



GEF/C.66/05
January 8, 2024

66th GEF Council Meeting
February 5 - 9, 2024
Washington D.C., USA

Agenda Item 16

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/05, *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). The document also provides a first update of GEF activities in support of the 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 (BBNJ). Covering the period from April 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023, the document further provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.
2. The Seventh GEF Assembly took place from August 22-26, 2023 in Vancouver, Canada. The Assembly ratified the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) establishment, which was agreed at the June 2023 GEF Council in response to decisions taken at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD. The 7th GEF Assembly also approved by consensus the amendment to the GEF Instrument to include the 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 (BBNJ) to the list of Conventions served by the GEF. An MEA dialogue with Executive Secretaries of the conventions that GEF serves took place at this occasion. A summary article was published on the GEF website on August 25, 2023¹.
3. Approved for adoption by consensus on June 19, 2023, the BBNJ Agreement was opened for signature on September 20, 2023. The BBNJ Agreement identifies the GEF Trust Fund as part of its Financial Mechanism. In response, the 64th GEF Council recommended an amendment to the Instrument to the Assembly in order to add the BBNJ Agreement to the list of Conventions served by the GEF (Decision 14/2023), as highlighted above.
4. During the reporting period, a number of major MEA meetings took place, with participation of the GEF Secretariat personnel. The session of COP 11 of the Stockholm Convention took place from May 1 to 12, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. The fifth COP to the Minamata was held from October 30 to November 3, 2023, also in Geneva, Switzerland. The 58th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took place from June to 5-15, 2023, in Bonn, Germany. The twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (WG8J-12) took place from November 12 to 16, 2023, and the First meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on Genetic Resources took place from November 14 to 18, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. The 21st Committee for the Review of the Implementation

¹ <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/feature-stories/we-dont-operate-silos-connecting-action-pollution-land-biodiversity-and>

of the Convention (CRIC) of the UNCDD was convened on November 18 and 19, 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

5. The GEF CEO and senior level officials also took part in various other MEA engagements, including those organized by partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.

6. The provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued with the initiation of the GEF-8 programming and most notably the roll-out of Integrated Programs and of LDCF/SCCF Dedicated Programs.

7. Highlights reported in this document include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the establishment of the GBF Fund; on GEF Secretariat's participation in preparatory meetings to COP 16; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports;
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in Subsidiary Body meetings, preparations for COP 28; support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT); submission of national reports; and ratifications;
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), updates on responses to the COP15 Decision on the collaboration with the GEF, and meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat;
- (d) Stockholm Convention: Updates on COP 11, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting;
- (e) Minamata Convention: Report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in the fifth COP to the Minamata Convention, updates on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting;
- (f) Special Programme: Updates of the seventh round of the program;
- (g) International Waters : Report on the GEF Secretariat's participation in various meetings related to the International Waters Focal Area, including the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, UN 2023 Water Conference, the Stockholm World Water Week, UNECE 18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, the Fifth Meeting of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC-5), the 8th Our Ocean Conference, the Large Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Partner Consultative Meeting (LME22), and the BBNJ Agreement;
- (h) 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 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (Plastic INC), and the GCF.

8. An annex with the full list of GEF's up-to-date responses to decisions from most recent COPs including CBD COP15, UNFCCC COP27, UNCCD COP15, and Stockholm Convention COP 10, is also included. The Stockholm Convention COP 11 did not issue new guidance to the GEF. The Minamata COP 5 also issued new guidance to the GEF.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	ii
Introduction	1
Convention on Biological Diversity	2
Summary of Key Activities	2
CBD Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement	2
Ratifications and Accessions.....	4
National Reporting	4
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.....	4
Summary of Key Activities	4
SB 58 and Outcomes.....	7
COP 28 Related Processes	8
Additional Meetings and Consultations	9
Ratifications and Accessions.....	10
National Reporting	10
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	11
Summary of Key Activities	11
Ratifications and Accessions.....	12
National Reporting	12
Additional Meetings and Consultations	13
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	13
Summary of Key Activities	13
Ratifications and Accessions.....	14
National Reporting	14
Minamata Convention on Mercury	15
Summary of Key Activities	15
Ratifications and Accessions.....	15
National Reporting.....	16

Specific International Programme	16
Special Programme	16
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	16
International Waters Focal Area	17
Summary of Key Activities	17
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 (BBNJ)	18
Relations with Other International Institutions.....	20
Adaptation Fund	20
Green Climate Fund	22
UN Forum on Forests	23
SAMOA Pathway	24
Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)	24
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment	24
Annex I: Decisions and Guidance of the Conferences of Parties to the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Stockholm Convention, and GEF’s Responses	26
Table 1: Decisions adopted by CBD COP 15, and GEF’s Response	26
Table 2: Decisions adopted by UNFCCC COP 27 and CMA 4, Conclusion of SBI 57 and SBSTA 57, and GEF’s Response	38
Table 3: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 15 and GEF’s Response	62
Table 4: GEF’s Response to the Guidance Received from the Online Segment of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	66

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). It also includes an update on the GEF's support to the 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 (BBNJ). The report further provides information on the 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 64th GEF Council held in October 2023. It covers the period from April 1, 2023, to November 30, 2023.

3. During the reporting period, the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions held meetings of the Conference of Parties (COP). Convened from October 30 to November 3, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland, Minamata COP 5 adopted guidance to the GEF. The session of COP 11 of the Stockholm Convention which took place from May 1-12, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland, did not issue new guidance to the GEF. The 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 (BBNJ) approved by consensus on June 19, 2023, identified the GEF Trust Fund as part of its Financial Mechanism. In response, the 64th GEF Council recommended an amendment to the Instrument to the Assembly to add the BBNJ Agreement to the list of Conventions served by the GEF (Decision 14/2023).

4. Other major Convention-related meetings took place during the reporting period. The Fifth Meeting of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC-5), which took place in February 2023 in Vancouver, was co-sponsored by the GEF, while the UN 2023 Water Conference took place in March 2023 in New York. The 18th UN Forum on Forest (UNFF) was held on May 8-12, 2023. The 58th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took place from June to 5-15, 2023, in Bonn, Germany. The second and third meeting of intergovernmental negotiating committee for an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, convened from May 29 to June 2 in Paris and from November 11-19, 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya respectively.

5. Further, the Seventh GEF Assembly took place from August 22-26, 2023 in Vancouver, Canada, ratifying the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) establishment, and approving by consensus the amendment to the GEF Instrument to include the 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 (BBNJ) to the list of Conventions served by the GEF. The fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 5), in Bonn, Germany, from 25 - 29 September 2023 and agreed to establish a Global Framework on Chemicals. The twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (WG8J-12) took place from November 12 to 16, 2023, and the First meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on Genetic Resources took place from November 14-18, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. The 21st Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) of the UNCDD was convened on November 18 and 19, 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

6. 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.

7. The GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground, notably to implement landmark decisions and agreements reached during the reporting period, such as the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund or the 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 (BBNJ).

8. The Executive Secretaries of the CBD, Minamata Convention and Stockholm Convention, and the Deputy Executive Secretaries of UNFCCC and UNCCD addressed the Seventh GEF Assembly, as reported in the 65th Council's Relations with Conventions session.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

9. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat efforts focused on the establishment and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which was ratified at the GEF-7 Assembly in August 2023, after having been agreed at the June 2023 GEF Council in response to decisions taken at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD.

10. The GEF Secretariat staff continued discussions on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related programming. These engagement efforts are described further in sections below.

CBD Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement

11. GEF Secretariat staff participated virtually in an observer capacity in the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization held from September 25 to 29, 2023, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. GEF staff gave a presentation: "Update on work undertaken pursuant to specific requests related to the GEF contained in decision 15/7" and

answered questions from the committee members. The GEF CEO also attended the meeting virtually in response to a request from the co-chairs to provide an overview of progress in establishing the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) and answered questions from the committee members. The Committee agreed a work plan to complete its work and to build on progress made at its first meeting. GEF Secretariat personnel attended the first online virtual consultation held on November 22, 2023, and will continue to contribute to the work of committee providing information and data on the work of the GEF in the biodiversity focal area relevant to the work of the Committee.

12. GEF Secretariat staff participated in SBSTTA 25 -Twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Nairobi, Kenya from October 15 to 19, 2023. GEF staff held a side event attended by 80 participants and gave a presentation on: Update on GEF-8 Programming in Biodiversity and on the Establishment of the GBFF. The primary focus of SBSTTA 25 was to facilitate implementation of the GBF by providing scientific, technological, and technical information for monitoring implementation and recommended decisions on these areas were passed forward to the SBI.

13. GEF staff participated in the “International dialogue with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action” held November 9 to 10, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. GEF staff provided an update and answered questions on the establishment of the GBFF and the broader GEF Trust Fund during a GEF-focused session of the dialogue.

14. GEF staff attended the Twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity held November 12-16, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting of the Working Group focused on the call by governments made in Montreal at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in December of 2022, to develop a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities that will be aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. During the meeting, GEF staff spoke and answered questions at a side event organized by the IIFB (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity) on “Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ direct access to funding for the implementation of Target 19.”

15. GEF Secretariat Staff participated in the first Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSI OEWG), which was convened from November 14 to 18, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. CBD COP 15 decision 15/9 established a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI, including a global fund, and mandated the DSI OEWG to carry out a fair, transparent, inclusive, participatory and time-bound process to further develop and operationalize the mechanism to be finalized at COP 16.

16. At its first meeting, the OEWG DSI agreed possible elements of a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI, outlining elements on which there is potential

convergence and a non-exhaustive list of elements for which there is a need for further discussion, with regards to (i) Contributions to the fund, (ii) Disbursement of the fund, (iii) Non-monetary benefit-sharing, (iv) Governance of the fund and the mechanism, (v) Relation to other approaches and systems. “Options for new or existing funds which could host the global [DSI] fund” and “Options for revisions to the operating modalities of the Global Environment Facility or the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, under request from the Conference of the Parties, to enable them to serve as the host of the global fund” were included as elements for further discussion.

17. The DSI OEWG also agreed intersessional work to prepare the second and last DSI OEWG meeting, which is scheduled for August 2024. Intersessional work will include (i) information sharing, including through webinars; (ii) an informal advisory group to provide opportunities for technical discussion among parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and stakeholders; and (iii) informal consultations, including regional online consultations to facilitate exchange of views.

Ratifications and Accessions

18. As of November 30, 2023, there were 196 Parties to the CBD, 173 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 54 Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 140 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 from [this link](#).

19. Since the last report to the GEF Council, Ireland became party to the Nagoya Protocol and Equatorial Guinea deposited its instrument of access on 4 October 2023, and will become Party on 2 January 2024. While Malawi and Ukraine became parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

National Reporting

20. The Convention Secretariat has received no additional sixth national reports from Bahrain since the last report to Council. The list of 190 national submissions received can be found on [this page](#).

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

21. 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). COP 28 took from November 30 to December 13, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). A GEF Secretariat delegation participated in the COP 28 meetings. The GEF report to COP 28 was prepared and submitted, as described further below.

