Facilitating synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements towards sustainable development

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop
Pacific Islands

July 2017
MEA Session objectives

1. To understand milestone global agreements and recent MEA guidance to the GEF;
2. To enhance synergies among MEAs and promote GEF program integration;
3. To discuss needs, barriers, and country priorities to integrated programming.
MEAs and SDGs: Coordinating response to safeguard planet

Urgent action to avoid tipping points and irreversible damage

- 4 out of 9 planetary boundaries have been crossed as a result of human activity.

4 out of 9 planetary boundaries have been crossed as a result of human activity.
The world is responding...

Paris Agreement
UNFCCC
CBD
UNCCD
Stockholm Convention
Minamata Convention
Key agreements and GEF guidance

UN General Assembly:

➢ Noted the need for enhanced cooperation among the Rio Conventions (2009);

➢ Adopted The Future We Want (Rio+20), encouraging coordination and cooperation between MEAs.
Key agreements and GEF guidance

Convention on Biological Diversity:

“Encourages Parties to promote synergies between biodiversity and climate-change policies and measures” (decision XI/21);

“Requests the Global Environment Facility […] to support projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements” (decision XI/6);
Key agreements and GEF guidance

Convention on Biological Diversity:

**GEF to provide financial resources for:**

“Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the CBD, UNFCCC, and the UNCCD, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach”

“Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication” *(decision X/24)*
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change:

“Encourages the Global Environment Facility [...] to align [...] programming with [...] nationally determined contributions, where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas.”

“Requests the Global Environment Facility [...] to take into consideration climate risks in all its programmes and operations [...]” (decision 11/CP.22)

✓ (I)NDCs frequently mention biodiversity, ecosystem-based approaches, land degradation…
Key agreements and GEF guidance

Stockholm Convention and Minamata:

“Stressed that the sound management of chemicals and wastes has a global environmental benefit and is an essential element of sustainable development;

“Encouraged the Facility to continue to enhance synergies in its activities”

“Identification of possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the GEF that also address the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions.” (decision SC-7/21)
Land as a central element

SDG 15, Target 15.3: Land Degradation Neutrality

→ “by 2030, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world.”

- Land agenda embodies the importance of tackling complex, interdependent issues in an integrated manner
- How we protect and manage land resources sustainably will have impacts on multiple goals
- UNCCD COP 12 (2015):
  ✓ Addressing LDN will be priority area for GEF support;
  ✓ LDN guiding principle for implementation of Convention.
Key agreements and GEF guidance

UN Convention to Combat Desertification:

“Invites the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the convention […] in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3”; 

“Invites the GEF to […] consider technical and financial support for voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting”

“Invites country Parties to formulate and integrate in their National Adaptation Plan voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities.” (COP 12)
Seeking Synergy and Multiple Benefits

• Growing interest by countries in cross-cutting projects with multiple benefits
  ✓ 47 out of 74 land degradation projects (FY13-15) are multi-focal;
  ✓ $227 million from land degradation, $300 million from biodiversity, climate change, SFM, etc.
  ✓ 41 more projects addressing land agenda supported by funds for climate change (LDCF, SCCF, AF)
  ✓ $297 million from climate-related funds

• Synergy among Rio Conventions on the ground
Seeking Synergy and Multiple Benefits

Example of institutional arrangements at the national/regional level:

- Informal and/or formal committees to coordinate between national focal points, different ministries and agencies, and other stakeholders.
- National GEF committees as mechanisms for national focal points to foster the coherent implementation of the MEAs and SDGs.
- National strategy for the implementation across MEAs and SDGs.
- Regional initiatives including learning and peer-to-peer exchange, regional centers of excellence in data monitoring and reporting, implementation of large-scale, cross-cutting impact programs.
Seeking Synergy and Multiple Benefits

Additional entry points for synergies at the national level:

- **Sustainable Development Goals:** Coordinating framework for achieving multiple goals. Integration of MEAs and SDGs in national development.

- **Implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation:** EbA enable people to adapt to the impacts of climate change by sustainably managing, conserving and restoring ecosystems.

- **National planning and reporting** (e.g. links between UNFCCC NAPs, CBD NBSAPs, and UNCCD NAPs, national reports)

- **Sustainable land management:** links with biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, relevant to all 3 Rio Conventions.

- **Ecosystem restoration:** contributes to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and combatting land degradation, relevant to most MEAs.
### GEF-6 Programming Structure

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrated Approach Pilots:</th>
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**Global Environment Facility**

INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

[www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org)
GCF  Complementarity and Collaboration
Proposed
GEF-7 Programming Structure

Focal Area Strategies
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Land Degradation
- International Waters
- Chemicals & Waste

Impact Programs
- Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration
- Sustainable Cities
- Energy Breakthroughs
- Sustainable Forest Management

Frontier Investments
- Circular Economy
- Environmental Security
- Green Finance
- Integrated National Planning

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
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### MEAs and SDG plan and report

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**Voluntary national reviews + global SDG report each year**
## Submissions: Seychelles case

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### MEAs Report
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- Cart. 1st NR
- 1st BD NR in 1998
- 3rd CCD NR in 2004

### MEAs Plan, Strategy
- BC 1st NBSAP in 1998
- BD 3rd NR
- BD 4th NR
- BD 5th NR
- CC 2nd NC
- CCD 2014NR
- CC INDC
- BD 2nd NBSAP
- POPs 1st NIP
- POPs 2nd NIP
Questions for today’s discussion

Convention Focal Points: Based on the COP decision what does synergy mean to you from the point of view form your convention?

GEF OFP/CSO: What do synergies mean to you in a GEF financing? What positive experiences and challenges have you encountered in these?

All: What cross-cutting, transformational impact programs could be most helpful in your country/region and could be practically feasible in GEF-7?

10-15 min discussion in small groups (each table)

…then reporting back with short list of priorities for GEF-7 programming