications units periodically shared contacts and information on communications resources and approaches throughout the reporting period, and discussed possible areas of collaboration in outreach for the upcoming COP27 conference in Egypt. The AF also reposted and commented on social media about GEF news, leadership and areas of synergy when appropriate.

117. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration, including on common events to be held at COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, organizing brown-bag lunches and participating in each other's virtual events organized around different topics.

Green Climate Fund

118. The GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have been working closely together over the past several years to enhance synergies and coordination with regard to climate financing, in line with COP guidance on the importance of complementarity.

119. The Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration of the GEF and GCF was presented to the June 2021 GEF Council.¹⁶ The LTV document identifies specific areas of cooperation where complementarity of action can increase efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the respective strategies and interventions. It was presented to the 29th meeting of the GCF Board, held on June 29 to July 2, 2021, as part of the GCF Secretariat report. As requested by Council, the GEF Secretariat has submitted an information document that presents a summary of the presentation and discussion of the 26th GCF board meeting.¹⁷ The

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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.

LTV progress was presented in a joint report to the GEF Council and GCF board, submitted to the 62nd GEF Council.¹⁸

120. The GEF and GCF Secretariats continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance complementarity, collaboration and coordinated engagement throughout the reporting period. The GEF CEO, the GCF Executive Director, and the respective Secretariats held several discussions and joint engagements throughout the reporting period, including on articulating complementarity between the two institutions, strengthening collaborations and shared support for major initiatives, and on further promoting joint efforts on communications, outreach and sharing of lessons learned through the implementation of the respective portfolios.

121. The GCF personnel took part in the GEF-8 replenishment meetings and the second and third LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy meetings, held during the reporting period, as an observer. The GEF staff also attended virtually the GCF replenishment organizational initial organizational meeting of GCF's second replenishment (GCF-2) as an observer on August 30 to 31, 2022. The GEF staff participated in the GCF Global Programming Conference, organized in September 15 to 17, 2022, which aimed to promote dialogue between the GCF and its partners and to mobilize partnership to accelerate climate investment.

122. The LTV and collaboration with the GCF have been integrated and mainstreamed into the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy as well as the GEF Trust Fund Programming Directions. As the GCF embarks on its second replenishment, reciprocal approaches by the GCF to integrate the LTV and GEF collaboration in GCF strategic documents are anticipated, as stipulated in the LTV.

123. During the reporting period, the GCF and GEF announced complementary support for the new phase of the Great Green Wall Initiative. The GEF support with the LDCF was approved by the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022. Discussions on collaboration around additional major initiatives continued.

124. The GEF Staff participated in the GCF Technical Programming Dialogue with the Caribbean– from May 19 to 21, 2022, that took place in Antigua and Barbuda following the GCF Board meeting. GEF Staff provided information about GEF-8 and programming opportunities from across the GEF focal areas to align with GCF activities. GEF Staff also offered advice from GEF project and agency experiences for the countries and GCF.

125. The two organizations organized an in-person meeting on October 27 and 28, 2022, hosted by the GEF Secretariat. The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of emerging major initiatives, discuss joint programming efforts, and to explore entry points for strategic collaboration.

¹⁸ GEF, 2022, [*Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility*](#), Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.14.

126. The GCF and GEF also intensified discussions to collaborate with the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, which aims to address climate vulnerable countries' concerns by delivering concrete, system-wide changes in access to finance for climate action based on countries' own national plans and priorities. In particular, the GEF, GCF, and the Taskforce are exploring to align the GEF-GCF joint national investment planning support in five countries under the LTV with the Taskforce's work in five pioneer countries, namely Bangladesh, Fiji, Jamaica, Rwanda, and Uganda. This work is expected to be formally launched at COP 27, upon agreement with the pioneer countries.

127. Furthermore, the GEF and GCF have started the process to commission an independent, in-depth comparative analysis of policies and processes of the GEF and GCF to foster complementary and coherence. It will analyze support modalities of the two institutions and various funds managed by the GEF and GCF, including operational procedures, policies, and guidelines relative to accessing financial support. The study will also analyze potential opportunities to streamline the current operational procedures, policies and project cycles, including through country consultations and investment planning stages, to enable better coordination and increased efficiency in the project preparation, design, and implementation between the GEF and GCF. An assessment of benefits and barriers/challenges to implement the identified opportunities. It will include recommendations to support complementarity and coherence, and to simplify and streamline the process of accessing funding from the two institutions.

128. The GEF and GCF Secretariats plan to prepare documents to be submitted to the GEF Council and GCF Board respectively on the analysis and recommendations included in the report.

129. The GCF and GEF have also joined forces on outreach efforts, with a joint Pavilion at COP 27, with several joint GCF-GEF event. The two institutions will also collaborate through messaging and joint engagements at the CBD COP 15, and will continue to work to provide support in line with each institution's strengths.

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

UN Forum on Forests

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

132. GEF Secretariat staff contributed to the preparations for the Midterm Review in 2024 of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The GEF Secretariat responded to a survey and was interviewed by consultants contracted by the UNFF to prepare a background paper related to the CPF assessment. This Review aims at evaluating the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives. The GEF stands ready to contribute to the Review as needed as member of the CP, which is part of the IAF.

133. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in two CPF meetings held on April 10, 2022, and October 6, 2022. The meetings allowed to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the CPF Workplan, update and consider new Joint Initiatives, discuss about the CPF contribution to the implementation of the UNFF 17 Omnibus Resolution, and assess possible collaboration of CPF members at the UNFCCC and UNCDB COPs. At the CPF meeting of October 6, 2022, the CPF members considered with interest the application of the GCF to become a new CPF member. Approval will be considered at a letter stage.

134. The GEF Secretariat continued to be engaged in the Good Food Finance Network (<https://goodfood.finance/>) as an active member of the high ambition group. The Good Food Finance Network is an initiative established by the GEF project “Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes”, approved in December 2020 as a CPF Joint Initiative co-led by UNEP and CIFOR. The Network is expected to become a multi-sectoral community for collaborative innovation, working to bring sustainable food systems to the heart of the finance agenda.

135. Supporting the work and visibility of the CPF and its members, GEF Secretariat staff attended the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul from May 2 to 6, 2022. GEF Secretariat staff participated in five events related to finance, forest data, forest multiple services, and restoration. The GEF Secretariat also contributed to the preparation of a CPF special event on Covid-19.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

136. GEF Secretariat staff attended virtually the meetings of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held during the reporting period.

137. GEF Secretariat staff participated in a side event organized by IPLC organizations at the resumed session of CBD’s subsidiary bodies and OEWG on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which took place from June 20 to 26, 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. GEF Secretariat staff provided information on funding opportunities for IPLCs.

SAMOA Pathway

138. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the SAMOA Pathway but participated in meetings of the UN Inter Agency Consultative Group on SIDS during the reporting period.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

139. The rescheduled fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process (IP4) considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 met in Bucharest, Romania, from August 29 to September 2, 2022.

140. The co-chairs of the process, Uruguay and the United Kingdom, based on the negotiations during the session put forward a consolidated document¹⁹, which will form the basis for negotiations and finalization of the post 202 instrument at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) scheduled for September 2023 in Bonn, Germany.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to Develop a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment.

141. In February 2022, UNEA 5 adopted resolution 5/14 “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument”, which created an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.

142. In response to the resolution, UNEP convened an ad-hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) from May 30 to June 1, 2022 to prepare the work of the INC, including rules of procedure, bureau, and elements of the future instrument. The GEF Secretariat personnel participated as an observer. The meeting made some progress on its work, including the draft rules of procedure and the proposed timetable of the INC.

143. INC 1 will be convened from November 28 to December 2, 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay. INC 1 is expected to elect the Bureau which will guide the process for the duration of the INC as well as begin to negotiate substantive issues, including the scope of the instrument, type of instrument and specific articles, including a financial mechanism.

Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

144. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat staff continued to monitor the BBNJ negotiation process and to make itself available to clarify GEF’s procedures, relations with

¹⁹ [IP CO-Cahirs Single Consolidated Document](#)

Conventions it serves, and its work in areas beyond national jurisdiction to all negotiating Parties.

145. In its resolution 72/249 of December 24, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine BBNJ, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. The four sessions of the IGC mandated by UNGA resolution 72/249 were held from September 4 to 17, 2018, March 25 to April 5, 2019, August 19 to 30, 2019, and March, 7 to 18, 2022.

146. UNGA decided to convene a fifth session (IGC-5) from August 15 to 26, 2022 (UNGA decision 76/564). GEF Secretariat staff participated in IGC-5. The GEF, as an observer to the BBNJ process, was called on to provide clarifications on issues related to finance.

147. IGC-5 worked on the basis of the further revised draft of the BBNJ agreement released on May 30, 2022, by the President of the IGC¹. In its article 52 - Funding, the new draft identified, for the first time, the GEF as a potential operator of part of the financial mechanism that would be created by the BBNJ agreement. The further revised draft provided for a financial mechanism composed of three elements: (i) A voluntary trust fund to facilitate participation of representatives of developing States Parties in the meetings of the bodies under this Agreement, (ii) a special fund established by the Conference of the Parties, and (iii) the GEF.

148. Article 52 was formally discussed once over the two weeks of IGC-5. The President of the IGC briefed the negotiating Parties on her interaction with the GEF Council in early August 2022. Multiple delegations voiced their support for the GEF to become an operator of the financial mechanism, and no reservations or objections to the GEF serving in this role were raised during the formal negotiations. The latest draft text, released informally by the President of the IGC on the last day of the IGC-5, continued to provide for the GEF to operate part of the financial mechanism alongside with a voluntary trust fund for meeting participation and a special fund to be established.

149. While considerable progress was made on all parts of the BBNJ agreement, the two weeks allocated to IGC-5 did not suffice to finalize the BBNJ negotiations. It was agreed by consensus to suspend the meeting and to reconvene IGC-5 at a date still to be determined.

150. A Council document²⁰ with a proposed decision dedicated to implications of the BBNJ process for the GEF is presented to the 63rd Council.

²⁰ GEF, 2002, [*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 \(BBNJ\)*](#), Council document GEF/C.63/10,

151. Furthermore, the GEF Secretariat staff participated in the BBNJ High Seas Treaty Dialogues on “Financial Mechanism(s)” held on May 24, 2022. GEF Secretariat staff notably presented the GEF’s ongoing and planned work relevant to the BBNJ agreement, and how the GEF works with Conventions for which it operates the financial mechanism.

152. In addition to the BBNJ update provided in the Relations with Conventions Council document²¹, the GEF Secretariat organized an informal Council session with the President of the IGC to fully inform the Council about the significant developments in the BBNJ negotiations. The informal session was, however, unable to proceed due to power outage.

153. As agreed during the 62nd Council, a virtual briefing session on BBNJ was organized on August 2, 2022, to inform the Council, present the process that would need to unfold should negotiating Parties wish to discuss the possibility for the GEF to operate part, or all, of the BBNJ financial mechanism, and enable an informal exchange with the President of the IGC.

²¹ GEF, 2002, [*Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*](#). Council document GEF/C.62/12.

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

Table 1: Decisions Adopted by the UNFCCC COP 26, CMP 16 and CMA 3, Conclusions of SBI 52-55 and SBSTA 52-55, and GEF’s Response

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF’s Response
<p>COP 26 Decisions</p> <p>Decision 1/CP26: Glasgow Climate Pact</p>	
<p>Paragraph 13:</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges of \$413 million in total to the LDCF²⁷ made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 26 in Glasgow.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14:</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> multilateral development banks, other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation, and</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change outlines enhanced innovation, technology transfer, and private sector engagement as key priorities for both LDCF and SCCF programming. The strategy outlines a set of entry points for innovation and private sector engagement, including risk sharing to catalyze private sector investment; MSME incubation and acceleration; inclusive microfinance for smallholder</p>

²² COP 26 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-26>

²³ CMP 16 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cmp-16>

²⁴ CMA 3 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-3>

²⁵ SBI 52-55 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-52-55>

²⁶ SBSTA 52-55 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-52-55>

²⁷ The GEF Secretariat organized the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF on the margins of COP 26 in Glasgow on November 9, 2021 and generated a substantial pledge of \$413 million for the LDCF. Twelve donors (Belgium, the Belgian region of Wallonia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America) made these historic pledges to the LDCF on that occasion.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>encouraged Parties to continue to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources;</p>	<p>farmers; technology innovation and deployment; and enabling conditions for private sector investment. One of the ways by which the LDCF and SCCF will increase their support in this area is through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, which has demonstrated its ability to engage non-traditional partners, and bring their ideas and resources for CCA action in support of the most vulnerable.</p>
<p>Paragraph 28:</p> <p><i>Urges</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action, and <i>calls</i> for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Programming Strategy confirms the role of the GEF as a provider of grants and other forms of highly concessional climate finance to developing countries and integrates the consideration of climate change results across all its focal areas. GEF-8 will also continue to offer to developing countries other forms of concessional finance through its Blended Finance Global Program to help unlock, mobilize and scale-up private financing.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) also reaffirms the catalytic role of the two funds in scaling CCA finance in the LDCs and presents scenarios to mobilize additional support to countries. The LDCF will continue to provide grant financing. The SCCF will be primarily grant-based, with opportunities for non-grant support.</p>
<p>Paragraph 30:</p> <p><i>Emphasizes</i> the challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing finance and <i>encourages</i> further efforts to enhance access to finance, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism</p>	<p>The GEF takes note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continues to work towards streamlining its operational procedures and increasing efficiency of access to its funds.</p> <p>GEF-8 strategy incorporates some important shifts in key areas to increase operational efficiency and support to recipient countries.</p>

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
	<p>The GEF Secretariat is committed to work with the rest of the GEF Partnership to take actions to identify further streamlining, consolidation and increased efficiency of GEF operations.²⁸</p> <p>These adjustments will enable the GEF to pursue a more effective, responsive, and agile delivery model.</p>
<p>Paragraph 40: <i>Urges</i> developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change</p>	<p>While the GEF has not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it has been supporting activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance, within the scope of CCA.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support will continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026).</p>
<p>Decision 4/CP.26: Long-term climate finance</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2: Welcomes the recent pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totaling USD 356 million) and to the Least Developed Countries Fund (totaling USD 605.3 million);</p>	<p>As mentioned in response to paragraph 13 of decision 1/CP.26 above, the GEF appreciates the pledges of \$413 million in total to the LDCF.</p>
<p>Paragraph 22: <i>Reiterates</i> that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, will continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs, and other initiatives such as ECWs, in an effort to enhance</p>

²⁸ GEF, 2022, [Revised Policy Recommendations](#), Document GEF/R.08/32.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action	the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.
Decision 5/CP.26: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 3: Notes that UNFCCC funds and multilateral climate funds approved USD 2.2 billion and USD 3.1 billion for climate finance projects in 2017 and 2018, respectively</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 4: Welcomes the improved granularity of data in the fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows and encouraged developed country Parties and climate finance providers, as well as multilateral and financial institutions, private finance providers and other relevant institutions, to continue to enhance the availability of granular, country-level data on mitigation and adaptation finance.</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Invites</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other institutions providing climate finance to consider the operational definitions of climate finance of the Standing Committee on Finance with a view to ensuring that finance provided addresses the needs of developing country Parties, while respecting their existing policies</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 11 and Annex II: Welcomes the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement of the Standing Committee on Finance, in particular the executive summary, and endorses its key findings and recommendations, which include:</p>	The GEF continues to support developing countries in the preparation of NCs, BTRs, TNAs, NAPs, NAPAs and NDCs. Support to BURs was provided until December 2021. From January 2022, BUR support has been phased out to prioritize BTR development, and help countries move towards the implementation of the ETF.

COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶	GEF's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage developing country Parties and climate finance providers, as well as multilateral and financial institutions, private finance data providers and other relevant institutions, to enhance the availability of granular, country-level data on needs related to the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement with a view to addressing existing data gaps; • Invite the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and other relevant institutions to make use of the information contained in the first NDR when supporting developing country Parties in identifying and costing needs; • Invite the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to revise templates and guidance for developing countries when supporting their processes in identifying their needs with a view to enhancing availability of granular information on qualitative and quantitative needs; • Encourage the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and other relevant institutions to make available further information on methodologies related to determining and costing needs, especially for adaptation needs and incremental costs; • Encourage developing country Parties to take advantage of available resources through the 	

COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as well as other multilateral and bilateral actors, to strengthen institutional capacity for identifying and costing their needs in relation to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Parties, multilateral and financial institutions, academia, methodology developers, research institutions and other relevant actors to continue to develop methodologies for the determination of adaptation and resilience enhancement needs and, in this context, needs related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage; 	
<p>Annex II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and other relevant institutions to provide financial and technical support to developing countries for updating the reporting of their qualitative and quantitative information and data on needs to be considered in subsequent NDRs, as appropriate; • Encourage all actors, when determining needs for implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, to highlight linkages to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and application of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 11 above.</p>
<p>Paragraph 18: Invites the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to make use of the information contained in the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement when supporting developing country Parties in identifying and costing needs	
Decision 6/CP.26: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund	
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Welcomes</i> the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility and requests the Board to enhance coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of LTV on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the GCF and the GEF. This decision is for the GCF.</p>
Decision 7/CP.26: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the reports of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session and their addenda, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to guidance received from the Conference of the Parties</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Also welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021), including with regard to:</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p> <p>The GEF Trust Fund Programming Directions for GEF-8 (2022-2026), and the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF</p>

<p>COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
<p>(a) Approval of the climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p> <p>(b) Integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through such integration;</p> <p>(c) Improvement in coordination with the Green Climate Fund;</p> <p>(d) Adoption of its private sector engagement strategy;</p> <p>(e) Adoption of the sustainable bond strategy for the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;</p>	<p>(2022- 2026) build further on the integration agenda, partnership with the GCF, and private sector engagement to present enhanced opportunities for programming with impact.</p> <p>The GEF has made progress on the development and implementation of the LTV on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the GCF. This progress is reported to the GEF Council and GCF Board as a joint report.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to duly consider ways to increase the financial resources allocated for climate action, including the climate change focal area and climate co-benefits, taking into account the reporting requirement referred to in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.3, and to apply a coherent approach across its focal areas to prioritizing projects that generate environmental co-benefits;</p>	<p>Resources available for programming in GEF-8 for the climate change focal area have increased by 4.6 percent compared to those available in GEF-7.</p> <p>In addition, the GEF-8 strategy builds on and expands the GEF-7 integration agenda, with the approval of funding envelopes for 11 new integrated programs. They will complement focal area investments in providing additional financing for climate action in developing countries. In GEF-8, GEF recipient countries will have full flexibility in the use of their GEF-8 STAR allocations, to further facilitate the mainstreaming of integrated programming principles and in order to optimize and maximize investments to increase positive impact.</p> <p>Furthermore, and in line with the guidance received in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.3, participants to the</p>

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
	<p>replenishment negotiations decided to increase the allocation to the climate change focal area set-aside window to finance EAs by more than 30 percent (from \$110 million in GEF-7 to \$145 million in GEF-8).</p> <p>The set-aside window for EAs supports developing country Parties with the preparation and submission of NCs and with the operationalization of the ETF. The GEF supports the ETF through the provision of financial support for the preparation of BTRs and capacity development for transparency-related reporting through the CBIT.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4:</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> developed country Parties to make financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility to contribute to a robust eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries in implementing the Convention and <i>encourages</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>Country pledges for GEF-8 have reached a record replenishment of \$5.33 billion for the period 2022-2026, a 30 percent increase compared to the previous period. More pledges could be made later in 2022.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of ongoing discussions on the eighth replenishment process regarding its allocation policies under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to duly consider the needs and priorities of developing country Parties when allocating resources to developing country Parties;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 strategy incorporates some important shifts in key areas to increase operational efficiency and support to recipient countries. This includes most notably the adjustments to the STAR and measures to improve streamlining and efficiency and reduce transaction costs.</p> <p>With respect to the STAR, the GEF Secretariat conducted a detailed review and analysis of the GEF-7 experience of increased flexibility in the use of STAR resources by GEF recipient countries.²⁹ The analysis, which was presented to the GEF Council at its 61st meeting, pointed</p>

²⁹ GEF, 2021, [The Use of Flexibility of STAR](#), Council Document GEF/C.61/Inf.08.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
	<p>to an increasing demand for, and use of, flexibility in the utilization of STAR resources by developing country Parties. In consideration of these findings, replenishment participants decided to adopt a critical methodological advancement and move onto introducing the possibility for GEF recipient countries to make use of full flexibility in the programming of their allocated STAR resources.</p> <p>With respect to operational adjustments, with the adoption of the GEF-8 Programming Directions, replenishment participants agreed that “[...] Throughout GEF-8, a review of the project and program cycle will seek to identify areas for further streamlining and efficiency. Through consultations with Agencies, recipient countries and others, including the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Panel (STAP) and the Trustee, and taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of Seventh Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS7), concrete measures will be identified and operationalized by the Secretariat”.³⁰</p> <p>These important shifts, which are based on the due consideration of the needs and priorities of developing countries, will enable the GEF to pursue a more effective, responsive, and agile delivery model in the GEF-8 cycle.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of the ongoing work of the Global Environment Facility in monitoring the concentration and geographical and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement, of the Global Environment Facility Partnership and <i>encourages</i> the Global</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Policy Recommendations recognize the need to avoid high concentration of funding in a small number of Agencies, and to reduce the risks associated with it.³¹ The GEF-8 Policy Recommendations also reaffirmed the</p> <p>coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement, of the GEF Partnership and encouraged the GEF to consider ways to enhance participation of</p>

³⁰ GEF, 2022, [GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation](#), Document GEF/R.08/31.

³¹ GEF, 2022, [Revised Policy Recommendations](#), Document GEF/R.08/32.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from developing country Parties in the Partnership, including by allowing them to serve as executing agencies, as appropriate;</p>	<p>additional national and regional entities from developing country Parties in the Partnership, including by allowing them to serve as executing agencies, as appropriate; importance of country ownership in the GEF and that countries are free to choose their preferred GEF Agency to implement GEF projects.</p> <p>In an effort to find the balance between these two objectives, as requested by the GEF-8 replenishment negotiations participants, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10 percent of the approved amounts in GEF-8.</p> <p>In addition, also in line with the GEF-8 Policy Recommendations, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational ceiling for any one Agency of no more than 30 percent of approved amounts in GEF-8.</p> <p>With regards to the participation of national and regional entities from developing country Parties, the GEF already allows, and indeed encourages, national and regional entities to serve as executing entities. Executing entities receives project-specific GEF funding from a GEF Agency to execute a GEF project, or parts thereof, under the supervision of the same GEF Agency³². The GEF executing entities work directly with the eighteen GEF Agencies and the use of government agencies as project executing entities was indeed embedded in over two-thirds of the projects approved in GEF-7.</p>

³² GEF, 2017, [Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.52/Inf.06.