22. The GEF Secretariat staff continued secondment to UNFCCC to support the Transitional Committee (TC) on Loss and Damage. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat participated in the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Meetings of the TC, as well as the First and Second intersessional workshops as members of the Technical Supporting Unit. The GEF Secretariat supported the work of the TC through providing technical backstopping as well as by contributing to the development of briefing documents, particularly on institutional arrangements, modalities, structure, governance, and terms of reference, and coordination and complementarity with existing funding arrangements. Per request from the UNFCCC secretariat, the GEF Secretariat delivered presentations on GEF's experience on a programmatic approach, adaptation activities financed which have loss and damage elements, as well as implementing funding new arrangements, at the Second intersessional workshop.

23. GEF Secretariat staff participated in person at the 58th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) from June 5-15, 2023, in Bonn, Germany. The GEF delegation highlighted various tasks carried out to respond to guidance from COP 27 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).

24. Regarding the implementation of the ETF, the GEF Secretariat organized on June 8, 2023, in Bonn, a consultation with Parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat to further outline and increase awareness on the support available from the GEF to assist countries with the preparation and timely submission of the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and through the CBIT, as further described below.

25. 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 58 agenda items, including on SBI agenda item 4b "Provision of financial and technical support", and SBI agenda Item 15 "Development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism: linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention".

26. During the reporting period, 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).

27. Regarding the GEF Trust Fund programming, 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 64th Council in June 2023 included, among others, the approval of the "Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Phase V Project", which, building on the previous four phases of GEF support for TNAs and Technology

Action Plans, extended support to 17 developing countries to either update or develop their TNAs.

28. During this reporting period, the 34th Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council approved the second Work Program of the GEF-8 cycle totalling \$63.49 million, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fee. The approved LDCF/SCCF work program will support four least developed countries (LDCs) and one non-LDC small island development state (SIDS) to address urgent climate change adaptation priorities.

29. The GEF Adaptation Strategy for 2022-2026, endorsed at the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in June 2022, recognized that many LDCs and SIDS face several capacity constraints. It outlined a Dedicated Program on 'Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming,' which responds directly to gaps and needs of the LDCs and SIDS. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat intensified rolling out of the Dedicated Program through four sub-regional programming and strategy workshops across different regions of LDCs. The objective of these workshops is to advance the LDCF and SCCF programming and build participants' capacity to strengthen their skills and knowledge in the selection, design, and implementation of impactful national climate change adaptation projects. The workshop for 17 francophone LDCs² was held, in Dakar, Senegal on April 24-27, 2023 followed by a workshop for five³ Asian LDCs in Siem Reap, Cambodia on September 19-22, 2023. Four⁴ Pacific LDCs attended pacific LDCs workshop in Honiara, Solomon Island from September 26-26, 2023. The workshop for 17⁵ Anglophone African LDCs and Yemen⁶ was organized in Addis Abba, Ethiopia on October 2-5, 2023. These workshops were convened in close partnerships of the host government and LDC Group. The representative of the LEG Chair was invited at all the workshops.

30. In these sub-regional programming and strategy workshops, GEF Secretariat staff presented Adaptation Strategy for the 2022-2026 period and conducted capacity building sessions on the LDCF funding cycle, and on developing a sound adaptation rationale. The team also facilitated LDCF brainstorming sessions with participants on project concepts, engaged in bilateral meetings to facilitate adaptation planning, and discussed country experiences with accessing and programming LDCF resources. Post-workshop surveys reported a highly positive

² Participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo attended the workshop.

³ Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Nepal attended the workshop

⁴ Participants from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Tuvalu attended the workshop.

⁵ Participants from Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia attended the workshop

⁶ Yemen was unable to attend any of the workshops due to travel related challenges. To address this, a dedicated session was held during UNFCCC COP28 to provide a condensed version of the workshop and discuss Yemen's plans for use of LDCF funds in the GEF-8 period. This session involved Yemen's Operational Focal Point and climate change adaptation specialists from the country, together with the Manager of the LDCF and SCCF and a small team of GEF Secretariat staff.

assessment from participants on the value of such workshops. Participants were also polled on topics to be explored in future thematic or sector-focused capacity building support.

SB 58 and Outcomes

31. GEF Secretariat staff participated in person at the 58th session of the UNFCCC SBSTA and the SBI from June 5-15, 2023, in Bonn, Germany.

32. Delegation members participated in various technical engagements, including side events and bilateral discussions with stakeholders, agencies, and countries. GEF staff were assigned to cover negotiations related to finance, technology transfer, matters relating to least developed countries, adaptation, capacity building, transparency, loss and damage, among other topics.

33. The GEF Secretariat was invited to provide an oral statement on financial support requested, approved, and provided for the preparation of NCs and BURs, including support provided through the CBIT. Parties welcomed the efforts by the GEF to provide timely support for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) and the significant increase in the number of countries supported compared to a year ago. The GEF conducted bilateral meetings with countries to address comments based on countries' specific context and needs.

34. The GEF Secretariat organized a consultation on the GEF's support to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)⁷ on June 8, 2023, in Bonn, to respond to guidance from the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (paragraph 10 of decision 8c/CMA 4), provide an update on the status of the GEF support to Parties for the implementation of the ETF, and enable sharing of information and early lessons between Parties regarding the initial experiences with BTR support and preparation. This was an in-person event and was attended by 45 people, including representatives from countries, Agencies, UNFCCC, and NGOs.⁸

35. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Global Stocktake (GST) process, which is the key topic for COP 28 and key milestone for the Paris Agreement, through engagement in the consultations and workshop, as requested by the GST Co-Chairs. The GST is the process that enables countries stakeholders to assess where they are, and are not, collectively making progress towards the Paris Agreement goals, and to agree on solution pathways to 2030 and beyond.

⁷ Consultation: GEF Support to the Enhanced Transparency Framework. June 8, 2023. Bonn, Germany
<https://www.thegef.org/events/consultation-gef-support-enhanced-transparency-framework>

36. Both 58th and 59th session of Subsidiary Body for Implementation for 2023 expressed its appreciation to the GEF for organizing the workshop for African, Asian and Pacific LDCs⁹. In addition, the COP28 guidance to the GEF commended LDCF and SCCF for their enhanced support to the LDCs and SIDS for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change¹⁰.

37. At the 58th session of the SBSTA and the SBI, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the following events:

- (a) Sixth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, on June 5, 2023;
- (b) LEG Side event: Work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in supporting the least developed countries on adaptation, on June 6, 2023;
- (c) UNFCCC: Technology Needs Assessment event with financial actors, on June 6, 2023;
- (d) UNFCCC Side Event – Support opportunities available to developing country Parties for implementing MRV/ETF arrangements, on June 8, 2023;
- (e) CBIT-GSP Inception and Launch of the Climate Transparency Platform, on June 9, 2023;
- (f) UNFCCC 13th ETF Group of Friends meeting, on June 13, 2023.
- (g) Pathways Platform Annual Meeting, on June 13, 2023.

38. In addition to the events listed above, the GEF Secretariat staff engaged extensively in bilateral meetings, including with the UNFCCC Secretariat, GEF Council Members and Advisors, IPCC staff, GEF Agencies, and several Parties delegations.

COP 28 Related Processes

39. The GEF Secretariat has taken part in the UNFCCC negotiation process and preparation for COP 28. 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 28 on September 5, 2023.¹¹ The report covers the fiscal year from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. In addition, the GEF submitted an addendum to the GEF report to COP 28, on the status

⁹ UNFCCC, 2023, Reports of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-eight sessions, held in Bonn from June 5-15, 2023, FCCC/SBI/2023/10/Add.1, Paragraph 82. Matters relating to the least developed countries, draft conclusion proposed by the chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-ninth session held in United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 6 December 2022, FCCC/SBI/2023/L.24, paragraph 5

¹⁰ Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of Parties and Guidance to the Global Environment Facility FCCC/CP/2023/L.6, paragraph 9

¹¹ GEF, 2023, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Eighth [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 18, 2023.¹²

40. The GEF was requested by Parties at COP 24 to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTRs. Since the roll-out of the operational modalities, response from countries has been robust. As of October 31, 2023, the GEF has approved support for 70 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. As of October 31, 2023, the GEF has approved support for the preparation of 102 BTRs. Countries can access resources for the BTR preparation at full cost, from the Climate Change focal area set-aside resources.

41. 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, 2023, the GEF has provided support to a total of 94 CBIT projects¹³ in 88 countries – through 84 individual country projects and one regional project that covers four countries and seven global projects. The total CBIT support amounts to \$156.31 million, including GEF Project Financing, Agency Fees, and Project Preparation Grants (PPGs).

Additional Meetings and Consultations

42. 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) First workshop on addressing loss and damage in the context of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4, from April 29 and 30, 2023.
- (b) Second Meeting of the Transitional Committee (TC2), from May 25 to 27, 2023.
- (c) Second workshop on addressing loss and damage in the context of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4, from July 15-16, 2023.
- (d) Third Meeting of the Transitional Committee (TC3), from August 29 to September 1, 2023.
- (e) Workshop in French on climate transparency and the ETF hosted by the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), UNFCCC, CBIT-GSP, the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and Citepa on August 31, 2023.

¹² GEF, 2023, [Status from National Communications, Biennial Update Reports and Biennial Transparency Report from Parties not included in Annex I of the Convention](#).

¹³ The CBIT portfolio, as of October 31, 2023, consists of 88 projects approved or endorsed by the GEF CEO, five projects that are pending are under review and are pending approval or endorsement from the GEF CEO, and one project that submitted a Project Identification Form (PIF) and is also pending approval from the GEF CEO.

- (f) 27th Meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) from September 19 to 22, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (g) 22nd Advisory Board Meeting of the UN Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) from September 25 to 27, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (h) Fourth Meeting of the Transitional Committee (TC4), from October 17-20, 2023.

Ratifications and Accessions

43. As of November 30, 2023, there were 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 the following [page](#).

National Reporting

44. The following is the total number of NCs submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of November 30, 2023:

- a. Initial National Communications: 154
- b. Second National Communications: 146
- c. Third National Communications: 101
- d. Fourth National Communications: 31
- e. Fifth National Communications: 4
- f. Sixth National Communications: 1

Full details are available at this [UNFCCC website](#).

45. The following is the total number of BURs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of November 30, 2023:

- a. First Biennial Update Reports: 94
- b. Second Biennial Update Reports: 39
- c. Third Biennial Update Reports: 27
- d. Fourth Biennial Update Reports: 12
- e. Fifth Biennial Update Reports: 2

Full details are available at the [UNFCCC website](#).

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

46. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued to follow up on the UNCCD COP 15, held from May 9-20, 2022, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in particular on the COP decision regarding collaboration with the Global Environment Facility. Updates to the responses by the GEF Secretariat to these decisions are contained in Annex I, Table 3.

