



GEF/LDCF.SCCF.37/04
November 18, 2024

37th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 19, 2024
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 05

**PLANNING NOTE
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE GEF PROGRAMMING STRATEGY ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR
THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND
AND SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND
AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS:
JULY 2026 TO JUNE 2030**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.37/05, *Planning Note for the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements: July 2026 to June 2030*, requests the Secretariat to initiate the development process of the Programming Strategy.

INITIATION OF THE PROGRAMMING STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

1. The GEF Secretariat will initiate discussions to develop the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and Operational Improvement: July 2026 to June 2030.
2. This document presents the proposed schedule of the Programming Strategy discussion, as well as participation in the Programming Strategy development process. The process will be coordinated by the GEF Secretariat.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMMING STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

3. The development process for the Programming Strategy is open to donors of the LDCF and/or SCCF. Those interested in participating are requested to submit their intent to participate in writing by January 31, 2025, to the GEF CEO and Chairperson.
4. The development process will be carried out in such a manner as to ensure complementarity and coherence across the family of GEF trust funds, including with a view to facilitate multi-trust fund programming and efficient engagement of actors that are relevant across the family of funds. This may include holding consultations aligned with the GEF replenishment process for the GEF Trust Fund and its Programming Directions, to help inform the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy development and vice versa.
5. Non-donor recipient country representatives are invited to participate in the development process as observers. Five representatives from non-donor recipient countries representing Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Latin America, and the small island developing States (SIDS) will be invited. Furthermore, recognizing the aim of the LDCF to support urgent and immediate climate change adaptation priorities in least developed countries (LDCs), a representative from the LDC Group will be invited.
6. Designated representatives of GEF Agencies and the UNFCCC Secretariat will be invited to attend the meetings as observers. Additional observers, if any, for the GEF-9 replenishment will also be invited upon confirmation of the observer list.
7. Written comments will be solicited from the private sector, academia, other multilateral climate funds, including the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, and the Green Climate Fund, and non-governmental/civil society organizations. Additional written comments may also be solicited from other entities that are invited to do so for the GEF-9 replenishment.
8. The Trustee of the LDCF/SCCF will be invited to participate.

PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE AND CORE TOPICS

9. The consultations and meetings provide an opportunity for participants to discuss funding needs, determine strategic adaptation priorities, programming direction and agree on the resource allocation of the LDCF/SCCF during the GEF-9 period. The meeting schedule, discussion topics and expected decisions are outlined below.

10. The GEF Secretariat will communicate the confirmed dates of the meetings to the participants and observers and will make available relevant documents three weeks prior to the meeting. Efforts will be made to coordinate the meeting schedule with the GEF-9 replenishment, as confirmed.

Table 1: Meeting Schedule and Discussion Topics

| Events | Issues (documents) to be discussed | Timeline ¹ |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Initiation of the Programming Strategy Development Process at 37th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting | <p>For Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate the development process of Programming Strategy for LDCF/SCCF and Operational Improvements <p>For Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Note | December 2024 Council meeting |
| 2. Informal consultations | <p>For Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical inputs on priorities for climate change adaptation support by the LDCF/SCCF (technical experts, STAP, UNFCCC, other relevant institutions) through the GEF Technical Advisory Group (TAG) process and follow-up as needed Priorities for support and operational elements (donors, recipients, stakeholders as appropriate) | February 2025 (in person) Virtual format, or back-to-back with other key meetings |
| 3. Update to the 38th LDCF/SCCF Council | <p>For Discussion:</p> <p>Updates on the development process</p> | June 2025 Council meeting |
| 4. First Meeting | <p>For Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Programming Strategy Operational improvements, including predictability of support | Spring to Summer 2025 Back-to-back with the first GEF Trust Fund |

¹ Additional participants and the timeline of the meetings will be aligned with the GEF-9 replenishment process, as it confirms.

| Events | Issues (documents) to be discussed | Timeline ¹ |
|---|--|---|
| | | Replenishment meeting if feasible, or separately |
| 5. Second Meeting | <i>For Discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Draft Programming Strategy • Operational improvements | November 2025 Aligned with UNFCCC COP 30 if feasible |
| 6. Update to the 39 th LDCF/SCCF Council | <i>For Discussion:</i> Updates on the development process | December 2025 Council meeting |
| 7. Third Meeting | <i>For Discussion and Agreement:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements | Back-to-back with the first GEF Trust Fund Replenishment meeting, or separately March or April, 2026 |

11. Additional meetings, either in person, virtual, or hybrid, may be organized upon agreement of the participants.

12. The agreed final document will be transmitted to the 40th LDCF/SCCF Council in May/June 2026 for endorsement. The document will also be transmitted to the GEF Assembly for information.