



GEF/LDCF.SCCF.39/Inf.04
December 5, 2025

39th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 17-18, 2025
Virtual Meeting

**UPDATES ON 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**

BACKGROUND

1. This Council information document presents an update on the development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and Operational Improvements for the period of July 2026 to June 2030, in accordance with the Planning Note approved by the 37th LDCF/SCCF Council.¹
2. The document presents outcomes of the second meeting and informal consultations, and outlines the schedule for the third and fourth meetings. The outcomes of the first meeting of the Programming Strategy meeting that took place in Paris on May 22, 2025, along with schedules of the second and third meetings, were provided as an information document for the 38th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting.²

SECOND MEETING OF THE PROGRAMMING STRATEGY ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

3. The second meeting on the LDCF and SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements took place on October 10, 2025, in Kasane, Botswana. The meeting followed the second GEF Trust Fund replenishment meeting for the GEF-9 period, which ran from October 7 to 9, 2025. Similar to the GEF Trust Fund replenishment meeting, participants had an option to attend in person or join online.
4. The GEF Secretariat presented a revised draft of the proposed Programming Strategy.³ Attendees included 16 donor representatives and representatives of four non-donor recipients as observers, including the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), Africa, and Asia representatives. Additional observers included representatives from GEF Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Indigenous People Advisory Group (IPAG), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Trustee, GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), the Adaptation Fund (AF), and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF).
5. The meeting was opened with remarks from the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF and the Chair of the LDC Group under the UNFCCC process.
6. During the meeting, participants and observers deliberated on the revised Programming Strategy, which contained streamlined thematic priorities, consolidated approaches, clearer

¹ GEF, 2024, [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](#), LDCF/SCCF Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.37/04.

² GEF, 2025, [Update on 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](#), LDCF/SCCF Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.38/Inf.02.

³ GEF, 2025, [Draft Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-9 Period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030 and Operational Improvements](#). GEF/LDCF.SCCF/02/SM2/01.

articulation of the value proposition, and the options for operational improvement of the two funds. Overall, there was convergence on the streamlined thematic priorities and approaches presented in the document.

7. Participants and observers were asked to submit their written feedback on the draft document by October 27, 2025. The Chair’s Summary of the meeting is finalized and posted.⁴

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

8. Prior to this meeting, there were thorough informal discussions about the revised draft Programming Strategy, involving many stakeholders such as participants from both contributing and recipient countries. This included virtual consultations during last week of September 2025 and the beginning of October 2025 with contributors, LDCs, SIDS and all the regional representatives.

9. The purpose of these discussions was to exchange views on the revised draft and to gather feedback. Stakeholders were encouraged to share their perspectives, express any concerns they had, and suggest further improvements for the document. This collaborative approach aimed at ensuring that the revised draft reflects the priorities and interests of all key groups and strengthens the revised version of the draft.

BRIEFING TO THE LDCs AND SIDS AT THE SIDELINE OF COP 30

10. During the recently concluded 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 30) in Belem, Brazil, the GEF Secretariat updated LDCs and SIDS on progress with the Programming Strategy development and discussions. The GEF CEO held a meeting with representatives from the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on November 18, 2025, followed by a briefing for LDC delegates on November 19, 2025.

11. These sessions facilitated the dissemination of information on the draft Programming Strategy and allowed for questions and discussion, as part of an inclusive and collaborative dialogue towards strengthening and advancing the document. The Secretariat also provided information on regional and LDC representatives that attend the Programming Strategy meetings, and encouraged interested countries to consult with the representatives of their perspectives and priorities.

UPDATED SCHEDULE: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS

12. The GEF Secretariat will continue to organize informal bilateral discussions to exchange views with participants to the strategy development process. In addition, the GEF Secretariat will organize consultations with recipient countries.

⁴ GEF, 2025, [Summary of the Chair](#), GEF/LDCF.SCCF/02/SM.02/Summary

13. The third meeting for the GEF Programming Strategy on Climate Adaptation for the LDCF/SCCF is scheduled to be held in Bonn, Germany, on January 21, 2026. This in-person meeting will take place following the third GEF Trust Fund replenishment meeting, expected to take place from January 19-20, 2026.
14. An additional virtual meeting is being planned for the review of, and consensus on, an updated Programming Strategy in April 2026.
15. The agreed final document will be transmitted to the 40th LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2026 for Council approval. The document will also be transmitted to the GEF Assembly for information.