47. A GEF Secretariat delegation took part in the UNCCD CRIC 21 from November 13-17 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Parties discussed the results of the national reporting, reviewed the main findings of an independent midterm assessment of the Strategic Framework (2018-2030), and the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought presented the IWG progress report. Highlights of the CRIC with relevance for the GEF include:

- (a) Parties reviewed the main findings of an independent midterm assessment of the Strategic Framework (2018-2030), and reiterated the interlinkages between land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity, and the need for increased synergies with the Rio Conventions;
- (b) The chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on drought presented the IWG progress report. One of the eight key policy options to be considered by the COP 16, "Strengthening existing financial mechanisms, e.g. Global Environment Facility (GEF)/Global Mechanism (GM)", has direct relevance for GEF;
- (c) A high-level event led by the host country Uzbekistan affirmed the growing recognition of the importance of sand and dust storms.

48. Official documents including the final conclusions and recommendations of the CRIC are posted on the UNCCD website.

49. COP 15 launched a midterm evaluation process of the 2018-2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework with the aim to consider the progress made so far and potential next steps. The GEF Secretariat has been nominated as an observer to the corresponding intergovernmental working group (IWG). The IWG supervises the independent assessment of the UNCCD conducted by a consultant. It also ensures linkages and synergies with all parallel processes that are relevant to the evaluation. GEF Secretariat staff participated in an online meeting of the IWG on October 26, 2023, which presented the independent assessment report. Further, GEF staff participated in the 3-day meeting of the IWG at the margins of CRIC in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from November 18-20. The meeting discussed the findings of the independent assessment report as well as the results of the stakeholder consultations, and decided on the outstanding tasks of the IWG and next steps leading up to the presentation of the mid-term evaluation to COP 16.

50. The GEF continues to engage and participate in strategic discussions with key partners of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI). In this context, UNEP has been developing a GEF-8 program proposal jointly with other key partners and submitted the program proposal to the GEF Secretariat. The program proposal is currently under review. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the Great Green Wall GEF-8 Program Regional Consultation meeting September 25 to 29, 2023 in Lome, Togo, where the program proposal was discussed with all participating countries. In parallel, the engagement in the ongoing implementation of the GGWI is continuing, among others through GEF and GCF cooperation within the framework of implementing the conventions. Joint support to the GGW is part of the GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision (LTV) on complementarity as a major initiative with resources from the LDCF and the GEF Trust Fund.

51. The GEF Secretariat is cooperating with the Global Mechanism and the African Development Bank on upstream engagement with the Southern Great Green Wall Initiative, including related discussions with the Southern Africa Development commission (SADC) in collaboration with the UNCCD Global Mechanism, and in cooperation with the GCF. Support to the Southern Great Green Wall Initiative was part of the COP 15 GEF decision. In this new initiative, the GEF Secretariat is advocating country ownership, enhanced political commitment, and alignment of the initiative with the goals of objectives of all relevant conventions, in particular the UNCCD and UNFCCC. At a side event at the margins of the GEF Assembly, the GEF Secretariat announced its readiness to help advancing the Southern Great Wall Initiative through a \$2 million medium-sized project, which is currently under development.

Ratifications and Accessions

52. As of November 30, 2023, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 States and the European Union. The details can be found from [this](#) link.

National Reporting

53. Results of the national reporting by Parties under the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework were presented at the CRIC. The UNCCD Secretariat provided a synthesis and preliminary analysis of information submitted by country Parties on strategic objectives 1 -5 and offered conclusions on the status of implementation recommendations for consideration by the CRIC. GEF staff participated in an interactive panel to discuss how to enhance procedures towards a more effective and timely disbursement of the available funding in the next reporting cycle.

54. In GEF-7, \$100,000 were made available for each GEF eligible country for UNCCD Enabling Activities for national reporting and planning. Access to funding was provided through umbrella projects implemented by UNEP to 122 countries approved by the GEF CEO between March to May 2022. The subsequent disbursement of funding to countries was handled by UNEP. According to the recent data provided by UNEP, 99 countries received cash advances, 9 are in progress, and 23 are still pending. At the reporting deadline of February 28, 2023, 126 national reports were submitted to UNCCD Secretariat through the PRAIS portal.

55. The GEF Secretariat participated in official events and side events held at the CRIC to discuss with parties, GEF agencies, and the UNCCD Secretariat ways to improve timely and efficient delivery of funding to countries in GEF-8 as part of enabling activities. Towards this end, GEF Secretariat received value recommendations, which will be followed up immediately in preparation for the 2026 reporting cycle. Major recommendations made are to make funding available to countries up to 2 years in advance of the reporting deadline to facilitate preparation and data collection for reporting, and to involve additional GEF agencies as well as regional executing agencies in the disbursement of the funding.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

56. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD participated in the 7th GEF Assembly heading a delegation of UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism staff participating in various meetings, including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Dialogue held on August 21, 2023, and various public relation events. The Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO met bilaterally on August 25 to discuss ongoing GEF-8 support through projects and programs as well as proactive drought management under the convention and potential future options for cooperation.

57. GEF Secretariat staff held bilateral meetings with the UNCCD Global Mechanism team at the margins of the GEF Assembly as well as the UNCCD CRIC to discuss their current priorities in terms of LDN implementation, developing LDN transformative projects and programs, support to Enabling Activities, and the support of the Southern Great Green Wall Initiative.

58. GEF Secretariat staff was invited and participated in the meetings with the IWG on drought at the margins of the CRIC on November 18-19, 2023. One of the eight options presented by the IWG to parties is the option “to strengthen existing financial mechanisms”. During the meeting, GEF staff provided an overview of ongoing support and discussed potential ways to increase attention to and funding for drought mitigation within GEF programming.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

59. The eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention was held in Geneva, Switzerland from May 1-2, 2023.

60. The GEF participated in the COP which was held jointly with the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-16), the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-11) and presented the GEF report to the COP and participated in the PCB fair organized by the BRS Secretariat.

61. There was no new guidance to the GEF at this COP as COP 10, which was held less than a year prior provided guidance to the GEF. In relation to the financial mechanism the COP decided, in decision SC-11/14, on the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the

implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2026-2030 and the terms of reference for the sixth review of the financial mechanism.

62. Notably at the eleventh COP, the Conference established, in decision SC-11/19, a compliance mechanism which had been on the COP agenda since COP 1.

63. The COP also listed three new chemicals, methoxychlor (SC-11-9), Dechlorane Plus (SC-11/10), and UV-328 (SC-11/11). Methoxychlor is a pesticide, while Dechlorane Plus and UV-328 are industrial chemicals, the latter primarily used as an additive to plastics.

Ratifications and Accessions

64. During the reporting period, there were no new ratifications of the Convention. The current number of ratifications is 186. The status of ratifications is available from [this link](#).

National Reporting

65. 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, 2023, the status of submission of NIPs and updates are as follows:

NIP Phase	Number of Parties that have submitted	Change since last report
Initial NIP	176	0
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	110	2
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	100	2
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	68	3
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	46	2
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	31	4
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	17	3

66. The NIPs submitted online can be retrieved from the Stockholm Convention [website](#).

67. The Convention Secretariat online reporting dashboard for Parties to directly upload their data on inventories can be found on [this link](#).

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

68. The fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata was held from October 30 to November 3, 2023. The COP was held ten years after the diplomatic conference in 2013. The GEF participated in the COP, including participating in the COP exhibition to highlight the support of the GEF to the Convention over the last decade.
69. The COP made several key decisions¹⁴, including guidance to the GEF resulting from the second review of the financial mechanism.
70. The COP noted the importance of broadening the participation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Convention.
71. Parties decided to amend Annex A to the Convention with new phase-out dates for certain batteries, switches, relays and fluorescent lamps. Parties agreed on a new requirement to advance the phase-down of dental amalgam and, as of 2025, no mercury level will be allowed in cosmetics. They also decided to amend Annex B with a 2025 phase-out date for the production of polyurethane using mercury catalysts. Parties worked on the basis of amendment proposals from the Africa region and mandates from COP-4 to achieve these results, and agreed to consider further measures on dental amalgam at COP-6.
72. Other technical decisions covered the adoption of guidance for controlling mercury releases to land and water, and the request for Parties to continue to advance their efforts to control the emissions of mercury to the atmosphere. After seven years of negotiation, Parties agreed on a 15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury as the threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, inviting submissions of scientific and regulatory information on this topic.
73. The COP established a group to oversee the development of the first report to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention, following the agreed indicators, most of them based on national reporting submissions. Considered a standalone agenda item for the first time, the COP pushed to reduce mercury supply sources and trade by strengthening capacities at the national level and developing a study on the global supply, trade, production and use of mercury compounds.

Ratifications and Accessions

74. During the reporting period, Kenya, Ukraine, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Malawi and Belize became party to the Convention.

¹⁴ The COP report is not yet available so decisions and guidance will be presented in the next relations with conventions paper.

75. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention has 128 signatures and 147 Parties, as of October 31, 2023. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website.

National Reporting

76. 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.

77. There are currently 73 MIAs submitted, 30 NAPs, 3 NIPs and 99 reports submitted under Article 21. MIAs that have been submitted are available at [this link](#).

78. NAPs that have been submitted are available at [this link](#).

79. NIPs that have been submitted are available at [this link](#).

80. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at [this link](#). The deadline for the full reports was December 31, 2021.

SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

81. The Eighth Meeting of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme was held online on August 30, 2023.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

82. After the launch of the seventh round of funding, which took place on April 6, 2023, the GEF secretariat participated on the internal task team to review the proposals received by the deadline. The reviews of the projects have been transmitted to the applicants for improvement of the proposals which will be reviewed for funding by the Executive Board in March 2024.

83. The internal task team is scheduled to meet in December 2023 to review the resubmitted proposals for final recommendation to the Executive Board.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

84. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in official meetings of the Montreal Protocol during the reporting period.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat attended the seventh GEF Assembly and participated on several panels and side events including a dialogue among the Convention Secretariats. Discussions with both Climate Change and Chemicals and Waste team members were organized to discuss complementary support to countries.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS FOCAL AREA

Summary of Key Activities

85. The GEF occupies a critical space 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, to enable healthy ecosystems and the sharing of benefits from their utilization.

86. This section includes information on activities related to the GEF International Waters (IW) focal area that took place in the period from November 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.

87. The GEF Secretariat participated (virtually) in the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater in December 2022 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. It was the final event of the 2022 UN-Water campaign “Groundwater: making the invisible visible”, which the GEF has been supporting throughout the year and in its International Waters Strategy. The GEF is a member of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, which was launched at the sidelines of the Summit.

88. The Summit was also a strategic lead to the UN 2023 Water Conference, which took place in March 2023 in New York (co-hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan). It was the second Water Conference in UN history, following the Mar Del Plata, Argentina conference in 1977. Water has yet to be fully recognized as essential to addressing the SDGs and tackling the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and environmental pollution. The Conference, therefore, leveraged commitments to drive forward a Water Action Agenda. The event also marked the midpoint of the Water Action Decade (“Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028). The GEF Secretariat contributed to the conference paper for Theme 4 on Transboundary Waters and actively participated in and co-convened a number of side events, including on groundwater, source-to-sea management, transboundary cooperation to achieve the SDGs, and the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition.