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	<p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026) also builds on the improvements made in the GEF-7 period in terms of agency concentration and engagement of additional Agencies in CCA programming. In GEF-8, the whole-of-society approach and inclusive CCA support is expected to generate additional opportunities to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from recipient countries as executing partners. The LDCF/SCCF will also monitor and report on the agency concentration.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to further enhance the role of national agencies and civil society organizations as executing agencies in order to enhance country ownership of projects and programmes funded by the Global Environment Facility and prevent implementing agencies from serving simultaneously as executing agencies;</p>	<p>The GEF has continued to make concerted efforts to encourage engagement of local stakeholders as executing partners at the project level.</p> <p>Arrangements for GEF Agencies to serve also as executing partners are approved only on an exceptional basis, upon written request from recipient countries.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund, amounting to USD 605.3 million, and <i>encourages</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to support adaptation and technology transfer;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges to the LDCF and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF to support CCA and technology transfer.</p> <p>Refer to the response under paragraph 9 below on the SCCF.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund, to continue to assist</p>	<p>The SCCF has had limited donor support throughout the GEF-7 period. In the reporting period, the optimization of the SCCF was discussed as a part of the Adaptation Programming Strategy development. Participants agreed to focus the SCCF support on two priority areas, building on its strengths and capacity to support SIDS and vulnerable areas, and to promote technology</p>

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developing country Parties in accessing resources in an efficient manner;	transfer, through innovation and private sector engagement. The GEF is ready to engage with donors to encourage support to the SCCF, so that the Fund can address its mandate and serve developing countries in an efficient manner.
<p>Paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to improve the governance framework for its agencies and the standards to which the implementing partners are accountable;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 replenishment process participants, having also considered the findings of the GEF IEO's OPS7,³³ recognized the considerable advances made by the GEF through extensive revisions and updates to its policies and approaches related to stakeholder engagement, gender equality and environmental and social safeguards, and supported the continued implementation of these policies and approaches.</p> <p>In GEF-7, the Council continued to improve the governance framework and the related accountability standards for the eighteen GEF Agencies. As recently as 2019, the Council upgraded the policies for GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards,³⁴ Project Monitoring,³⁵ and the policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards.³⁶ The policy on Gender Equality was upgraded in 2018.³⁷</p> <p>In addition to the policy updates highlighted above, the GEF Secretariat will take action to implement the GEF-8 replenishment recommendations related to measures to continue to reduce the concentration of funding among a small number of Agencies, while respecting the principle of country ownership.</p>

³³ GEF IEO, 2022, [Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF: Working Toward a Greener Global Recovery](#), Document GEF/R.8/10.

³⁴ GEF, 2019, [Updated Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards](#), Council Document GEF/C.57/04/Rev.02.

³⁵ GEF, 2019, [Policy on Monitoring](#), Document ME/PL/03.

³⁶ GEF, 2019, [Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), Document SD/PL/03.

³⁷ GEF, 2017, [Policy on Gender Equality](#), Document SD/PL/02.

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	Finally, the GEF will also undertake a comprehensive independent third-party review of agency alignment with these policies, including implementation capacity.
<p>Paragraph 11:</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> that financial resources allocated for the non-grant instrument under the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility increased to USD 136 million from USD 110 million under the sixth replenishment and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, during its discussions on the instrument under the eighth replenishment, to continue to take into account needs and priorities of developing countries, as well as their different national circumstances;</p>	The GEF continues to recognize the principle of country ownership and takes into account the priorities for developing countries. Under the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the indicative allocation to the NGIs to \$191 million from \$149 million in GEF-7.
<p>Paragraph 12:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider updating its policy on gender equality to include protection against discrimination;</p>	<p>The GEF Gender Equality Policy and the accompanying Guidelines³⁸ are still at the early stages of implementation. The guiding principles of the existing policy address the issue of protection from discrimination by specifying that GEF activities address and do not exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities, by stipulating inclusive stakeholder engagement in the design and implementation of GEF-financed activities and decision-making.</p> <p>GEF-8 Policy Directions³⁹ extend the GEF's inclusion agenda to capture important human rights principles including non-discrimination, participation; and gender-responsive approach was reaffirmed as one of the cross-cutting themes in GEF programming.</p>

³⁸ GEF, 2018, [Guidelines on Gender Equality](#), Document SD/GN/02.

³⁹ GEF, 2022, [GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation](#), GEF/R.08/31.

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	<p>The Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change Adaptation for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) puts a renewed focus on addressing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and embraces a whole-of-society approach, engaging with diverse actors and multi-sectoral stakeholders that would facilitate their participation in the decision-making process.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13:</p> <p><i>Recognizes</i> that the Global Environment Facility does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programmes;</p>	<p>The GEF policy on co-financing⁴⁰ establishes that while “Co-financing is required for all GEF-financed FSPs, MSPs and programs”, “the Secretariat does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programs.”</p> <p>Co-financing is not required for LDCF/SCCF projects.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14:</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to reinforce its efforts to engage with and mobilize resources from the private sector under its eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>As mentioned in GEF's response under Paragraph 11 above, in the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the allocation to the NGIs compared to the GEF-7 allocation. The NGI window aims at helping developing countries to unlock and scale-up private financing.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) also includes opportunities to foster and leverage private sector investments.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15:</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of ongoing discussions within the Global Environment Facility concerning the Small Grants Programme under the eighth replenishment and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider</p>	<p>In the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the allocation to the SGP by 16.3 percent compared to GEF-7, from \$ 128 million in GEF-7 to \$ 153 million in GEF-8.</p>

⁴⁰ GEF, 2018, [Updated Co-Financing Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01.

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<p>increasing the funding ceiling per project to provide adequate financial and technical support to communities and civil society organizations;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 16:</p> <p><i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to enhance its support for projects that engage with stakeholders at the local level, and to continue to provide funding for projects related to technology training and scale up South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network;</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to work with the CTCN, consistent with national priorities and based on countries' requests. The ongoing cooperation with the TEC will also be continued, as appropriate.</p>
<p>Paragraph 17:</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility Council to enhance coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work;</p>	<p>The GEF has made progress on the development and implementation of the LTV on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the GCF. As a major initiative, the GEF, in collaboration with GCF, is supporting a new phase of the GGWI, with complementary projects approved by the GCF Board in March 2022 and by the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022. Additional efforts are ongoing to develop major initiatives in SIDS, on zero-emission transportation, among other.</p>
<p>Paragraph 18:</p> <p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to take note of the needs and priorities for climate finance, including those identified in the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions,</p>	<p>The GEF continues to recognize the needs and priorities for climate finance, including also in the GEF-8 Programming Strategy. For example, the GEF held an informal consultation on BTRs in February 2022, to obtain feedback on the costing of BTRs and the operational procedures related to the support modalities for the first and subsequent reports.</p> <p>Also, as a part of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026), the needs and priorities for climate finance as articulated in various documents, including national</p>

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national communications and national adaptation plans, as well as in other sources of available information, including the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows and other relevant reports;	reports, IPCC reports, Adaptation Gap report, as well as the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, were taken into consideration.
<p>Paragraph 19:</p> <p><i>Invites</i> Parties to submit views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility via the submission portal no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2022);</p>	This decision is for Parties.
<p>Paragraph 20:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 19 above when preparing its draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022);</p>	This is a request to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).
<p>Paragraph 21:</p> <p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision;</p>	This report includes information on the steps taken from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (FY22) to implement the guidance received from COP 26.
<p>Decision 9/CP.26: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism</p>	
<p>Paragraph 3:</p>	GEF representatives continue to regularly participate in the meetings of the TEC and the CTCN, provide various

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<i>Welcomes</i> the collaboration between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism and <i>encourages</i> the continuation of this collaboration.	inputs to technical papers and official documents, and present the latest information and updates concerning GEF's support for technology.
<p>Paragraph 22: <i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the continuing collaboration between the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Global Environment Facility.</p>	See response under Paragraph 3 above.
Decision 11/CP.26: Second review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network	
<p>Paragraph 20: <i>Encourages</i> the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and in consultation with the Advisory Board, to liaise with the UNFCCC secretariat to further enhance resource mobilization from various sources, including the Financial Mechanism; bilateral, multilateral and private sector channels; philanthropic sources; and financial and in-kind contributions from the host organization and participants in the Network.</p>	The GEF continues to encourage the CTCN to utilize GEF's Country Support Program (CSP) as an entry point to facilitate further coordination with the OFPs to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner.
<p>Paragraph 21: <i>Invites</i> the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue working with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to further strengthen their linkages with the aim of scaling up the Climate Technology Centre and Network's provision of technical support to developing country Parties.</p>	See response under Paragraph 20 above.
Decision 12/CP.26: Annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021	
Paragraph 2:	The GEF continues to provide financing to country-driven CCM, CCA, technology transfer, and transparency and reporting projects through the GEFTF, LDCF and

