GEF/R.09/20
April 6, 2026

Fourth Meeting for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund
April 09, 2026
Virtual

GEF-9 REPLENISHMENT

DRAFT SUMMARY OF NEGOTIATIONS

(PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND

THE WORLD BANK AS TRUSTEE)

SUMMARY OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. Participants to the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund agreed to this Summary of Negotiations for transmittal to the GEF Council, along with the attached documents: Programming Document for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (Annex A), Policy Recommendations for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (Annex B), and Draft World Bank Resolution No. [____], Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Ninth Replenishment of Resources (Annex C).

2. This Summary highlights the main items that were considered during the replenishment negotiations. It is not a comprehensive report of all the detailed discussions that took place during the negotiating process. The discussions at specific meetings are detailed in the Co-Chairs' summaries of the replenishment meetings.

The Replenishment Process

3. At the December 2024 meeting, the GEF Council requested the Trustee of the Global Environment Facility ("the GEF"), in cooperation with the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Facility, to initiate discussions on the Ninth replenishment of resources of the GEF Trust Fund ("GEF-9") to fund activities during the four- year period from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030.

4. Accordingly, the Trustee and the GEF Secretariat initiated the process by circulating a discussion note to prospective Participants regarding participation, proposed timetable and core GEF-9 replenishment topics. Participants agreed on the preliminary schedule of subsequent replenishment meetings. In addition, agreement was reached on the overall work plan for such discussions as well as the arrangements for participation in the replenishment discussions. Participants agreed to invite the following entities 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), two NGO/CSO representatives - one representing a contributing country based NGO/CSO and another representing a recipient country based NGO/CSO, one representative of the private sector, one representative from the Green Climate Fund Secretariat, one representative from the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, and one representative from the Climate Investment Funds Secretariat. In addition, Participants invited representatives of GEF Agencies and the Conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism as observers. In the first replenishment meeting an additional observer was included to represent Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG). Further, comments were invited from GEF Council Members on policy and programming documents prepared for replenishment discussions. The following replenishment meetings were held: May 2025, Paris, France; October 2025, Kasane, Botswana; January 2026, Bonn, Germany; April 2026 [Virtual].

Eighth Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS-8).

5. The Independent Evaluation Office prepared OPS-8, providing an important context for the discussions.

6. Participants welcomed the OPS-8 report and underscored its relevance for guiding GEF-9 implementation, noting with satisfaction that the GEF Secretariat has accepted all its recommendations. A central theme in the discussion was the need to strengthen private sector engagement. Participants highlighted that private capital mobilization remains below potential and encouraged deeper collaboration with the private sector arms of multilateral development banks, expanded use of blended finance, further development of the Non-Grant Instrument portfolio, and clearer risk-management frameworks that can accommodate innovation while maintaining accountability.

7. Support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS remained a high priority. Participants stressed the need for tailored approaches that enhance sustainability from project design onward, strengthen domestic resource mobilization, and ensure policy coherence. Delegations agreed that integrated programming shows promise for addressing systemic, cross-sectoral challenges and enabling transformational change. They also noted challenges, including the need for long-term capacity building, embedding reforms in country systems, expanding private sector engagement, and strengthening knowledge management.

8. Participants welcomed the continued focus on inclusive conservation, engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and growing attention to the participation of women and youth. They also supported reviewing the terms of reference of STAP and emphasized broadening the donor base, including outreach to emerging economies, to sustain the GEF's financial foundation.

GEF-9 Programming Directions

9. Participants considered a proposal for Programming Directions in the Ninth Replenishment period to cover four years (FY26 – FY30) of GEF operations and activities in its five focal areas and other programming areas.