89. The annual Stockholm World Water Week, in August 2023, built on this momentum for greater action on water and brought together a record number of people—15,000 from 190 countries and territories—onsite and online. There was conscious attention to and inclusion of indigenous peoples, younger professionals and women). The GEF and IW:LEARN co-convened a number of sessions, including on exchanging experiences in river basins; whether international water law is ready to face future challenges; source-to-sea/healthy rivers-healthy ocean engagement and experiences (voices from around the globe); and options for continuing Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition collaborations.

90. The GEF Secretariat continues to actively partner with the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat in co-designing, financially supporting and participating in UNECE-hosted GEF IW portfolio-relevant workshops (through the UNECE partnership in IW:LEARN), and in supporting countries on several river and groundwater basins in ECA and Africa. The GEF Secretariat

participated in person at the UNECE 18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management in June 2023 in Geneva. This meeting is the largest annual gathering of UNECE Water Convention countries and partners.

91. The GEF was a major sponsor of the Fifth Meeting of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC-5), which took place in February 2023 in Vancouver. The focus of the Congress was to build momentum and action to protect and restore ocean health. The GEF Secretariat, together with the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) and the World Resources Institute, co-hosted a Congress session on implementation of the 30x30 target through the new GEF and HAC partnership and beyond.

92. At the 8th Our Ocean Conference in Panama in March 2023, the GEF Secretariat reconfirmed the GEF's previously announced commitments in new programming across the conference's six areas of action: marine protected area, marine pollution, climate change, sustainable blue economy, sustainable fisheries and maritime security.

93. In line with the GEF IW portfolio's commitment to knowledge and experience sharing, the GEF Secretariat co-organized and actively participated in the Large Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Partner Consultative Meeting (LME22) in Paris in July 2023. Through the leadership of UNESCO-IOC (the longstanding convener of the LME Consultation Meetings), LME22 was a cornerstone event of the IW:LEARN project. Under the theme "Strengthening the LME partnerships to address new challenges and enhance our impacts", LME22 provided a global forum for GEF-funded and other marine and coastal practitioners and partner organizations, including Regional Seas and Fisheries Management Organizations, to discuss progress, new challenges and opportunities for the LME partnerships.

94. 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 process is underway and the conference is expected to take place in the third quarter of 2024 in Uruguay.

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 (BBNJ)

95. Approved by consensus on June 19, 2023, the 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 ("BBNJ")¹⁵ was opened for signature on September 20, 2023. As of November 30, 2023, the Agreement had 84 signatories.

¹⁵ A/CONF.232/2023/4, [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](#)

96. The BBNJ Agreement identifies the GEF Trust Fund as part of its Financial Mechanism, which also includes a special fund and a voluntary trust fund. In response, the Council welcomed the invitation from the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ to the GEF to be part of the Financial Mechanism of the BBNJ Agreement, and recommended an amendment to the Instrument to the Assembly in order to add the BBNJ Agreement to the list of Conventions served by the GEF (Decision 14/2023¹⁶). In August 2023, the 7th GEF Assembly approved by consensus the corresponding amendment.

97. Through Decision 14/2023, the Council also authorized the use of up to \$34 million from the GEF International Waters Focal Area for the funding of ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement to be programmed during GEF-8, and requested the GEF Secretariat to develop initial guidelines for enabling activities and ratification support projects and present them as a decision document at the 66th Council Meeting.

98. During the reporting period, the CEO participated in the high-level event “High Ambition for the High Seas” organized on September 20, 2023, in New York, by the governments of Belgium, Costa Rica, France and the European Union, together with The Blue Leaders and the High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction. The GEF CEO presented GEF’s role as part of the Financial Mechanism and GEF’s upcoming ratification and early action support.

99. GEF Secretariat staff participated virtually in the Informal BBNJ dialogue organized by the International Center for Dialogue and Peacebuilding on August 2, 2023, the webinar “The High Seas Treaty – Content and Opportunities for the Western Indian Ocean region” on October 11, 2023, the BBNJ ASEAN Workshop held on November 15-17, and the ECOWAS BBNJ coordination meeting on November 22 to clarify the GEF’s procedures, relations with Conventions it serves, its upcoming ratification and early action support.

100. GEF Secretariat staff held consultations with the interim BBNJ Secretariat, GEF Agencies and other traditional and non-traditional donors to coordinate the GEF’s ratification and early support with similar planned efforts.

¹⁶ GEF, 2023, [*Preparing the GEF to serve as part of the Financial Mechanism of the 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 \(BBNJ\)*](#), Council document GEF/C.64/12/Rev.02

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund

101. 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 (AFB). 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.

102. 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 GEF Council regarding secretariat services to the AFB. At its fifty-seventh meeting, the GEF Council decided to approve the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services to the AFB as in December 2019.

103. 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 Centre 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.

104. The GEF Secretariat provided the Adaptation Fund with the continued cross-support services supporting the technical review of project and programme proposals submitted for the forty-first meeting of the AFB, which took place from October 10 to 13, 2023. The Board approved four single-country proposals for funding for a total amount of USD 32.92 million. The Board also approved one enhanced direct access fully-developed proposal for an amount of USD 5 million, and two grant proposals under the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator for a total amount of USD 20 million. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of October 30, 2023, the AFB has approved 169 concrete projects amounting to \$1,102.45 million in total. As of September 30, 2023, funds available to support funding decisions were \$405.77 million.

105. 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 new developments in the Adaptation Fund's gender work: capacity-building initiatives and tools to strengthen gender-responsive approaches during project design and implementation (2023 Gender Webinar as well as gender session at 2023 NIE Seminar), as well as the start of the

implementation of the Gender Scorecard. In this regard, the AFB Secretariat participated together with the GEF and other international climate funds in the Climate Funds Collaboration Platform on Results, Indicators and Methodologies for Measuring that took place in May 2023. Both secretariats have continued to explore opportunities for future collaboration and have collaborated with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme, as well as possibility of organizing gender events during the COP28.

106. 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 discussions with the World Bank management on the new cost recovery measures for the GEF Vice Presidency including the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, which was released in March 2021. In this reporting period in particular, the GEF and AFB secretariats closely reviewed latest communications from the World Bank and GEF's Council decisions on the indirect cost recovery rate.

107. 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. As part of the COP28 preparation, the secretariats of the GEF and AF have engaged with the secretariats of the CIFs and GCF on preparing joint events to enhance their joint efforts for maximized climate impact and access to countries.

108. In addition, as part of the first ever joint pavilion with all climate funds at COP28, all funds' secretariats will collaborate further through several operational matters. The GEF and AFB communications units along with those of CIF and GCF strive to coordinate and collaborate to enhance complementarity where relevant, including for the COP28 joint pavilion planning. This also includes collaborating on joint communications approaches and platforms in highly visible ways. The AF and GEF communications units have also reposted key news of one another on social media to amplify their reach.

109. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to exchange ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration, including sharing insights on their updated knowledge management strategies and potential joint activities at COP28.

110. The GEF and AF explored complementarity and synergies in capacity-building and readiness support to developing countries, and the AFB secretariat participated at the GEF Eastern Europe and Central Asia expanded Constituency workshop (ECW) in Macedonia from October 2-3, 2023. The AFB secretariat used this opportunity to reach out to the developing

countries in the region, including the Designated Authorities (DAs) of the Fund, and to outline areas of complementarity with the GEF.

Green Climate Fund

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

112. 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 2021.¹⁷ Joint annual LTV progress reports to the GEF Council and GCF board were submitted to the 62nd and 64th GEF Council.¹⁸

113. 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, with comparable approaches underway by the GCF in strategic documents for the GCF replenishment. 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. Following the joint consultation in Rwanda reported on in past LTV progress reports, in the reporting period, a second joint programming consultation was held in Uganda. Lessons of this work with the pilot countries of the Taskforce will be shared at COP28.

114. Furthermore, the two institutions commissioned an independent, comparative analysis of policies and processes of the GEF and GCF, focusing on the project cycle and requirements. Findings from this analysis were presented to the 65th GEF Council¹⁹ and are also expected to be presented to the upcoming GCF board. Further conversations will be held between the GEF and GCF Secretariats on how to address these findings, which will be reported on in the next LTV progress report to be presented to the GCF Board and GEF Council by the end of fiscal year 2024. This is expected to generate suggestions for streamlining and potential harmonization to enhance access by countries.

¹⁷ 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

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 ;

GEF, 2023, 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.64/Inf.07.

¹⁹ GEF, 2023, [Relations with Conventions and other International Institutions](#), Council Document GEF.C.65.05.

115. The GEF, the GCF, the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) have also joined forces on outreach efforts with a Climate Funds Pavilion planned at the upcoming COP 28 and several joint events.

UN Forum on Forests

116. 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.

117. GEF Secretariat staff has been actively engaged in the preparation of the 18th UN Forum on Forest (UNFF) and attended this event held on May 8-12, 2023. GEF SEC engagement included notably the following: speaking in a plenary session on the GEF contribution to the UN Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF); and being panellists in two side events on 1) The linkages between the Global Biodiversity Framework and the UNSPF; and 2) A more efficient and impactful Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

118. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in one CPF meeting held May 9, 2023. The main topics discussed were the update of the CPF Workplan 2023 and the preparation of the CPF Workplan 2024 and planning for major events (such as SDG Summit and climate COP) and the CPF retreat.

119. The GEF Secretariat continued to contribute to the preparations for the Midterm Review in 2024 of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). Staff participated in the Expert Group Meeting organized by the UNFF Secretariat on 20-22 June 2023 in Nairobi to discuss the following 2 elements of the IAF review: 1) the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network; and 2) the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF). The objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for experts from Member states of the Forum, regional and subregional partners, CPF member organizations, and major groups to review and discuss the results of the work already made by consultants on these 2 elements.

120. GEF Secretariat staff also attended the CPF retreat organized on June 23, 2023, in Nairobi (back-to-back with the Expert Group Meeting). The objective of the retreat was to discuss and identify ways to implement the outcomes of the CPF assessment (one of the 10 elements of the IAF review) and further strengthen the work of the CPF to support the UNFF process and countries in their implementation of the UNSPF based on the comparative advantages of the 16 CPF member organizations.

121. The GEF Secretariat continued to work with partners to elaborate the CPF Joint Initiative “Strengthening Conservation of Primary Forests through Partnership Enhancement and Coordination of Support”. This project proposal is supported by the GEF and involves IUCN, UNFF Secretariat, FAO and Griffith University and Wildlife Heritage. It aims at supporting the UNFF in elevating the importance of primary forests in global discourse (including in the Rio Conventions), ensuring they are at the forefront of investment decisions and reporting processes. This project is expected to start implementation in the beginning of 2024.

SAMOA Pathway

122. The GEF Secretariat has been following closely the lead up to the *Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4) to be held in May 2024*. Here a new Programme of Action for SIDS will be adopted to guide a new agenda for sustainable development in SIDS. The GEF has participated (virtually) in a number of meetings leading up to SIDS4 including the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Caribbean in August 2023, the Interregional Preparatory Meeting in August-September 2023 and the Preparatory Meetings of the SIDS Global Business Network Forum to be held in March 2024. The GEF continues to be an active member of the Inter Agency Consultative Group (IAGC) on Small Island Developing States, and in this regard had the opportunity to review and provide inputs on the pre-zero draft Outcome Document for SIDS 4.

Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

123. The GEF participated in the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 5), in Bonn, Germany, from September 25-29, 2023. The meeting was preceded by the third resumed session of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process (IP4.3). The ICCM5 agreed on a new Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) which supersedes the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The GEF was invited to consider²⁰ additional support to the new framework during the GEF-9 replenishment. The ICCM 5 also established a new time bound, voluntary fund to support the implementation of the framework. The new fund will absorb the quick start program which was established under SAICM.

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

124. The GEF participated in the INC 2 which was held from May 29 to June 2 2023, in Paris, France.

125. The INC decided to request the Chair to prepare a zero draft of the internationally legally binding instrument for consideration at the third session of the INC.

126. The third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-3) convened on November 11-19, 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya. At this meeting a zero draft of the options discussed at INC-1 and INC-2 was the subject of the negotiations. Discussions on the text was divided among three contact groups. Contact Group 1 reviewed elements of Parts I (objectives) and II (technical elements) of the Zero Draft; Contact Group 2 addressed Parts III (Means of implementation) and IV (modalities) of the Zero Draft; and Contact Group 3 considered the Synthesis Report on elements not discussed at INC-2, taking into account the preparatory meeting, as well as inputs from members for placeholders in the Zero Draft. These placeholders included sections of Part I (preamble, principles, definitions, and

²⁰ The report and resolutions of ICCM 5 are not yet available and will be presented in the next relations with conventions paper.

scope), and Parts V (institutional arrangements) and VI (final provisions). This group also considered the substance and timelines for intersessional work.

127. The GEF delegation participated in contact group 2 where options for a possible financial mechanism was discussed. These various options will be further discussed at the next INC in April 2023 at INC-4. Regardless of the options there was general agreement on the need of finance to enable governments to meet obligations under the future treaty. There was also agreement that the private sector would need to play a prominent role, however developing country member states made the point that private sector resources should not displace donor funding.

128. The GEF personnel also had a number of bilaterals upon request with member States and various institutions to explain about GEF's support to plastics and also to share recent experiences of the provision of financial support, such as the GBFF and BBNJ.

129. The President of the INC will work on the revised text that was developed at INC-3 to produce a revised zero draft for negotiations at INC-4.

130. INC-4 will convene in Ottawa, Canada for a seven-day period within the period from April 21-30, 2024. The Republic of Korea informed delegates that INC-5 could be hosted from November 25 to December 1, 2024 in Busan, Korea.

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

Table 1: Decisions adopted by CBD COP 15, and GEF's Response

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Preambular paragraphs</i> <i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the full application of provisions of Article 21 and access to the financial mechanism for all eligible Parties for the full implementation of the Convention, and <i>welcoming</i> the valuable role of the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim and ongoing basis, <i>Recalling</i> Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, <i>Reaffirming</i> the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8, <i>Reaffirming also</i> decision XI/5, paragraph 7, on the quadrennial arrangement for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, <i>Recalling</i> decision 14/23, paragraph 13, regarding the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, <i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>1. <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>2. <i>Takes note</i> of the importance of realistic assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment; ²¹	
3. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols an explanation of how the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility ²² , through the elements of its programming directions is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework;	Future reports to the COP will explain how GEF-8 Programming Directions have contributed to implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the GBF.
4. <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in their effort to enhance policy coherence as part of biodiversity mainstreaming to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;	Elements of the GEF-8 Programming Directions will support policy coherence, and this will also be reported in future COP reports.
5. <i>Adopts</i> the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;	Noted.
6. <i>Welcomes</i> the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and notes that its associated programming directions and strategy, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;	Noted.
7. <i>Urges</i> relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;	Noted.
8. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in: (a) The fast-tracking of the implementation of the GBF, in particular for the intermediate phase (2023-2024) of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and in the reporting of progress of the mobilization of new and additional resources to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting; and	Support is already being provided to implementation of the GBF and elements of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and this will be reported at the next COP.

²¹ The executive summary is available in CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the full report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/44.

²² Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility refers to replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>(b)The development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions and instruments at national level, and to promote synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, towards the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	
<p>9. <i>Adopts</i> the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II A to the present decision, decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism and <i>also adopts</i> additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II B to the present decision;</p>	Noted.
<p>10. <i>Decides</i> to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030);</p>	Noted.
<p>11. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;</p>	Noted.
<p>12. <i>Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;</p>	Noted.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>13. <i>Adopts</i> the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, as contained in annex IV to the present decision;</p>	<p>Noted. GEF will participate in the assessment as required.</p>
<p>14. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference as contained in annex IV, in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>15. <i>Invites</i> developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>16. <i>Invites</i> the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30 and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>17. <i>Further adopts</i> the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex III to the present decision, and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be prepared three months in advance in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.</p>	<p>Note: GEF will participate in the review of effectiveness as required.</p>
<p>18. <i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to further reform its operations to ensure adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds by establishing easy and effective access modalities, including by scaling fast-track systems, and by facilitating new contributors.</p>	<p>This is consistent with the GEF-8 policy recommendation on streamlining and plans are underway to address this issue. Future reports to the COP will explain how the GEF has reformed and streamlined its operations, both through the GEF TF and the GBF Fund.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBF Fund)</p> <p>19. <i>Recognizes</i> the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance, and to establish a dedicated and accessible GBF Fund in 2023 that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>20. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF Fund”), to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds;</p> <p>21. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environmental Facility to prepare a decision to be considered by the Council on the approval of a GBF Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>22. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements, to allow for this GBF Fund to receive, in addition to ODA, financing from all sources;</p> <p>23. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the GBF Fund;</p> <p>24. <i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;</p> <p><i>Calls for</i> immediate substantive contributions from all sources, in line with target 19.1 of the framework;</p> <p>25. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environmental Facility to engage all Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions in the design and operationalization action of the GBF Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>26. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to report to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties on the</p>	<p>Currently under development, with two decisions on the Trust Fund establishment and its Programming Directions to be discussed at the 64th Council. These decision paragraphs are duly considered and reflected in the two documents.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>progress in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund;</p> <p>27. <i>Decides</i> to assess the progress made in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 9 above, on the modalities and operation of the GBF Fund, at its future meetings;</p> <p>28. <i>Decides</i> to undertake and act upon, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the GBF Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.</p>	
<p>Annex I FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2022-2026) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022-2026, and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the GEF by the Conference of the Parties. It utilizes the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention's Protocols to set priorities for the financial mechanism. In particular, the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provide direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework, bearing in mind that GEF-8 and GEF-9 will together cover the expected eight years to the 2030 deadlines of the targets, while recognizing that the three objectives of the Convention should be considered by the GEF when designing and implementing biodiversity strategy and programming directions.</p> <p>2. In that regard, it is envisaged that following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment under their respective processes, the GEF will include in its report to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how GEF-8, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the</p>	<p>Future reports to the COP will explain how GEF-8 Programming Directions have contributed to implementation of the GBF, including from the GEF Trust Fund and the GBF Fund.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>Convention and its Protocols, and to each goal and target of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework.</p> <p>3. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is an overarching framework of high relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, and seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies, among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mandate of the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p>4. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2022–2026 consists of the following elements to which effective implementation support is to be provided:</p>	
<p>a) The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including its goals and targets which define the outcomes being sought;</p>	<p>GEF-8 Programming Directions is geared towards providing support to the GBF.</p>
<p>b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);</p>	<p>In GEF-8 resources have been set aside to fund the NBSAP revision, which will build upon the GEF-7 Early Action Grants.</p>
<p>c) National biodiversity finance plans;</p>	<p>A global program of support to fund national biodiversity finance plans was approved in December 2022 Council and all remaining eligible countries will be added to this program in the first quarter of 2023.</p>
<p>d) The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;</p>	<p>The GEF biodiversity focal area strategy, in combination with the 11 integrated programs, provides a comprehensive level of support to the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>e) The implementation support mechanisms adopted under the Convention associated with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to: mobilizing sufficient resources from all sources towards implementing the framework and achieving its goals and targets; mainstreaming; capacity building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The resource mobilization strategy, including the establishment of a global biodiversity framework fund to be established by the GEF; (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development beyond 2020; (iii) The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity; (iv) The updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, and; (v) The gender plan of action for the post-2020 period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Biodiversity finance plans are being funded, GBFF is under development b. All GEF investments provide significant support to capacity building (CB) and contribute to the long-term CB framework c. Mainstreaming of biodiversity remains a significant priority within the biodiversity focal area strategy and 10 of the 11 IPs will make significant contributions to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, very often through mainstreaming actions d. the Sustainable Cities IP will contribute to the plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity e. GEF projects are all required to address gender in their design as part of the GEF safeguards policy and therefore the entire GEF portfolio is contributing to the Gender Plan of Action.
<p>f) The mechanisms for planning, reporting, monitoring, assessment and review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>As part of the biodiversity focal area strategy, resources have been set aside outside of the STAR to support NBSAP revision and national reporting for the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol</p>
<p>g) The enabling conditions outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework required for its implementation;</p>	<p>The section on enabling conditions required for implementation was shortened considerably in the final document. The focus was on “support mechanisms and strategies under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols” and “provision of adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources from all sources on a needs basis.” It further requires cooperation and collaboration in building the necessary “capacity and transfer of technologies to allow Parties, especially developing country Parties, to fully implement the framework.” Most of our strategies are supportive of these</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	elements and we will report on this in the GEF COP report.
h) The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030) and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030);	Objective Two of the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy supports capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol
i) The guidance to the Global Environment Facility on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, contained in appendix I;	Objective Two of the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy supports capacity building and priorities for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
<p><i>Additional strategic considerations</i></p> <p>5. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should support the rapid and effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by contributing to resource mobilization from all sources, including through increased GEF funding, which is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible and through allocations dedicated to the biodiversity focal area and co-benefits for biodiversity across other focal areas and global programmes, including integrated programmes, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement of resources.</p>	Resource mobilization will be facilitated through GEF support to the development of national biodiversity finance plans, through the GBFF, and through co-financing leveraged through the 11 IPs and the relevant focal area supported projects and programs. In addition, GEF's blended finance program is designed specifically to attract PS investment and has reached very high co-financing ratios historically with high participation of the private sector.
6. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize the contribution of multi-country, regional, transboundary and global projects, to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including to the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and multi-country, regional, transboundary and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.	Regional, transboundary, and global projects are eligible for support in GEF-8 to help implement the GBF.
7. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	GEF-8 biodiversity and programming directions responded to GEF-eligible guidance suggested through the CBD COP to GEF from the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements. The biodiversity related conventions also provided feedback and comments on the programming directions and BD FA