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>Invites Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1⁴¹ of this decision and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	<p>SCCF that have capacity-building elements embedded in them.</p> <p>Further, as an active member of the Informal Coordination Group (ICG) for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, information relevant to the recommendations referred to here are shared with the rest of ICG members on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Decision 13/CP.26: Fifth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition under the Convention</p>	
<p>Paragraph 1 (b)</p> <p>Recognizes that Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, have provided adequate resources and assistance for the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition established under decision 3/CP.7</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p>Invites Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the Global Environment Facility, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector or any further arrangements, as appropriate and within their mandates, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition.</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition if they are eligible for support under the Convention, including through the CBIT, from set-asides that do not draw on country allocations.</p>

⁴¹ Welcomes the annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building for 2020 and 2021 and takes note of the recommendations contained in the 2021 report.

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Decision 15/CP.26: Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group	
<p>Paragraph 10:</p> <p>Invites the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, in the context of its outreach activities, to share information on relevant sources of finance for adaptation, including sources other than the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism</p>	<p>This decision is for the LEG.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat attended 40th and 41st LEG meetings in October 2021 and March 2022, respectively. These meetings provided an opportunity for the GEF to encourage LDCs to consider applying for LDCF support in line with operational improvements outlined in the 2018-2022 Strategy.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11:</p> <p>Requests the Group to continue to support the least developed countries in understanding the modalities for and ways of accessing relevant sources of financing, capacity-building and technology transfer for adaptation in accordance with the Group's mandate;</p>	<p>This decision is for the LEG.</p>
Decision 18/CP.26: Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment	
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p>Also invites multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to provide financial support for activities related to implementing Action for Climate Empowerment;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Programming Directions prioritize multi-stakeholder dialogues, among other, as criteria and entry points for GEF investments at scale. GEF-8 will also launch the SGP 2.0 aiming to catalyze and mobilize civil society actors and local actions needed to address major drivers of environmental degradation and help deliver multiple benefits across the GEF's mandated thematic dimensions, while promoting sustainable development and improved livelihoods.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) prioritizes fostering partnership for inclusion and a whole-of-society approach, which provides dedicated space to the wide range of stakeholders to enable their participation and recognize their role as genuine</p>

<p>COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
	<p>partners for change, not solely as beneficiaries or recipients.</p>
<p>Decision 20/CP.26: Gender and climate change</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>Invites Parties, United Nations entities, other stakeholders and implementing entities, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities, to take stock of and map progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the priority areas of the gender action plan;</p>	<p>Gender responsiveness is a key principle underpinning the GEF-8 strategy. All GEF-8 integrated programs and related projects will include gender analyses and provisions for gender-responsive approaches, in line with the GEF policy on gender.</p>
<p>CMA 3 decisions</p> <p>Decision 1/CMA.3: Glasgow Climate Pact</p>	
<p>Paragraph 17:</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges to the LDCF and looks forward to additional contributions.</p>
<p>Paragraph 19:</p> <p>Calls upon multilateral development banks, other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation, and encourages Parties to continue to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources;</p>	<p>This is a decision for multilateral development banks, financial institutions and the private sector.</p>

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<p>Paragraph 47:</p> <p>Urges the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action and calls for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 28 of decision 1/CP.26 above.</p>
<p>Paragraph 48:</p> <p>Re-emphasizes the need for scaled-up financial resources to take into account the needs of those countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and in this regard encourages relevant multilateral institutions to consider how climate vulnerabilities should be reflected in the provision and mobilization of concessional financial resources and other forms of support, including special drawing rights;</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Paragraph 51:</p> <p>Emphasizes the challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing finance and encourages further efforts to enhance access to finance, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to regularly engage with developing country Parties to enhance access to GEF resources. For example, through the GEF Academy, the GEF provides an online and face-to-face curriculum of courses and learning designed to enhance the capacity of GEF partners and stakeholders to engage with the GEF.</p> <p>The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) has a dedicated program on outreach and capacity support for LDCs and SIDS to support planning and programming that will enhance their ability to articulate their CCA priority needs in programs and projects that also address GEBs in synergy.</p>

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<p>Paragraph 55:</p> <p>Calls upon developed country Parties, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to accelerate the alignment of their financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>This decision is for developed country Parties, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions</p>
<p>Paragraph 64:</p> <p>Urges developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 40 of decision 1/CP.26 above.</p>
<p>Paragraph 73:</p> <p>Decides to establish the Glasgow Dialogue between Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change, to take place each year at the first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation until it is concluded at its sixtieth session (June 2024);</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 81:</p> <p>Welcomes decision 7/CP.26, in which the Global Environment Facility is encouraged, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to duly consider ways to increase the financial resources allocated for</p>	<p>Resources available for programming in GEF-8 for the climate change focal area have increased compared to those available in GEF-7.</p>

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<p>climate, and recognizes that the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, established pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84, will continue to support developing country Parties, upon their request, in building their institutional and technical capacity in relation to the enhanced transparency framework</p>	
<p>Paragraph 82:</p> <p>Welcomes decision 12/CMA.3, in which the Global Environment Facility is requested to continue to facilitate improved access to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency by developing country Parties, and encourages the Global Environment Facility to work closely with other institutions and initiatives to enhance these efforts, such as the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance and the “COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action”;</p>	<p>GEF-8 will continue to facilitate access to the CBIT and coordination with other institutions through the CBIT GSP. The CBIT GSP aims at providing global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.</p>
<p>Decision 5/CMA.3: Guidance for operationalizing the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement</p>	
<p>Paragraph 43:</p> <p>Recognizes the need for enhanced support from various sources and channels, including the Global Environment Facility, for implementing the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 44:</p> <p>Welcomes the arrangements of the Global Environment Facility for providing financial support to developing country Parties for preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports, as requested in decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 8;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>

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<p>Paragraph 45:</p> <p>Takes note of decision 12/CMA.3 on matters related to guidance to the Global Environment Facility;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 46:</p> <p>Encourages developing country Parties to prepare and submit project proposals in order to receive financial support from the Global Environment Facility for preparing their biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>The GEF is ready to support countries with the preparation of their first BTR through three modalities.⁴² Countries can access resources at full cost for the BTR preparations, from the climate change focal area set-aside resources. If countries require additional resources, they can utilize resources from their respective STAR allocation.</p>
Decision 9/CMA.3: New collective quantified goal on climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 17:</p> <p>Invites Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations, and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit their views on the objectives referred to in paragraph 15⁴³ above and on the elements referred to in paragraph 16⁴⁴</p>	Noted.

⁴² GEF, 2020, [Information Note on the Financing of the Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

⁴³ Decides that the new collective quantified goal aims at contributing to accelerating the achievement of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emission development in a manner that does not threaten food production; and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development.

⁴⁴ Also decides that the consideration of the new collective quantified goal will be in line with decision 14/CMA.1 and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries and include, inter alia, quantity, quality, scope and access features, as well as sources of funding, of the goal and transparency arrangements to track progress towards achievement of the goal, without prejudice to other elements that will also be considered as the deliberations evolve and taking into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraphs 17–18 below.

