



GEF/R.9/01  
March 5, 2025

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Planning Note for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

## **GEF-9 REPLENISHMENT:**

### **PARTICIPATION, WORK PLAN AND PROPOSED TIMETABLE**

## **INITIATION OF THE REPLENISHMENT PROCESS**

1. At its 68<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2024, the GEF Council requested the Trustee, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to initiate discussions for the ninth replenishment of resources for the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-9).

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE REPLENISHMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

2. During the GEF-6 negotiations, it was agreed that the minimum contribution amount for participating contributors should be adjusted for inflation at the beginning of each replenishment cycle. To adjust for inflation, a SDR deflator for the four calendar years prior to the start of the replenishment discussions would be applied to the minimum contribution amount for the previous replenishment. Therefore, in the context of GEF-9, the Trustee applied SDR deflators for calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to the GEF-8 minimum contribution amount of SDR 4.0 million for calculating the inflation adjustment. As shown in Annex A, this results in an increase in the minimum contribution amount to SDR 4.47 million. Given this inflation adjustment, the minimum contribution amount for the GEF-9 replenishment discussions will be rounded up to SDR 4.5 million.

3. The following entities will be invited as observers:

- i. five representatives from non-donor recipient countries representing Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Latin America, and the SIDS,
- ii. two NGO/CSO representatives - one representing a contributing country-based NGO/CSO and another representing a recipient country based NGO/CSO,<sup>1</sup>
- iii. one representative of the private sector,
- iv. one representative from the Green Climate Fund Secretariat, one representative from the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, and one representative from the Climate Investment Funds Secretariat, and
- v. representatives of GEF Agencies and the conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.

## **PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE AND CORE REPLENISHMENT TOPICS**

4. The replenishment meetings provide an opportunity for Contributing Participants to review GEF performance and evaluate progress, assess future funding needs, and agree on a financing framework. If there is an early consensus on the strategic and programming directions, the replenishment process can be accomplished in a series of four meetings, including the

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<sup>1</sup> If an NGO/CSO is considered to be based in a country that is both a GEF contributor and recipient, representation would be determined to afford a balanced representation of both groups.

pledging session. To ensure that GEF operations continue uninterrupted in future years, the GEF-9 replenishment discussions should be completed by early 2026.

5. The proposed meeting schedule and replenishment discussion topics are outlined below. To the extent possible, the proposal considers other major meetings that Contributing Participants may be required to attend so as to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Meeting	Issues (Documents) to be discussed	Timeline
<b>1. Initiation of the GEF-9 Replenishment process</b>	<b>For Decision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF Council requested Trustee, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to initiate discussions (GEF Council document GEF/C.68/13)</li> </ul>	December 16-20, 2024
<b>2. Replenishment Planning</b>	<b>For decision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF-9 replenishment: participation, work plan and proposed timetable</li> </ul>	January 2025 - February 2025  Virtual format
<b>3. GEF-9 First Meeting</b>	<b>For decision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference Exchange Rates for Use in the Ninth GEF Replenishment (GEF Trustee)</li> </ul> <b>For discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging findings from OPS8 (GEF IEO)</li> <li>• Draft Strategic Positioning for GEF-9 and Programming Directions for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> <li>• Overview of Financial Structure (GEF Trustee)</li> <li>• Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> </ul>	May 20-21, 2025 <sup>2</sup>  Venue: World Bank, Paris, France
<b>4. GEF-9 Second Meeting</b>	<b>For decision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF-9 Replenishment: Financial Structure (GEF Trustee)</li> </ul> <b>For discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report of OPS8 (GEF IEO)</li> <li>• Draft Strategic Positioning for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> <li>• Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> <li>• Draft Programming Directions for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> </ul>	October 8-10, 2025  Venue: GEF recipient Country  (TBC)

<sup>2</sup> The LDCF/ SCCF programming strategy meeting will be held on May 22, 2025, following the GEF's first replenishment meeting. The GEF Secretariat will communicate details to relevant participants and observers separately.