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	strategy as it was being developed during the GEF-8 replenishment process.
8. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	GEF-8 supported biodiversity-relevant projects and programs must demonstrate how they are supporting country NBSAP priorities.
9. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that projects to be funded by the GEF during its 8th replenishment in recipient Parties are to be developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis, addressing the priority needs of recipient countries.	The development of the GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions was a fully participatory and inclusive process.
10. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote agreed global environmental benefits and development pathways that benefit biodiversity and are also, carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including through coherence and synergies among the GEF integrated programmes and focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change (both mitigation and adaptation), and chemicals and waste, and within the context of country driven programmes and priorities.	GEF-8 programming directions, including the 11 IPs, the BD FA strategy, and other relevant strategies have emphasized synergies across all focal areas and in particular biodiversity benefits with an estimated 60% of total GEF resources advancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. This will be tracked during GEF-8 and duly reported in GEF reports to COPs in the future.
11. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote and implement, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach, and/or nature-based solutions as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.	The ecosystem approach is central to the biodiversity focal area strategy and Nature-based solutions are identified as priority areas of support in numerous integrated programs of the GEF-8 programming directions including Blue and Green Islands, Ecosystem Restoration, Healthy Oceans, Net Zero Nature Based Accelerator, Wildlife Conservation for Development, as well as the biodiversity and international waters focal area strategies.
12. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with those of the other conventions served by GEF, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, recognizing the important contributions that these instruments can make to the objectives of the	GEF-8 biodiversity and programming directions responded to GEF-eligible guidance suggested through the CBD COP to GEF from the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements. The biodiversity related conventions also provided feedback and comments on the programming directions and BD FA strategy as it was being developed during

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and vice versa.	the GEF-8 replenishment process. The integrated nature of GEF programing in the biodiversity strategy in GEF-8 will also provide co-benefits to other conventions served by GEF.
13. During the GEF-8 period, GEF should further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the contributions of the other biodiversity-related conventions within their activities and report on funding contributing to their implementation.	GEF is proactively working with the MDBs that are GEF agencies to secure their engagement in GEF-8 programming that is consistent with their respective comparative advantage. Each MDB has already made their own commitments to integrate the objectives of the CBD into their own programming, thus, they are best placed to report on their efforts. See https://ukcop26.org/mdb-joint-statement/
14. The GEF-8 outcome and impact indicators and associated monitoring processes should be effectively used to assess the contribution of the GEF-8 to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the Protocols of the Convention, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant GEF activities.	The GEF report to the COP will map GEF investments, along with the GEF core indicators, to the targets of the GBF.
15. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to significantly improve the access to funding for all recipient countries.	The GEF will continue to explore possibilities for improving access to finance through project cycle reforms. Future reports to the COP will explain how the GEF has reformed and streamlined its operations, both through the GEF TF and the GBF Fund.
16. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to improve the access to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities.	GEF-8 biodiversity focal area strategy includes additional funding of \$25 million for the Inclusive Conservation Initiative which provides access to GEF funds for IPLCs. (\$25 million was also allocated to this initiative in GEF-7)
17. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote engagement with recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans.	A global program of support to fund national biodiversity finance plans was approved in December 2022 Council and all remaining eligible countries will be added to this program in the first quarter of 2023.
18. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, programming directions and policy recommendations should reinforce	Stakeholder engagement is required of all GEF projects, and a stakeholder participation plan is a requirement for all

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>the GEF's efforts to mobilize and engage with different stakeholders including the private sector.</p>	<p>CEO endorsements. In GEF-8, each of the 11 Integrated Programs its own set of private sector objectives, identifying the major platforms for engagement, key entry points, and expected modalities of engagement that can optimize the contributions of the private sector.</p>
<p>19. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during the GEF 8 replenishment period, the GEF should continue to improve its policies regarding governance and the standards its implementing partners are held to.</p>	<p>An analysis on the strength of the GEF Partnership along several dimensions including efficiency and effectiveness will be conducted for presentation at the 64th Council meeting. As discussed during the GEF-8 replenishment, a gap analysis of relevant GEF Policies and Guidelines will be undertaken for the 64th Council meeting to identify areas that GEF may need to strengthen its approach and guidance, and sustainability of results will be further strengthened through project design and implementation through a number of initiatives including the GEF-8 Country Engagement Strategy.</p>

Table 2: Decisions adopted by UNFCCC COP 27 and CMA 4, Conclusion of SBI 57 and SBSTA 57, and GEF’s Response

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF’s Response
<p>COP 27 Decisions (2022)</p> <p>Decision 1/CP27: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan</p>	
<p>Paragraph 23: <i>Highlights</i> the role of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in supporting actions by developing countries to address climate change, and <i>welcomed</i> the pledges made to the two Funds and <i>invited</i> developed countries to further contribute to the two Funds;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges of \$105.6 million in total to the LDCF and SCCF²³ made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.</p> <p>Further, the GEF appreciates the new pledge of \$35 million towards SCCF’s dedicated focus on Small Island Developing States as a key avenue of climate finance that is otherwise lacking.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 30: <i>Welcomes</i> and reiterates the United Nations Secretary-General’s call made on World Meteorological Day on March 23, 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change within the next five years and <i>invites</i> development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>The GEF has been supporting activities that help countries to set up and operationalize early warning systems.</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>Paragraph 42: <i>Emphasizes</i> the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and encourages further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance;</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, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 replenishment resolution includes commitments to propose concrete actions for consideration by the GEF</p>

²³ The GEF Secretariat organized the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF on the margins of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh on November 15, 2022, and generated a pledge of \$70.6 million for the LDCF and \$35 million SCCF from eight donors (Belgian region of Wallonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	<p>Council by December 2023 and work is in progress on this.²⁴</p> <p>Furthermore, GEF-8 replenishment negotiations have simplified access to finance under STAR by allowing for full flexibility across focal areas in the use of resources allocated to countries under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).</p> <p>In addition, the GEF revised and streamlined its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of Project Information Form (PIF) for mid- and full-size projects, the Program Framework Document (PFD) for multi country programs, and the template to request Enabling Activity funding for reporting obligations from the GEF Climate Change Set Aside.</p> <p>Additional efforts are ongoing within the GEF Partnership to identify additional adjustments that could further contribute to streamline and simplify the processes for countries, Council and agencies in designing, approving and executing GEF projects, ultimately reducing the overall timeline and effort required for countries to access GEF resources.</p> <p>Additional options are being considered in the context of the design of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the GEF family of funds. A process of active consultation with GEF Agencies is underway on these issues.</p>
Decision 2/CP.27: Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage;	
<p>Paragraph 7: (d) <i>Invited</i> United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and bilateral, multilateral and international financial institutions to submit inputs on how they might enhance access to and/or the speed, scope and scale of availability of finance for activities relevant to addressing loss and damage, including</p>	<p>The GEF is actively following ongoing discussion in relation to this Decision 2/CP.27 and providing necessary inputs. At the first Transitional Committee meeting, GEF presented ongoing support that help countries to address loss and damage within the scope of CCA.</p> <p>In addition, as requested by the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF has seconded two members of the GEF Secretariate as member of technical support unit that supports the work of the Transitional Committee on the</p>

²⁴ The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/C.62/03).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
potential limitations and barriers and options for addressing them;	operationalization of the new funding arrangements and fund for loss and damage.
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invite</i> the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the principals of international financial institutions and other relevant entities with a view to identifying the most effective ways to provide funding to respond to needs related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	Noted
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Also invite</i> international financial institutions to consider, at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the potential for such institutions to contribute to funding arrangements, including new and innovative approaches, responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	Noted
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Reiterate</i> decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, in which 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, are urged 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 its LDCF/SCCF support. A recent initiative with V20 is a good example.</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>
Decision 3/CP.27: Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the participation of representatives of constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least</p>	Noted.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
Developed Countries Fund and observer organizations in workshops under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture	
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Underscores</i> the importance of constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism taking into account the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies in implementing their actions and workplans, according to their mandates;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the following objectives: (b) Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security; (d) Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with</p>	Noted. The GEF stands ready to engage with SBSTA, Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams in the context of the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
their respective procedures and mandates;	
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Also requests</i> the secretariat to support the joint work by holding in-session workshops in hybrid format, facilitating both virtual and in-person participation, on agreed topics related to agriculture and food security at the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies each year and inviting representatives of the constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and observers to them.</p>	Noted.
Decision 10/CP.27: Matters relating to the least developed countries	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Underscore</i> the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions associated with the priorities in the national adaptation plans of the least developed countries and encourage relevant organizations, as well as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to enhance support to the least developed countries in this regard;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 CCA strategy recognizes the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions. Therefore, the strategy introduced three dedicated programs that contribute to project pipelines and proposal. The dedicated program on “<i>Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming</i>” directly responds to the countries need to strengthen the design of LDCF project concepts for greater adaptation impact, and to enhance access to adaptation finance and enable coordinated programming across various funding sources.</p> <p>Further, the GEF Secretariat is collaborating with other operating entities and UNFCCC to support activities to formulate technical guidelines for the implementation of national adaptation plans.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Note with appreciation</i> the financial pledges, totalling USD 70.6 million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urge additional contributions to the Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the pledges to the LDCF made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Annex Paragraph XIII – 57: <i>Decides</i> that the least developed countries expert group shall invite the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund to its meetings to discuss collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Decision 13/CP.27: Long-term climate finance</p>	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the recent pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totalling USD 211.6 million), the Least Developed Countries Fund (totalling USD 70.6 million), the Special Climate Change Fund (totalling USD 35.0 million) and the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (totalling USD 5.3 billion and with a climate-related finance target of no less than 80 per cent of all funding commitments in the eighth replenishment period) and urges developed country Parties to fulfil their pledges on time;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the pledges made to the GEFTF, the LDCF and the SCCF, and looks forward to additional contributions in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Also reiterates</i> that a significant amount of adaptation finance should flow through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Emphasizes</i> the need for further efforts to enhance access to climate finance, including through harmonized, simplified and direct access procedures;</p>	<p>During the reporting period the GEF has continued to undertake efforts to enhance access to climate finance for Parties, including through the streamlining of its funding request templates for projects, programs and enabling activities.</p> <p>The GEF has also continued its engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the context of their Long-Term Vision (LTV) and with the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, as encouraged by Decision 12/CMA.3, to support an initial group of five pilot countries in carrying out coordinated and joint programming between the GEF and the GCF, and to further coordinate and improve on the on-the-ground delivery of climate finance.</p>