10. Participants welcomed the GEF-9 Programming Directions as a further step in the pursuit of global environmental goals to which countries have committed under the six conventions that the GEF serves and recognized the urgency of decisive action at scale to achieve these 2030 sustainable development milestones. The Programming Directions are a strategic response to the accelerating global environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Anchored in the vision of a *Healthy Planet, Healthy People*, GEF-9 aims to catalyze systemic change through integrated, comprehensive, and scalable programming aligned with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other key international frameworks. Participants also noted the waning of global commitments to international development assistance and the fragmentation of global environmental financing as important constraints that must be overcome to ensure a robust Ninth Replenishment, while further emphasizing the imperative of mobilizing non-sovereign investments from the private sector to help meet the nature funding gap. Participants noted the importance of integration across focal areas and across the GEF family of funds to enhance GEF efficiency and to capture economies of scale in supporting recipient countries to achieve lasting global environmental benefits. Participants also noted the GEF's track record of achieving results at scale, as demonstrated in the GEF-7 and GEF-8 cycles in focal areas, integrated programs and global programs covering the full spectrum of environmental challenges. Participants emphasized the importance of the GEF Non-Grant Instrument as a means of leveraging greater magnitudes of sovereign and private investment, noting the need to mainstream blended finance and increase support for International Financial Institutions positioned to mobilize private engagement. A strengthened Country

Engagement Strategy that supports a whole of government engagement through national steering committees and aligned donor investment through country platforms was welcomed by participants. Participants similarly appreciated the GEF-9 whole of society approach as a means of ensuring the effective engagement and partnership of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth. Increased support for Indigenous Peoples as key GEF partners for stewardship of the world's remaining natural ecosystems their wealth of biodiversity and ecosystem services was welcomed. Finally, some Participants appreciated the proposed expansion of the Small Grants Programme as a central vehicle for supporting civil society actions on the front lines of conservation.

11. The GEF-9 Programming Directions is attached as Annex A to this Summary.

GEF-9 Policy Directions

12. To support the programming approach outlined above, Participants discussed a set of Policy Directions for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, attached as Annex B to this Summary, and based on this, participants agreed on the GEF-9 Policy Recommendations and implementation timeline attached as Annex A thereto.

13. The GEF-9 Policy Recommendations contain a set of actions structured around five strategic themes that, taken together, outline the measures needed to enhance the GEF's reach, catalytic role, effectiveness, and efficiency, maximizing its transformative impact and optimizing resource use. These include measures to accelerate and streamline delivery of GEF resources, scale up and leverage GEF financing, provide the enabling conditions for a whole-of-society approach, and ensure appropriate architecture across the GEF Partnership to deliver results in GEF-9 and beyond.

14. Participants agreed on the results management framework and risk management approach reflecting the ambition of GEF-9 and on updates to the country allocation methodology (STAR).

15. Participants agreed that a revision of the allocation model should be considered in GEF-10.

GEF-9 Financing Framework

16. In reviewing the programming of resources for the GEF-9, Participants agreed to the indicative distribution of resources among the GEF focal areas, corporate programs, and other activities set forth as Table 1 in the programming scenarios attached as Annex A to this summary. In discussions on programming areas, Participants reiterated support for a robust GEF replenishment. The Indigenous Conservation Initiative was agreed to be of $100 million.

17. The financing framework for the GEF-9 was agreed during the course of the replenishment meetings, resulting in a replenishment level for programming in the amount of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) [xxx] million (USDeq. [xxx] billion).

18. Participants agreed on the six-month averaging period for setting reference exchange rates (July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025) for use in the GEF-9. These exchange rates are used to translate Participants' contributions to GEF-9 between SDR values and their respective national currency values.

19. Participants supported a strong and effective GEF-9 replenishment. While many Contributing Participants faced challenging national circumstances, significant efforts were made to achieve the highest possible GEF-9 replenishment level.

20. Pledged contributions to the GEF-9 are reflected in Attachment 1 in Annex C: Draft World Bank Resolution No. [__], Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Ninth Replenishment of Resources. These pledged contributions amount to SDR [xxx] million (USDeq. [xxx] million) and also reflect credits for accelerated cash payments and note encashments in the amount of SDR [xx] million (USDeq. [xx] million). Additional resources that may become available for programming during the GEF-9 replenishment period include projected investment income to be earned during the GEF-9 replenishment period (FY2027 – FY2030) in the amount of SDR [xx] million (USD [xx] million), carryover of previous GEF replenishment resources in the amount of SDR [xx] million (USDeq. [xx] million), and projected reflows from Non-Grant Instruments during the GEF-9 replenishment period in the amount of SDR [xx] million (USDeq. [xx] million).

21. Participants also confirmed that new or additional pledges to the GEF-9 not reflected in Attachment 1 of Annex C, Draft World Bank Resolution No. [___], Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Ninth Replenishment of Resources, would also be welcomed and reported in the GEF Trust Fund Financial Reports to be prepared by the Trustee for Council meetings.