Meeting	Issues (Documents) to be discussed	Timeline
<p>5. GEF-9 Third Meeting</p>	<p><b>For decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Considerations for the GEF-9 Replenishment (GEF Trustee)</li> <li>• Final report of OPS8 (GEF IEO)</li> <li>• Policy Directions for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> <li>• Programming Directions for GEF-9 (GEFSEC)</li> </ul> <p><b>For discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF-9 Replenishment: Draft Summary of Negotiations (GEF Trustee + GEFSEC)</li> <li>• Draft GEF-9 Replenishment Resolution for approval by the World Bank Executive Directors (GEF Trustee)</li> <li>• Indicative pledges (Contributing Participants)</li> </ul>	<p>January 19-21, 2026</p> <p>Venue: (TBC)</p>
<p>6. GEF-9 Fourth Meeting</p>	<p><b>For decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finalize donor pledges and GEF Financing Framework</b> (GEF Trustee)</li> <li>• Finalize Draft Report on the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund comprised of (i) Summary of Negotiations; (ii) Policy Recommendations; (iii) Programming Document; and (iv) Replenishment Resolution (GEF Trustee + GEF Secretariat)</li> </ul>	<p>March 16-18, 2026</p> <p>Venue: (TBC)</p>
<p>7. GEF Council meeting</p>	<p><b>For decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF Council to take note of the Summary of Negotiations (document agreed upon by contributing participants) and endorse the following 3 documents: (i) Policy Recommendations; (ii) Programming Document; and (iii) Replenishment Resolution.</li> <li>• GEF Council to request the GEF CEO to transmit the Summary of Negotiations to the World Bank, with a request that the World Bank Executive Directors be invited to adopt the Replenishment Resolution.</li> </ul>	<p>June 8-12, 2026</p> <p>Venue: (TBC)</p>
<p>8. GEF Assembly</p>	<p><b>For Decision:</b> Assembly to endorse the Report on the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.</p>	<p>June 8-12, 2026</p> <p>Venue: (TBC)</p>

Meeting	Issues (Documents) to be discussed	Timeline
<b>9. Adoption of the Replenishment Resolution</b>	<i>For Decision (AOB):</i> WB EDs consider and adopt the Resolution (specifies arrangements for replenishing the GEF Trust Fund), which formally triggers the start of the financing period for the new replenishment.	July 2026

#### **GEF-9 REPLENISHMENT PERIOD**

6. Once the replenishment negotiations are complete, the Summary of Negotiations and the core replenishment documents (Programming Directions, Policy Recommendations and Draft Replenishment Resolution) are transmitted to the GEF Council for endorsement. The Council then requests the GEF CEO to transmit the Summary of Negotiations and the core replenishment documents to the World Bank, with a request that the World Bank Executive Directors be invited to adopt the Replenishment Resolution. The GEF-9 Replenishment would be open when the World Bank Executive Directors adopt the GEF-9 Replenishment Resolution. Such resolution authorizes the World Bank to act as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund. The Trustee informs Contributing Participants of the adoption of the resolution, and Contributing Participants work to formalize their pledges to the replenishment. When Contributing Participants have obtained the appropriate parliamentary authorization and/or budgetary approval to participate in the replenishment, they deposit an Instrument of Commitment with the Trustee. This initiates the implementation of the new replenishment.

#### **TIMING OF GEF ASSEMBLY**

7. The Eighth GEF Assembly is expected to be held on June 8-12, 2026 with the venue still to be confirmed.

### Global Environment Facility Minimum Contribution Amount Inflation Adjustment Methodology

The measure of inflation applied to the minimum contribution amount for participants is the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) deflator. The SDR deflator is used as a measure of world inflation for annual adjustments to operational and analytical income thresholds and World Bank Atlas method estimates of Gross Net Income (GNI) per capita.

The SDR deflator<sup>3</sup> is calculated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on an annual basis and is typically available at a six-month lag. As such, the latest data point available is as of December 31, 2023.

When the SDR deflator is applied to the minimum contribution amount for GEF participants of SDR 4.0 million over the last four calendar years, the result is an increase in the minimum contribution amount to SDR 4.5 million for GEF-9 (refer to Table 1 below). Given this, the minimum contribution amount for the GEF-9 replenishment discussions will increase to SDR 4.5 million.

Table 1: Calculation of Inflation-Adjusted Minimum Contribution for GEF Participating Members.

Year	SDR Deflator in US\$ terms	SDR inflation rate (% change)	Inflation Adjusted Minimum Contribution for GEF 9 Participants (SDR million)
2019	333.9		4.00
2020	338.2	1.3	
2021	351.7	4.0	
2022	368.9	4.9	
2023	373.1	1.2	4.47

<sup>3</sup> Source: The World Bank, 1 July 2024.