<p>UNFCCC COP 27 Decision^[1] / CMA 4 Decision^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion^[4]</p>	<p>GEF's Response</p>
<p>Paragraph 11 <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 their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action</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 transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for TNAs, and for other initiatives such as ECWs, in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.</p>
<p>Decision 17/CP.27: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility</p>	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session and its addendum, including the response of the Global Environment Facility to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Also welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during the reporting period July 1, 2021 to 30 June 2022, including: (a) The approval of 86 climate change projects and programmes under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund; (b) The continued integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and integrated programmes and the expected avoidance or sequestration of 76.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent achieved through such integration; (c) The continued implementation of the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;</p> <p>(d) The creation of a competitive window in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources amounting to 8 per cent of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources allocation for the five top recipient countries under this system;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Further welcomes</i> the conclusion of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility amounting to USD 5.3 billion, while noting that overall resources available for programming for the climate change focal area in the eighth replenishment increased by 6 per cent compared with the resources available in the seventh replenishment;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Welcomes</i> the integrated programming approach of the Global Environment Facility across all five of its focal areas, which should help it to maximize the global environmental benefits of its support;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Notes</i> the adoption of the private sector engagement strategy by the Global Environment Facility Council at its 59th meeting and the renewed non-grant instrument under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and encourages the Global Environment Facility to enhance its efforts to mobilize and engage with the private sector during the eighth replenishment period;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Welcomes</i> the increased allocation of resources to small island developing States and the least developed countries in the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources,</p>	Noted.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
including through harmonizing the small island developing State floors with the least developed country floors and raising these floors to USD 8 million;	
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Appreciates</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility secretariat to scale up adaptation finance for small island developing States through the designation of a dedicated window under the Special Climate Change Fund for supporting the adaptation needs of small island developing States and encourages continued and increased voluntary contributions of financial resources to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in line with the Global Environment Facility's 2022–2026 programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF takes notes of the appreciation and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to support developing country Parties in implementing national adaptation plans and other national adaptation planning processes and urges developed country Parties to increase their voluntary contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to work towards implementing its programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund during the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment</p>	<p>The GEF will make concerted efforts to effectively implement programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund. The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
Facility so as to effectively assist developing countries;	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to foster greater diversity of its implementing agencies, building on the comparative advantages of the various agencies and taking into account recipient country priorities;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Replenishment resolution²⁵ included a request for the Secretariat to monitor and report on the achievement of diversification efforts – particularly an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10 percent of the approved amounts during GEF-8, and a notional limit of 30 percent on programming by any one GEF Agency.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Calls</i> on the Global Environment Facility to enhance its support, within its mandate, for implementing the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat implements the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender actions plan with guidance from its Gender Policy and Gender Equality Implementation Strategy. In 2022, 100 percent of projects at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage had detailed gender analysis and all planned to include gender-responsive results framework. These include projects that support the gender-responsive implementation of the UNFCCC, including its gender action plan. The GEF Gender Partnership, convened by the GEF Secretariat, is working with the UNFCCC Secretariat to support the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan. Planned activities under the GEF Gender Partnership with the participation of the UNFCCC Secretariat include, among others: updating the e-course on gender and the environment (climate change module), holding a webinar and/or joint capacity-building and awareness-raising session for the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points of the UNFCCC, and co-organizing gender-specific sessions on the sidelines of the UNFCCC SB and COP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: Encourages the Global Environment Facility secretariat to recommend further streamlining measures aimed at reducing transaction costs for all implementing agencies, reducing administrative costs and facilitating increased access by multilateral development banks;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat 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, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 replenishment resolution includes commitments to propose concrete actions for</p>

²⁵ The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/C.62/03).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	<p>consideration by the GEF Council by December 2023 and work is in progress on this.²⁶</p> <p>During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has revised and streamlined its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of Project Information Form (PIF) for mid- and full-size projects, the Program Framework Document (PFD) for multi country programs, and the template to request Enabling Activity funding for reporting obligations from the GEF Climate Change Set Aside. From the preliminary observations over the first year of GEF8, the use of the new templates has resulted in substantially shorter project submission documents. In addition, efforts are ongoing within the GEF Partnership to identify adjustments that could further contribute to streamline and simplify the process for countries, Council and agencies in designing, approving and executing GEF projects, ultimately reducing the overall timeline and effort required for countries to access GEF resources. Additional options are being considered in the context of the design of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the GEF family of funds. A process of active consultation with GEF Agencies is underway on these issues.</p> <p>In relation to multilateral development banks, the GEF is working toward addressing the following GEF-8 policy commitment: "Participants request the Secretariat to 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% of the approved amounts during GEF-8."</p> <p>To this end, the GEF has also initiated efforts to further communicate to countries about the importance of considering working with Agencies across the GEF Partnership, including by considering MDBs as an Implementing Agency. This effort is further supported by making available to countries Agency Factsheets, prepared the GEF Secretariat, that presents the experience of an Agency, including the World Bank and Regional Development Banks, within the GEF Partnership</p>

²⁶ The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/C.62/03).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	in terms of commitments, focal areas focus and regional distribution, among other elements. This tool was piloted in March 2023 at the Country Support Program's Expanded Constituency Workshop held in Maputo, Mozambique, with the participation of countries from Southern Africa.
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on its efforts to deliver the increased per-project funding ceiling under its Small Grants Programme agreed on during the eighth replenishment process;</p>	<p>The Small Grant Program funding has increased from \$128 million in GEF-7 to \$155 million in GEF-8. The Small Grant Program Core Funding will be equally distributed to all 144 GEF recipient countries, meaning each country will receive \$937,500 (including fees and non-grant activities). Countries can add additional funding up to 10% of their GEF-8 STAR allocation, to a maximum of \$ 5 million (however it is not a requirement to use STAR resources to access the Small Grant Program core resources). The first tranche of the Small Grant Program is expected to be approved by the GEF Council in June 2023.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility's commitment to maintain an ambitious level of direct and indirect climate co-benefits in its eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support to developing country Parties for assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;</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 the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into activities.</p>
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Urges</i> the further enhancement of the support provided by the Global Environment Facility for activities related to technology training, funding for technology development and transfer and capacity-building;</p>	<p>Refer to response under Paragraph 15 above.</p>
<p>Paragraph 17: <i>Encourages</i> the continuing engagement of the Global Environment Facility with the</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF and the GCF have continued their engagement in the reporting period and a Progress Report summarizing the specific activities and</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
Green Climate Fund, including in implementing the Long-term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;	achievements from such engagement have been submitted as information document to the GEF Council in June 2023.
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner;</p>	Noted. The GEF duly follows its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.
<p>Paragraph 21: <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>	Noted.
<p>Decision 18/CP.27: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Welcomes</i> the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and strongly encourages the two bodies to continue such collaboration with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer;</p>	The GEF continues to collaborate with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to access available funding for technology development and transfer. Among others, the National Designated Entities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network have been invited to GEF's National Dialogues. National Dialogues, organized at the request of the GEF's Operational Focal Point, are a strategic tool for convening all relevant national stakeholders in a country to discuss and agree on the prioritization and programming of GEF resources, including on technology development and transfer.
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Acknowledges</i> the work on incubators and accelerators planned by the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network under the joint work programme and invites the two bodies to continue to work with developing country Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and small island developing States, to promote the use of incubators and accelerators and</p>	Noted.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
to support the development of funding proposals that incorporate their use for submission to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;	
Decision 19/CP.27: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> 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 1 above²⁷ and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	<p>Noted. The recommendations included in the annual technical progress report of the PCCB referenced in this paragraph are directed to Parties.</p>
Decision 20/CP.27: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures	
<p>Paragraph 25: <i>Encourage</i> relevant agencies, financial institutions and UNFCCC constituted bodies to enhance support for addressing issues related to the assessment and analysis of the impacts of the implementation of mitigation actions, policies and programmes, including nationally determined contributions and long-term low-emission development strategies, with a view to addressing the adverse impacts and maximizing opportunities;</p>	<p>Noted. This decision is for those mentioned in this paragraph, which does not include the GEF.</p>
Decision 23/CP.27: Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment	
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Recall</i> that, under the Glasgow work programme: (b) multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, were invited to provide</p>	<p>The GEF provides support through responding to applications from one of the GEF Implementing Agencies. The GEF Secretariat has not received funding requests related to the ACE activities.</p>

²⁷ Paragraph 1 of Decision 19/CO.27 “Welcomes the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 and takes note of the recommendations therein.”

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
financial support for Action for Climate Empowerment activities.	
Decision 24/CP.27: Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan	
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Also encourages</i> Parties and relevant public and private entities to strengthen the gender responsiveness of climate finance with a view to further building the capacity of women and for implementation work under the gender action plan, and in order to facilitate simplified access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations as well as for indigenous peoples, especially women, and local communities;</p>	<p>The GEF is committed to successfully implementing its gender action plan. In 2022, 100 percent of GEF projects at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage had very detailed gender analysis and all planned to include gender-responsive results framework. The GEF will continue implementing its gender action plan, guided by the lessons learned and best practices from GEF-7, and the GEF-8 Policy Direction.</p>
CMA 4 decisions (2022)	
Decision 1/CMA.4: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan	
<p>Paragraph 49: <i>Welcomes</i> and reiterates the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on March 23, 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change within the next five years and <i>invites</i> development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 30, Decision 1/CP.27</p>
<p>Paragraph 66: <i>Emphasizes</i> the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and <i>encourages</i> further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 42, Decision 2/CP.27</p>
Decision 2/CMA.4: Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage	
<p>Paragraph 7:</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 7, Decision 2/CP.27</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
(d) <i>Invite</i> United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and bilateral, multilateral and international financial institutions to submit inputs on how they might enhance access to and/or the speed, scope and scale of availability of finance for activities relevant to addressing loss and damage, including potential limitations and barriers and options for addressing them;	
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invite</i> the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the principals of international financial institutions and other relevant entities with a view to identifying the most effective ways to provide funding to respond to needs related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	Refer to the response under paragraph 11, Decision 2/CP.27
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Also invite</i> international financial institutions to consider, at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the potential for such institutions to contribute to funding arrangements, including new and innovative approaches, responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	Refer to the response under paragraph 12, Decision 2/CP.27
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Reiterate</i> decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, in which 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, are urged 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>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
Decision 5/CMA.4: New collective quantified goal on climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Requests</i> the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, with a view to significantly advancing substantive progress in 2023, to, inter alia, invite 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 inputs via the submission portal on each technical expert dialogue to be held, on the basis of guiding questions well in advance of each technical expert dialogue to allow for those inputs to be reflected in the organization of the dialogues.</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to respond to an invite from the co-Chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the collective quantified goal on climate finance to engage more actively on this agenda item, including via submission of inputs on the expert dialogue process,</p>
Decision 8/CMA.4: Matters relating to the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement	
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Requests</i> the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to invite representatives of relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, which may include the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Technology Executive Committee, to a meeting held in conjunction with the fifty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (June 2023) and organized with the assistance of the secretariat, with the aim of enhancing</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to respond to an invite of the Chair of the SBSTA, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to a meeting convened on the topic of non-market approaches referred to in Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
collaboration between the Glasgow Committee and relevant constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, as necessary, taking into account their respective mandates;	
Decision 11/CMA.4: Matters relating to the least developed countries	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Underscore</i> the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions associated with the priorities in the national adaptation plans of the least developed countries and <i>encourage</i> relevant organizations, as well as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to enhance support to the least developed countries in this regard;</p>	Refer to the response under paragraph 10, Decision 10/CP.27
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Note with appreciation</i> the financial pledges, totalling USD 70.6 million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund and <i>urge</i> additional contributions to the Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges of \$ 70.6 million in total to the LDCF²⁸ made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Annex – Paragraph XI.53: <i>Decided that</i> the least developed countries expert group shall invite the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund to its meetings to discuss collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat was invited to attend NAP Expo 2023, held from March 27-30, 2023, in Santiago, Chile. Collaboration in supporting the least developed countries with GCF and AF is being discussed at various forums and engagements, such as NAP writing workshop</p>
Decision 17/CMA.4: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	