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Decision 10/CMA.3: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>Invites Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, international financial institutions and other stakeholders in the financial sector to submit via the submission portal their views regarding ways to achieve Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, including options for approaches and guidelines for implementation, by 30 April 2022 and requests the Standing Committee on Finance to submit a synthesis for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022);</p>	Noted.
Decision 12/CMA.3 Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1:</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–10 below</p>	This is a decision for Parties.
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> developed country Parties to make financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility to contribute to a robust eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	The GEF acknowledges the pledges for GEF-8 have reached a record replenishment of \$5.33 billion for the period 2022-2026, a 30 percent increase compared to the previous GEF cycle. More pledges could be made later in 2022.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to provide support to developing country Parties in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement for preparing their biennial transparency reports and building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 4:</p> <p><i>Also welcomes</i> that the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, established pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84, will continue to support developing country Parties, upon their request, in building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework and encourages the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that this support is delivered in a timely manner;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to facilitate improved access to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency by developing country Parties;</p>	In the GEF-8 climate change focal area strategy, countries will have access to resources intended for Convention obligations, including CBIT support, from set-asides that do not draw on country allocations.
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider increasing its support for implementation of the enhanced transparency framework as part of its eighth replenishment process;</p>	In the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the GEF has increased the resources allocated to support countries in the implementation of the ETF. This support is provided from set-asides that do not draw on individual country allocations.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Further requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to contribute to the consideration of the support provided to developing country Parties referred to in decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 42, by:</p> <p>(a) Estimating the cost to developing countries of implementing the enhanced transparency framework, which includes establishing and enhancing a reporting system, as well as the full agreed cost of reporting and the cost of capacity-building for reporting;</p> <p>(b) Considering how to adequately incorporate the costs referred to in paragraph 7(a) above into the set-aside of the eighth replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility, while taking the necessary measures to ensure, as appropriate, that the set-aside does not impact the allocation of resources to developing countries under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources;</p> <p>(c) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022) on any actions taken to implement the guidance</p>	<p>Following the informal consultation on BTRs held by the GEF in February 2022⁴⁵ to obtain feedback on the costing of BTRs and the operational procedures related to the support modalities for the first and subsequent reports, the GEF has revisited the costing structure for the BTRs. More information on the new costing structure is provided in the Information Document on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement.⁴⁶</p> <p>There is no agreed definition of a reporting system. Nevertheless, the GEF analyzed relevant information on the reporting system and an additional addendum to the GEF report to COP 27 was submitted in late October, 2022, upon approval by the GEF Council.⁴⁷ As mentioned in the responses under paragraphs 5 and 6 above, in the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the GEF has increased the set-aside resources allocated for the implementation of the ETF. These set-aside resources do not impact the allocation of resources to developing countries under the STAR.</p> <p>Updated information on the activities and support provided by the CBIT can be found in the CBIT Progress Reports, which are submitted to each GEF Council meeting as an information document.⁴⁸</p>

⁴⁵ Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/third-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

⁴⁶ GEF, 2022, *Information Note on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement Council Document*, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

⁴⁷ GEF, 2022, *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. Addendum, Part III: GEF's Response to the COP Guidance. Reporting Systems Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework*.

⁴⁸ GEF, 2022, *Progress Report on the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency*, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.05.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>contained in paragraph 7(a–b) above and any changes to the estimated costs referred to in paragraph 7(a) above;</p> <p>(d) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on activities and provision of support under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and on the provision of support for reporting under the Paris Agreement, as well as monitoring and reporting on the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each element of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and disbursement through implementing agencies);</p>	<p>The GEF will continue to report on the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each element of project development.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider combining the application processes for support for producing biennial transparency reports, including by considering raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activity projects, and for Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency projects, as appropriate, and by developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>The possibility to submit a combined application to request support for two subsequent BTRs was contemplated in the current GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy and will be available for Parties in GEF-8.</p> <p>The modalities, procedures, and guidelines for the ETF under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and the GEF's mandate to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTRs were defined at COP 24, in December 2018. By that time, the GEF-7 negotiation process had been completed and no resources had been allocated specifically for BTR support in the replenishment package. Given the resources constraint that followed in GEF-7, the GEF was compelled to prioritize access for support for the first BTR for as many countries as possible, which limited the possibility to combine the applications for two BTRs for the same country. In GEF-8, considering the specific funding allocation for EAs under the CCM set-aside, which explicitly considered the GEF's mandate to support the preparation of the first and subsequent</p>

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
	<p>BTRs, application for combined requests will be considered.</p> <p>The GEF continues to use a simplified template for all EAs.⁴⁹ As part of the request of GEF-8 replenishment participants to improve operational efficiency, the GEF Secretariat is already working to further streamline the template for EAs, as well as for FSPs and MSPs.</p> <p>With regard to the funding ceiling, the current Guidelines on Project and Program Cycle (2020 Update),⁵⁰ specify that: “single country EA project up to \$2 million is processed under the CEO expedited approval authority procedures, either as an expedited EA up to \$1 million or as an MSP above \$1 million but up to \$2 million”. In consideration of the above, the current funding ceiling can already accommodate the combining of two subsequent BTRs in one single application.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that financing for national inventory reports and biennial transparency reports is delivered in a timely manner, including by utilizing the bundled application modality and expedited procedures for enabling activities, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to monitor the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each phase of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and</p>	<p>In the reporting period, the GEF has continued to work with GEF Agencies to ensure that financing for national GHGs and BTRs is delivered in a timely manner. To date, GEF has approved BTR support to 48 countries for 49 BTRs. This includes UNEP’s Umbrella Program approved by the 62nd GEF Council Meeting, which will provide funding for up to 50 BTRs, 25 of which have already received a Letter of Endorsement from the respective GEF OFP. The GEF Secretariat is working closely with these countries and GEF Agencies to provide timely support, with the view to allow sufficient time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024.</p> <p>Regarding the request to monitor the timeliness of each phase of the project development and to report to the</p>

⁴⁹ [Enabling Activity Form](#)

⁵⁰ GEF, 2020, [Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
disbursement through implementing agencies) and report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session on the actions taken to implement the guidance contained in this paragraph;	COP/CMA, specific information will be developed and included in the GEF Report to COP 27.
<p>Paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activities</p>	See the response under Paragraph 8 above.
Decision 13/CMA.3: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	
<p>Paragraph 4(t):</p> <p>The promotion of linkages of the Adaptation Fund with other bodies under the Convention, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the Standing Committee on Finance – the Adaptation Fund Board held discussions on linkages between the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, including through a framework for promoting the scaling up of funded projects and the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities;</p>	The Adaptation Fund continued to draw upon the cross-support services of the GEF Secretariat, supporting the technical review of project and program proposals submitted for the thirty-eighth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board, which took place from April 5 to 8, 2022. The GEF and Adaptation Fund have also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed, such as information exchange on the recent developments in their gender-related work.
Decision 18/CMA.3: Annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021	
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>Invites Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Paris Agreement, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the</p>	Refer to the response under paragraph 2 of decision 12/CP.26 above.

<p>COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
<p>recommendations referred to in paragraph 1⁵¹ above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	
<p>Decision 19/CMA.3: Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts</p>	
<p>Paragraph 12:</p> <p>Encourages, recognizing the urgent need for scaling-up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for the implementation of relevant approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, the Executive Committee, on the basis of its recommendations, to:</p> <p>Continue engaging and strengthening its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance, including by providing input to the Standing Committee on Finance when, in accordance with its mandate, it provides information, recommendations and draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate;</p> <p>Commence, continue and/or explore potential ways to enhance, as appropriate, collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to inform the work of the Executive Committee and its expert group on action and support;</p>	<p>This decision is for the Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee.</p>
<p>Decision 22/CMA.3: Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment</p>	

⁵¹ Welcomes the annual technical progress reports of the PCCB for 2020 and 2021¹¹ and takes note of the recommendations contained in the 2021 report.

