



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification



STOCKHOLM
CONVENTION

Facilitating synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements towards sustainable development

Tuesday, 29 March 2016, 9:00-13:00

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop, Bangkok, Thailand

The Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as a/the financial mechanism have recently reached major negotiation milestones, with key agreements and decisions that guide countries towards agreed goals. These MEAs are intrinsically linked, addressing interdependent issues for global environmental benefits with action at the country level. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, as embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries are also increasingly interested in pursuing integrated, cross-cutting opportunities for sustainable development.

This session is an opportunity to discuss enhanced synergies to address MEA goals in line with sustainable development priorities, and to explore how the GEF support could help countries to make that happen. The dialogue brings together key stakeholders, including the GEF operational focal points, the national MEA focal points, and representatives of the GEF Secretariat as well as the secretariats of: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

This interactive workshop explores the following questions:

1. What are the key milestone agreements and decisions reached by the MEAs? What is the GEF guidance from the MEAs to support their implementation?
2. Where are the opportunities for countries to address MEAs and their national sustainable development priorities hand-in-hand with each other?
3. How and where can the GEF help to support integration at the country level in an effective and efficient manner by utilizing synergies between MEAs?

Insights and exchange of ideas are also expected to help enrich the Expanded Constituency Meeting discussions to follow.

A G E N D A

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
9:00-9:30	<p>Welcome remarks and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist, GEF • Introduction of participants
9:30-10:45	<p>Key multilateral agreements and GEF guidance</p> <p>Representatives of the Convention Secretariats will provide short overviews of recent agreements and decisions, and highlight key guidance to the GEF to support their implementation (7 to 10 minutes each).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alejandro Kilpatrick, Team Leader, Climate Finance Subprogramme, UNFCCC • Yang Youlin, Regional Programme Officer, Asia, UNCCD • Sakhile Koketso, Programme Officer, Science, Assessment and Monitoring, CBD • Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Regional Subprogramme Coordinator for Chemicals and Waste, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (for Minamata Convention) • Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Regional Subprogramme Coordinator for Chemicals and Waste, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (for BRS Conventions) and Frank Moser, Programme Officer, BRS Conventions (<i>via video-link</i>) <p>Questions and answers, and discussions will follow.</p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	<p>Discussion on needs and opportunities for synergy</p> <p>This session focuses on the current opportunities for countries to address MEAs and sustainable development priorities in an integrated manner. Country participants are invited to share their needs, challenges, and opportunities at the country level. The representatives of MEA Secretariats will share their perspectives on facilitating MEA coordination, drawing on the Convention articles and decisions on the need for enhanced collaboration among MEAs and reduce duplication. The GEF Secretariat will discuss modalities and tools currently available to assist countries to facilitate synergy.</p>
12:00-13:00	<p>Discussion on leveraging and maximizing opportunities</p> <p>An open discussion among participants will explore what is needed to enhance and maximize synergy and coordination at the national, global, and MEA levels. Participants will discuss how to make more effective use of GEF support to implement the MEAs and address sustainable development planning needs in a mutually supportive manner. Participants are also invited to share their perspectives and suggestions to enhance synergy at the project level and for future GEF programming strategies.</p>
13:00	Adjournment