Replenishment Resolution

22. Participants approved the Draft World Bank Resolution No. [___], Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Ninth Replenishment of Resources, which is in the form of a World Bank resolution and attached as Annex C to this Summary of Negotiations, to be considered by the GEF Council and submitted to the World Bank, as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, for adoption by the World Bank Executive Directors.

Financial Structure for GEF-9

23. Participants agreed to a minimum contribution of SDR 4.5 million to participate in the GEF-9 negotiations, based on the established methodology agreed during the GEF-6 replenishment negotiations. The minimum contribution is adjusted at the beginning of each replenishment cycle for inflation, measured using the SDR deflator published by the IMF for the four calendar years prior to the start of the replenishment discussions.

24. Participants noted all Contributing Participants to the GEF-9 should make their best efforts to deposit their Instruments of Commitment or Qualified Instruments of Commitment by October 31, 2026. At every Council meeting, the Trustee will inform the Council of the status of Instruments of Commitment and Qualified Instruments of Commitment deposited with the Trustee.

25. Participants agreed that contributions made without qualification shall be paid in four equal installments by November 30 of each replenishment year as set out in the replenishment resolution or as agreed with the Trustee, provided that GEF-9 becomes effective by October 31, 2026. Participants further agreed that Contributing Participants depositing Qualified Instruments of Commitment shall use their best efforts to unqualify sufficient amounts of their contributions to pay their installment amounts by November 30 of each replenishment year.

26. Participants agreed that payment may be made in cash upfront or by the deposit of non-negotiable, non-interest bearing demand notes or similar obligations with the Trustee. Unless otherwise agreed with the Trustee, such notes, or similar obligations, will be encashed on an approximately pro rata basis among Contributing Participants. Encashments will be made in accordance with the indicative encashment schedule as set out in the replenishment resolution document or as agreed with the Trustee.

27. The Advance Contribution Scheme for GEF-9 will become effective on the date when the Trustee has received Instruments of Commitment or Qualified Instruments of Commitment from Contributing Participants whose contributions aggregate not less than SDR [xx] million. GEF-9 will become effective on the date when the Trustee has received Instruments of Commitment or Qualified Instruments of Commitment from Contributing Participants whose contributions aggregate not less than SDR [xx] million.

28. Participants have continued to make efforts towards clearance of their arrears and agreed to continue to encourage all countries to make timely payments to the GEF.

29. In addition, consistent with the practice in the previous replenishments, the following means of deterring arrears should apply under the GEF-9: (i) Continuation of the requirement, first introduced in the GEF-3 Replenishment Resolution, and set out in Paragraph 4(a) of the GEF- 9 Replenishment Resolution, that if a Contributing Participant does not make a scheduled payment to the GEF-9 or a Contributing Participant that has deposited a Qualified Instrument of Commitment is unable to unqualify a scheduled contribution to the GEF-9, then such Contributing Participant shall provide the Council with a written explanation from its Minister stating the reason for the arrears or delay and the steps being taken to resolve it; and (ii) Confirmation of the provision in the Instrument that voting rights accrue only for the actual contributions paid to the GEF, which confirmation is set out in Paragraph 4(b) of the GEF-9 Replenishment Resolution.

Noting that funding decisions made by the Council or the GEF CEO are based on available resources in the GEF Trust Fund at the time of the decision, Participants requested the Secretariat to use the full replenishment amount, including arrears, as the target programming level at the outset of the GEF-9 replenishment period, consistent with current practice.

Steps towards Concluding the Process of the Ninth GEF Replenishment

30. Participants requested the Interim CEO/Chairperson of the GEF to forward this Summary, including the attached Annexes, to the GEF Council for review at its meeting in June 2026 in Uzbekistan. The GEF Council is invited to take note of the Summary, and to endorse the draft Replenishment Resolution, Annex A of the policy directions, and programming document including the allocation of resources set forth in [Table 1] of the programming document.

31. Participants also invited the GEF Council to request the Interim CEO/Chairperson of the GEF to transmit this Summary to the World Bank, with a request that the World Bank Executive Directors be invited to adopt [Annex C] to this Summary, Draft World Bank Resolution No. [___], Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Ninth Replenishment of Resources, thereby authorizing the World Bank, as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, to manage the resources made available under the GEF-9.