<p>COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p>Also invites multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to provide financial support for activities related to implementing Action for Climate Empowerment;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 6 of decision 18/CP.26 above.</p>
<p>CMP 16 Decisions</p> <p>Decision 3/CMP.16: Report of the Adaptation Fund Board for 2020 and 2021</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>Notes the following information, actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board presented in the reports referred to in paragraph 1⁵² above:</p> <p>(v) The promotion of linkages of the Adaptation Fund with other bodies under the Convention, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the Standing Committee on Finance – the Adaptation Fund Board held discussions on linkages between the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, including through a framework for promoting the scaling up of funded projects and the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 4(t) of decision 13/CMA.3 above.</p>
<p>Decision 4/CMP.16: Fourth review of the Adaptation Fund, Terms of reference for the fourth review of the Adaptation Fund</p>	

⁵² Takes note of the annual reports of the Adaptation Fund Board for 2020 and 2021 and the information contained therein.

<p>COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
<p>Annex</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol decided that the scope of the review will cover the progress made to date and lessons learned in the operationalization and implementation of the Fund and it will focus on, inter alia: programming and project coherence and complementarity between the Adaptation Fund and other institutions funding adaptation projects and programmes, in particular institutions under the Convention and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and its specialized funds.</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 4(t) of decision 13/CMA.3 above.</p>
<p>Decision 6/CMP.16: Fifth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition under the Kyoto Protocol</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol recognizes that:</p> <p>Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, have provided adequate resources and assistance for the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition established under decision 3/CP.7 and reaffirmed by decision 30/CMP.1;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p>Also invites Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the Global Environment Facility, multilateral and bilateral agencies,</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 5 of decision 13/CP.26 above.</p>

<p>COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
<p>international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector or any further arrangements, as appropriate and within their mandates, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition.</p>	
<p>Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-second to fifty-fifth session, held in Glasgow from 31 October to 6 November 2021</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 11: Matters relating to the least developed countries</p>	
<p>Paragraph 70:</p> <p>The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 307 million, made by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the Fund</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the pledges to the LDCF and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF to support CCA and technology transfer.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13(d): Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention</p>	
<p>The SBI, having considered the progress of the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism</p> <p>a) Welcomed the progress made by the TEC, the CTCN, the GCF and the GEF in strengthening linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism as reported in their annual reports to the COP in response to decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 9;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 16 of decision 7/CP.26 above.</p>

COP 26 Decision ²² / CMP 16 Decision ²³ / CMA 3 Decision ²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion ²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion ²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>b) Requested the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of financial resources, an information note on activities undertaken by the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to strengthen linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism for consideration at the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;</p> <p>c) Agreed to continue consideration of this matter at the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation with a view to recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration and adoption at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	
<p>Fifty-second to fifty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice</p>	
<p>Joint Item on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture</p>	
<p>Paragraph 52:</p> <p>The SBI and the SBSTA Welcomed the participation in four Koronivia workshops held in 2020 and 2021 of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; the Adaptation Fund; the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (both administered by the Global Environment Facility); and the constituted bodies under the Convention. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice also welcomed the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by these entities;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attended the related meetings, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat participated in the two parts of the Koronivia Intersessional Workshop: (i) "Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security," on 1-16 June 2021; and (ii) "Strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances," on 12-30 October 2021. On these occasions, the GEF presented its experience and views related to the themes of the Workshop.</p>

COP 26 Decision²² / CMP 16 Decision²³ / CMA 3 Decision²⁴ / SBI 52-55 Conclusion²⁵ / SBSTA 52-55 Conclusion²⁶	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 53:</p> <p>The SBSTA and the SBI encouraged the continued involvement of constituted bodies and financing entities in the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, highlighting the potential for creating interlinkages that lead to enhanced action and improvements in implementation</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Table 2: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 15 and GEF Responses

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ⁵³	GEF's Response
<i>Takes note</i> of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/4;	Noted.
<i>Welcomes</i> a (i) strong eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility; (ii) a robust increase to land degradation focal area resources; and calls for (iii) a continuous focus on land-based actions through Global Environment Facility Impact/Integrated Programs; and (iv) opportunities to enhance synergies among all focal areas bearing in mind the importance of the land degradation focal area as integral to those areas; (v) consideration of individuals and communities in situations of vulnerability across all sectors;	Noted with appreciation with regard to points (i) and (ii). Regarding to points (iii) and (iv), the GEF-8 programming directions have an increased focus on land-based actions implemented through Integrated Programs and continue to provide opportunities for enhanced synergies among all focal areas through multifocal area programming. Regarding point (v), the LDFA strategy considers and specifically targets those who are vulnerable to a range of issues such as food insecurity, drought, poverty, climate change impacts on land, including through emphasis on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming land degradation focal area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;	The GEF-8 LDFA programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. Furthermore, the GEF encourages countries to apply the UNCCD LDN guidelines for the design and implementation of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner;	The GEF will continue to support parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner through its Enabling Activity funding and will collaborate with the UNCCD and Global Mechanism to increase effectiveness of those Enabling Activities through various means. GEF is also monitoring the timeliness of disbursement processes of its implementing agency UNEP to parties for already approved funding requests.

⁵³ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/cop23add1-advance.pdf>

<i>Recommends</i> the Global Environment Facility to promote, as appropriate, the use of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database into the Global Environment Facility projects and programmes to support knowledge-sharing and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;	Knowledge management is an important topic and is pursued strategically in all GEF projects including those in the LD portfolio, where there is a requirement to build in mechanisms to utilize existing knowledge on best practices in project design and share lessons learned during and after the project implementation. Within this context, GEF encourages project implementing and executing agencies to use the WOCAT database as appropriate, especially in projects applying SLM practices.
<i>Notes with appreciation</i> the Global Environment Facility’s engagement to initiate and support the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and requests continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;	Noted with appreciation of recognition. The GEF is committed to engage with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and relevant other development partners on a coordinated approach to ensure greater synergy and economies of scale in supporting the GGWI countries, based on the principle of country ownership. This may include support for policy options to unlock market opportunities and innovative financing for diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative;	GEF will engage with countries in the region and all stakeholders and partners to explore opportunities for support, based on the principle of country ownership, demand, and regional cooperation. Based on the results of this engagement more concrete support options will be jointly developed and updates provided at regular intervals.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to further align the land degradation focal area strategy implementation with the Convention goals to enable countries to address their desertification/land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands;	The GEF-8 LDFA strategy continues to be fully aligned with the UNCCD Strategy and goals. Further the GEF-8 strategy has increased its attention to drought mitigation through including it in the goal statement as well as through a dedicated focal area objective LD-3, to provide countries with enhanced opportunities to address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues, particularly in drylands.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery,	The GEF-8 LDFA strategy, within its mandate, provides countries with the opportunity to the implementation of their national drought plans and other drought-related policies, specifically through the dedicated objective LD-3 of the strategy. This objective supports countries in

<p>rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building;</p>	<p>dryland geographies to build resilience to mitigate the effects of droughts and to prevent the aggravating effects of land degradation through (i) comprehensive land-use planning taking drought risks into account; (ii) the use of drought databases and tools such as the UNCCD drought toolbox; and (iii) the implementation of drought-smart land management (D-SLM), including croplands, rangelands, dryland forests, and mixed land-uses. GEF investments may also be coordinated with initiatives of other donors supporting climate change adaptation, including the LDCF to address especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to assess the feasibility of establishing a focal area for drought in order to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought;</p>	<p>The GEF will carefully explore and assess feasible options to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought, in consultation with all stakeholders, including the GEF Council as appropriate, and present feasible options at the next COP.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the implementation level, including by encouraging collaboration amongst the national focal points to the Global Environment Facility, as well as the different Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;</p>	<p>Noted. GEF continues to provide these opportunities in particular through the GEF-8 Integrated Programs which encourage countries to meet commitments under multiple conventions. GEF-8 programming also encourages policy coherence within countries, including by encouraging cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration amongst the national focal points.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.</p>	<p>Noted. GEF will report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.</p>

Table 3: GEF’s Response to the Guidance Received from the Online Segment of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF’s Response
1	<p>Decision SC-10/16: Financial mechanism</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the present decision, to consider, in its programming of areas of work for the period 2022–2026, the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025; (b) Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls⁵⁴ as soon as possible and no later than 2028; (c) Environmentally sound management and disposal of newly listed persistent organic pollutants,⁵⁵ with a focus on brominated flame retardants, fluorinated persistent organic pollutants and chlorinated paraffins; (d) Environmentally sound management and disposal of 	<p>The priorities identified in this paragraph have been included in objectives 1-3 of the GEF 8 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area in paragraphs 627-633 of the GEF 8 Programming Directions⁵⁶.</p>

⁵⁴ Having a polychlorinated biphenyl content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention.

