



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

**MINAMATA CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY**



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



Stockholm Convention  
on persistent organic  
pollutants (POPs)

# Facilitating synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements towards sustainable development

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop  
Pacific Islands

July 2017



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[www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org)

# 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**.



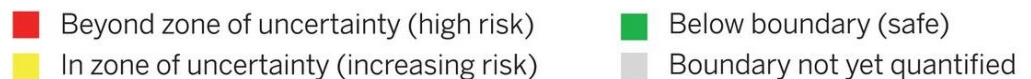
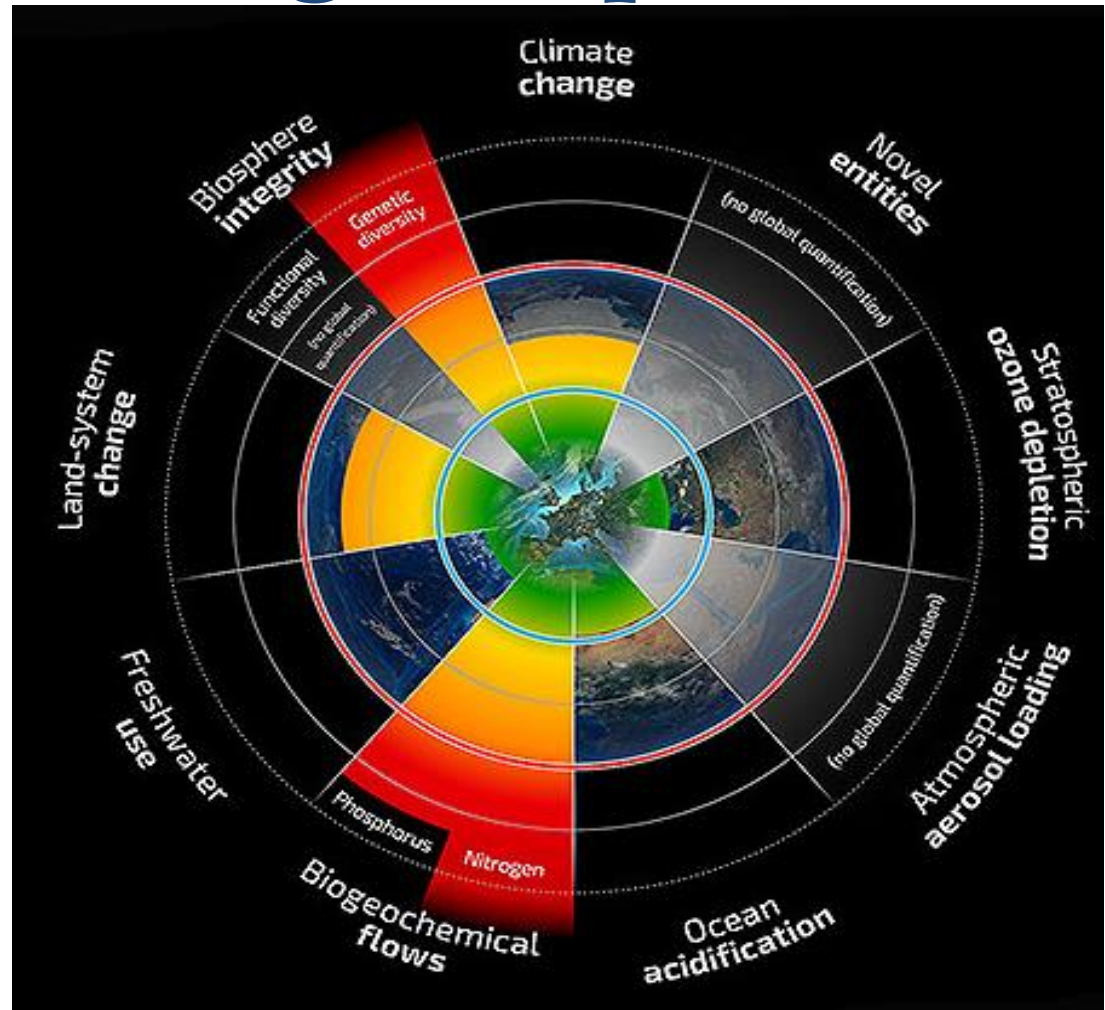
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# MEAs and SDGs: Coordinating response to safeguard planet