28 The GEF Secretariat organized the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF on the margins of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, on November 15, 2022, and generated a pledge of \$70.6 million for the LDCF. Eight donors (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium) made these pledges to the LDCF on that occasion.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomes</i> the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to incorporate innovation and technology development and transfer into the programming directions under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, noting the goals of the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Appreciates</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility in developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports and in combining the multiple processes for applying for support for preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further enhance its reporting on whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation for developing and revising technology needs assessments and action plans and implementing them;</p>	<p>Phase V of the Global Technology Needs Assessment is being prepared and expected to be submitted in GEF-8. Under Phase V the GEF expects some of the participating countries to use their STAR resources. Information on countries using their STAR resources for the development of their TNAs will be reported when available, including in the GEF report to COP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to improve working with its implementing agencies in order to expedite the project preparation and submission processes for biennial transparency reports to increase the efficiency of the project cycle;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to work very closely with the GEF Agencies involved with the provision of support to countries for the preparation of biennial transparency reports (BTR). In an effort to further streamline access, several measures have been taken during the reporting period and from the beginning of the GEF-8 programming cycle, which are contributing to make significant progress towards the goals auspicated by the CMA guidance included in this paragraph. In particular, the GEF has (i) worked to streamline and simplify significantly its templates for enabling activities, resulting in forms that are quicker to prepare and to review, with benefits in terms of timeline of preparation and approval; (ii) the GEF has tested bundling of several BTRs in the same project through the umbrella modality, which allow for faster approval of financing compared to individual applications, and is working with Agencies to continue to use this modality in the near future; (iii) the GEF has clarified the possibility to bundle together in the</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	<p>same one-step mid-size project application several reports, including up to two BTRs and one national communication, resulting also in this case in more expedited approval cycle; the GEF also continues to work with its Agencies to ensure that all Parties that have not yet submitted a request for funding for their first BTR do so at the earliest possible convenience, noting that funds are available and that both Agencies and GEF stands ready to provide any clarification or answer any preliminary question on the process to access the funds.</p> <p>The BTR support modalities were informed by two informal consultations organized by the GEF Secretariat in June 2020²⁹ and November 2020³⁰, and made available as of February 2021, and communicated to all countries in February 2021 from the GEF CEO. The Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement was submitted as an information document to the 59th GEF Council, which met in December 2020³¹. The early support provision has been made in order to provide sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. This timeline does not apply to Least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which can submit BTRs at their direction.</p> <p>In February 2022, the GEF organized the third BTR informal consultation in response to the CMA 3 guidance to estimate the cost to developing countries of implementing the ETF³². The GEF prepared an Information Note on the Update to the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement, for the 62nd GEF Council meeting, which was held in June 2022³³. The indicative costing for the three modalities for supporting the preparation of BTRs was updated based on the</p>

²⁹ <https://www.thegef.org/events/informal-consultation-meeting-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports-under-paris>

³⁰ <https://www.thegef.org/events/second-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³¹ <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-59-inf-19>

³² <https://www.thegef.org/events/third-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³³ <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	feedback received during the third BTR informal consultation and upon further analysis by the GEF Secretariat.
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Welcomes</i> the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to ensure that support will continue to be available for the preparation of biennial transparency reports and <i>underlines</i> the importance of providing support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports, including for establishing and enhancing national reporting systems in order to implement the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Notes</i> the increased support provided by the Global Environment Facility for developing countries to prepare biennial transparency reports and for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, in particular in the context of implementation of the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, to continue providing capacity-building support to developing country Parties for enhancing and sustaining adaptation monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning systems, as well as for establishing and enhancing these systems at all levels, with a view to facilitating: (a) The monitoring and reporting of the progress, effectiveness and adequacy of adaptation action and support over time; (b) The sharing of experience globally to contribute to enhancing action, support and international cooperation;</p>	The GEF continues to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (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 March 31, 2023, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 88 projects covering 87 countries, 82 national projects, one regional project (covering five countries) and five global projects, totalling \$144.6 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs.
<p>Paragraph 9 <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to provide</p>	The GEF continues to improve its efforts to help countries access BTR financing. The GEF already provides an expedited approval process for enabling activities up

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
adequate, predictable and timely financing for biennial transparency reports, including efforts relating to the increased support for biennial transparency reports and national inventory reports of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, the combined application process for multiple biennial transparency reports, and the expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports;	to \$2 million. In addition, in GEF-8 the GEF has released a new streamlined template for enabling activities and is encouraging countries to submit requests to support two subsequent BTRs and a combined BTR and National Communication.
<p>Paragraph 10 <i>Acknowledges</i> the challenges developing country Parties face in implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement in a sustainable manner, including in establishing and enhancing reporting systems within their respective national governments, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consult with developing country Parties on how the support provided to them by the Facility for preparing their biennial transparency reports could best achieve this, in addition to the support provided for capacity-building provided through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to actively support developing countries in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. As of March 2023, the GEF has approved BTR support to 65 countries for 79 BTRs, and nine additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation. The GEF is organizing a workshop at the Subsidiary Body Meeting 58 in June 2023 intended to respond to this CMA guidance and to provide an update on the status of the GEF support to Parties for the implementation of the ETF. The workshop is also designed to enable sharing of information and early lessons between Parties regarding the initial experiences with BTR support and preparation. In addition, jointly with the UNFCCC and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Global Support Program (CBIT-GSP), the GEF is organizing a webinar series to inform developing countries on the GEF's access modalities and procedures to apply for BTR funding. The first webinar in the series took place on May 2-4, 2023.</p>
Decision 18/CMA.4: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Notes</i> the actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board as presented in its report to Parties, including: (x) The promotion of linkages of the Adaptation Fund with other UNFCCC bodies, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Paris Committee on Capacity-</p>	<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. The GEF and Adaptation Fund have also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
building and the Standing Committee on Finance, with the Adaptation Fund Board having progressed in establishing linkages between the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, including through a framework for promoting the scale-up of funded projects and the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities;	
Decision 19/CMA.4: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement	
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Welcomes</i> the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and <i>strongly encourages</i> the two bodies to continue such collaboration with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer;</p>	Refer to response under paragraph 19 of decision 18/CP.27 above.
Decision 21/CMA.4: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> 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 recommendations referred to in the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	Noted. The GEF will continue to engage with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building through its periodic meetings, including at COP.
Decision 22/CMA.4: Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment	
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Recall</i> that, under the Glasgow work programme: (b) multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating</p>	The GEF provides support through responding to applications from one of the GEF Implementing Agencies. The GEF Secretariat has not received funding requests related to the ACE activities.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, were invited to provide financial support for Action for Climate Empowerment activities.	
Decision 23/CMA.4: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures	
<p>Paragraph 26: <i>Encourages</i> relevant agencies, financial institutions and UNFCCC constituted bodies to enhance support for addressing issues related to the assessment and analysis of the impacts of the implementation of mitigation actions, policies and programmes, including nationally determined contributions and long-term low-emission development strategies, with a view to addressing the adverse impacts and maximizing opportunities;</p>	<p>This decision is for those mentioned in this paragraph, which does not include the GEF.</p>

^[1] COP 26 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-27>

^[2] CMA 3 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-4>

^[3] SBI 57 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-57>

^[4] SBSTA 57 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-57>

Table 3: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 15 and GEF's Response

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
<p><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;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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.</p>

³⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/cop23add1-advance.pdf>

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner;</p>	<p>The GEF has supported 122 parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner through its Enabling Activity funding in GEF-7. In total 126 parties reported by the deadline of February 28, 2023 on UNCCD's 5 Strategic Objectives through the PRAIS portal. Further, GEF is working with its agencies as well as the UNCCD and Global Mechanism to increase effectiveness of GEF-8 Enabling Activities to support the 2026 UNCCD reporting cycle. Funding for eligible countries will be made available as early as 2 years in advance.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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. Both GEF and GCF play a supportive role in advancing the initiative. The joint support of GGW is part of the GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision (LTV) on complementarity.</p>
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative;</p>	<p>GEF Secretariat is cooperating with the Global Mechanism and other key partners on upstream</p>

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
	<p>engagement with the Southern Africa Development commission (SADC), and in cooperation with the GCF. GEF Secretariat is advocating enhanced political commitment, and alignment of the initiative with the goals of objectives of other relevant conventions, in particular the UNFCCC. At a side event at the margins of the GEF Assembly, the GEF Secretariat announced its readiness to help advance the Southern Great Wall Initiative through a \$2 million medium-sized project, which is currently under development.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><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, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building;</p>	<p>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 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</p>

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
	the LDCF to address especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building.
<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;	The GEF continues to 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.
<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;	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.
<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.	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.

Table 4: 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> <p>Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025;</p> <p>Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls³⁵ as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p> <p>Environmentally sound management and disposal of newly listed persistent organic pollutants,³⁶ with a focus on brominated flame retardants, fluorinated persistent organic pollutants and chlorinated paraffins;</p> <p>Environmentally sound management and disposal of pesticides containing or consisting of persistent organic pollutants, including obsolete stockpiles;</p> <p>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>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 Directions³⁷.</p>

³⁵ 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.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ GEF, 2022, [Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council document [GEF/C.62/03](#)

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;	
2	<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>The review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development;</p> <p>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>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>	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 Directions ³⁷³⁷ .
3	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.
4	<p><i>Also requests</i> the Secretariat to transmit to the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility:</p> <p>a) The complete set of guidance to be developed by the Secretariat</p>	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	<p>pursuant to paragraph 10 (c) of decision SC-8/16;</p> <p>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;³⁸</p> <p>c) Any new information, as appropriate, compiled by the Secretariat on matters related to the financial mechanism pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision SC-10/3;</p>	
5	<p><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>	<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	<p><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>	<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>Noted</p>

³⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/63.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	<i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its tenth meeting; ³⁹	
8	Monitoring and evaluation <i>Welcomes</i> the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism ⁴⁰ and notes that the report has been forwarded to the Global Environment Facility pursuant to paragraph 1 of decision SC-10/3;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
9	<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;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
10	<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;	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 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

³⁹ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex I; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36/Add.1.

⁴⁰ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex II; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/32.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
		<p>of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area in paragraphs 627-633 of the GEF 8 programming directions³⁷.</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 <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 the period 2022-2026⁴¹ 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;⁴²</p>	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
12	<i>Invites</i> developed-country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

⁴¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33.

⁴² See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex III; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/56; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/63.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by August 31, 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;	
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 August 31, 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 the Secretariat, by August 31, 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide contributions to the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such contributions;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
15	<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;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
16	Assessment of funding needs with regard to polychlorinated biphenyls <i>Recognizes</i> that significant financial resources are required to assist recipient country	Noted

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	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;	
17	<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;	Noted
18	<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;	Regarding PCB, the GEF Secretariat and the BRS Secretariat have begun bilateral discussions on how to accelerate action where needed in GEF 8.
19	<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	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	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;	
20	<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;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
21	<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;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
22	<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 related to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required
23	Cooperation between secretariats and reciprocal representation <i>Takes note</i> of the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm	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

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	Convention ⁴³ 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;	regional project meetings in the Caribbean in October 2022. It is anticipated these invitations will continue in the future.
24	<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.	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.

⁴³ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/64.