⁵⁵ Newly listed persistent organic pollutants, as identified in the needs assessment report (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33), include the following: polybromodiphenyl ethers, hexabromocyclododecane, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride.

⁵⁶ GEF, 2022, [Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council document [GEF/C.62/03](#)

	<p>pesticides containing or consisting of persistent organic pollutants, including obsolete stockpiles;</p> <p>(e) Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention;</p> <p>(f) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2022–2026:</p> <p>(a) The review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development;</p> <p>(b) The development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;</p> <p>(c) The implementation of the activities related to the global monitoring plan and capacity-building to sustain the new monitoring initiatives that provide data and information for the global monitoring report prepared in connection with the continued evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention;</p>	<p>The priorities identified in this paragraph have been included in objectives 1 of the GEF 8 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area in paragraphs 627-628 of the GEF 8 Programming Directions⁵⁶⁵⁶.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To develop, having updated the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 10 (c) of decision SC-8/16, recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting regarding the possible retirement, streamlining and consolidation of the complete set of guidance; (b) To update after the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the guidance reflecting the outcome of the consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the recommendations mentioned in subparagraph 3 (a) of the present decision; 	<p>Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><i>Also requests</i> the Secretariat to transmit to the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The complete set of guidance to be developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 10 (c) of decision SC-8/16; b) A summary of the information on financing polychlorinated biphenyls contained in the note by the Secretariat on options to address potential issues with regard to financing polychlorinated biphenyls;⁵⁷ c) Any new information, as appropriate, compiled by the Secretariat on matters related to the financial mechanism pursuant 	<p>Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.</p>

⁵⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/63.

	to paragraph 4 of decision SC-10/3;	
5	<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider in the implementation of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund the information contained in the needs assessment report submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of decision SC-10/3 and any other information submitted to the Facility pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of the present decision;	<p>The GEF replenishment considered the information contained in the needs assessment report including the financial considerations as well as the urgency of the deadline for the phase out of PCBs. In this regard the replenishment agreed to increase the overall allocation of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area by 30% to 800M which represents 15% of the total GEF 8 replenishment.</p> <p>Regarding PCB, the GEF Secretariat and the BRS Secretariat have begun bilateral discussions on how to accelerate action where needed in GEF 8.</p>
6	<i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its report to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting, how the documents set out in paragraph 5 of the present decision have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on and implementation of the eighth replenishment of the Facility trust fund;	<p>The GEF replenishment considered the information contained in the needs assessment report including the financial considerations as well as the urgency of the deadline for the phase out of PCBs. In this regard the replenishment agreed to increase the overall allocation of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area by 30% to \$800 million which represents 15% of the total GEF 8 replenishment.</p>
7	<p>Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention</p>	Noted

	on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its tenth meeting; ⁵⁸	
8	<p>Monitoring and evaluation</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism⁵⁹ and notes that the report has been forwarded to the Global Environment Facility pursuant to paragraph 1 of decision SC-10/3;</p>	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
9	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism set out in annex I to decision SC-9/15 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations contained in the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism, draft terms of reference for the sixth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;</p>	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
10	<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its report to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting, how the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism has been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on and implementation of the eighth replenishment of the Facility trust fund;</p>	The draft report of the 5 th review of the financial mechanism have been used to design the GEF 8 chemicals and waste strategy which seeks to strengthen the enabling, institutional and legislative environment for management of chemicals and waste and sets out a pathway to eliminate existing stockpiles of chemicals and legacy waste and leapfrog to responsible chemistry which will eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals

⁵⁸ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex I; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36/Add.1.

⁵⁹ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex II; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/32.

		<p>in the long term. The strategy builds on the over 20 years of implementation of GEF projects supporting the Stockholm Convention and other chemicals conventions and processes to be able to address the recommendations of the assessment. The strategy is defined in objectives 1-3 of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area in paragraphs 627-633 of the GEF 8 programming directions⁵⁶.</p> <p>In addition to the focal area strategy, in GEF 8, the templates for projects including enabling activities have been further streamlined and the enforcement of the cancellation policy of the GEF has resulted in 100% compliance with the timely submission of projects for CEO endorsement. The GEF 8 policy recommendations also seek to strengthen gender reporting from projects, and this is a key review criterion in the project review and reporting process.</p> <p>With regards to the usage of available resources for enabling activities, the GEF is working with implementing agencies to ensure funds are fully utilised. This process resulted in over 23 requests and approvals of NIP updates in the last year of GEF 7.</p> <p>The report that will be submitted to COP 11 will fully detail how the recommendations of the review were incorporated into the GEF 8 replenishment.</p>
11	<p>Assessment of funding needs</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of the report on the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention over</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.</p>

	the period 2022–2026 ⁶⁰ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to provide assistance to Parties to facilitate their assessment of the funding that they need, including to address the low rate of response that affects the quality of the scenario presented; ⁶¹	
12	<i>Invites</i> developed-country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
13	<i>Invites</i> other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
14	<i>Invites</i> other sources, including relevant funding institutions, such as development banks and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

⁶⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33.

⁶¹ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex III; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/56; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/63.

	<p>the Secretariat, by 31 August 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide contributions to the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such contributions;</p>	
15	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2026–2030, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in annex II to decision SC-9/15 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations contained in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 11 of the present decision for consideration and possible adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.</p>
16	<p>Assessment of funding needs with regard to polychlorinated biphenyls</p> <p><i>Recognizes</i> that significant financial resources are required to assist recipient country Parties, in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention, in fulfilling their commitments related to, among others, the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p>	<p>Noted</p>

17	<p><i>Takes note</i> of the projected funding gap, as outlined in the reports referred to in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the present decision, with regard to achieving the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p>	Noted
18	<p><i>Urges</i> and requests the Global Environment Facility to explore all feasible options available to provide enhanced support to achieve the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028, recognizing the importance and urgency of these actions within the period of the eighth and ninth replenishment cycles of the Global Environment Facility trust fund;</p>	Regarding PCB, the GEF Secretariat and the BRS Secretariat have begun bilateral discussions on how to accelerate action where needed in GEF 8.
19	<p><i>Strongly encourages</i> countries and others in a position to do so, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations, other bilateral and multilateral institutions, and non-governmental organizations and private sources to provide complementary support for the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and for the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing</p>	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

	<p>polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p>	
20	<p><i>Emphasizes</i> the need that entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance, including Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, strengthen their efforts to fund the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls as soon as possible and no later than 2028, as appropriate, as part of their respective programmes of work and activities, and requests the Secretariat to engage with the above entities to that effect;</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.</p>
21	<p><i>Decides</i> to assess the projected funding needs to support achieving the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028, in the context of the sixth review of the financial mechanism;</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.</p>
22	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a report on further options for addressing the needs, including funding needs, and challenges met to reach the targets</p>	<p>Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required</p>

	related to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;	
23	<p>Cooperation between secretariats and reciprocal representation</p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention⁶² and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter-secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	The GEF will continue to strengthen its relationship with the Convention Secretariat including routine bilateral, joint missions and events. For example, the Executive Secretary participated alongside the GEF Sec and agencies in regional project meetings in the Caribbean in October 2022. It is anticipated these invitations will continue in the future.
24	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.</p>	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required, however the GEF will work with the Convention Secretariat on the preparation of this report.

⁶² See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/64.