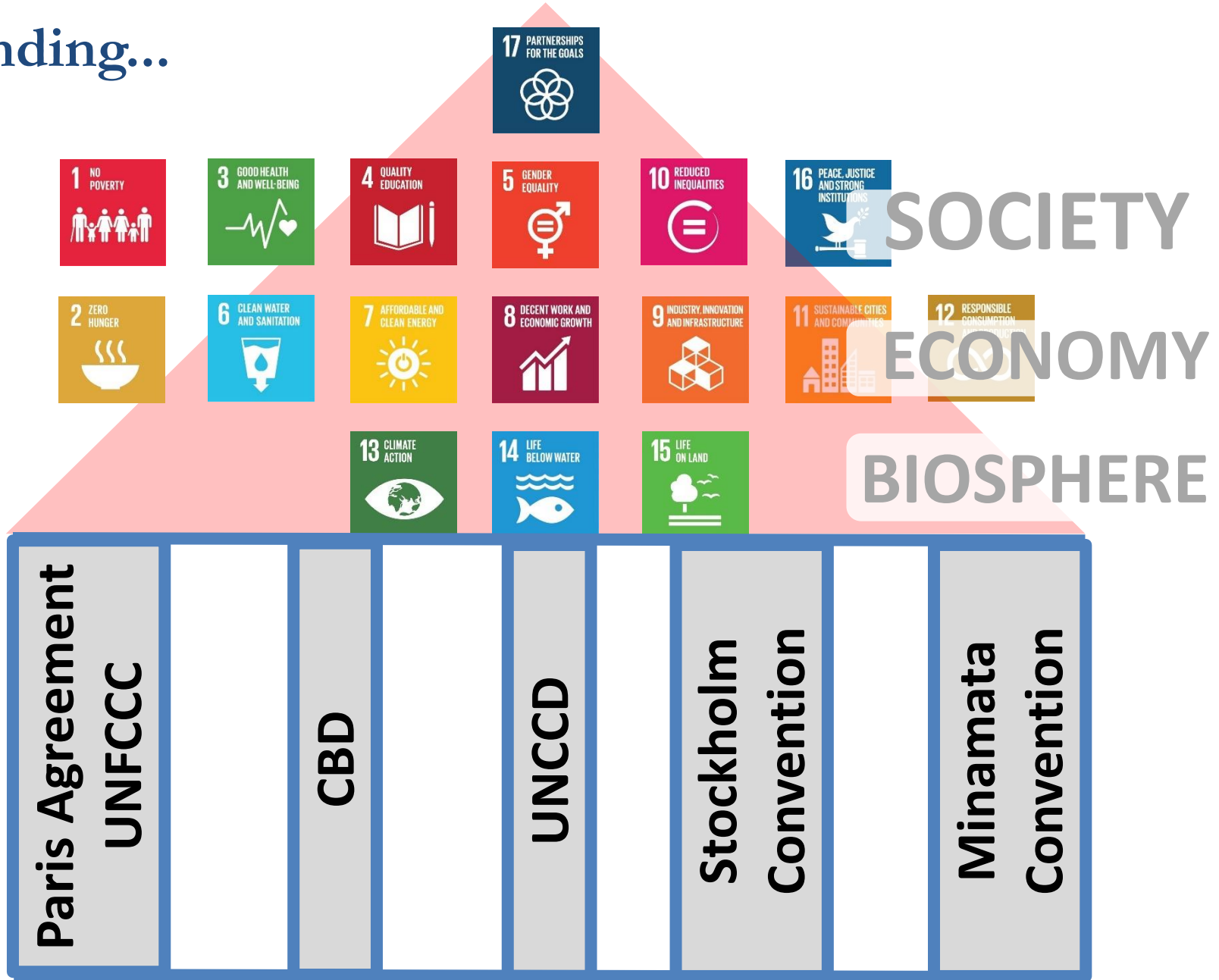
Urgent action to avoid tipping points and irrevestible damage

business as usual approach

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



The world is responding...



# 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**.



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# 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*);



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# 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)*



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## 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...*



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# 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)*



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# 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.



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# 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)*



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# 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 (LDCCF, SCCCF, AF)
  - ✓ \$297 million from climate-related funds
- Synergy among Rio Conventions on the ground



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# 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.



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# 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.



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# GEF-6 Programming Structure

## Integrated Approach Pilots:

- Sustainable Cities
- Food Security
- Commodity Supply Chain

## Other cross-cutting initiatives:

- Sustainable fisheries
- Illegal wildlife trade
- Amazon sustainable landscapes

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Climate Change

Sustainable Forest  
Management

International Waters

Chemicals & Waste



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# GCF Complementarity and Collaboration



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# 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

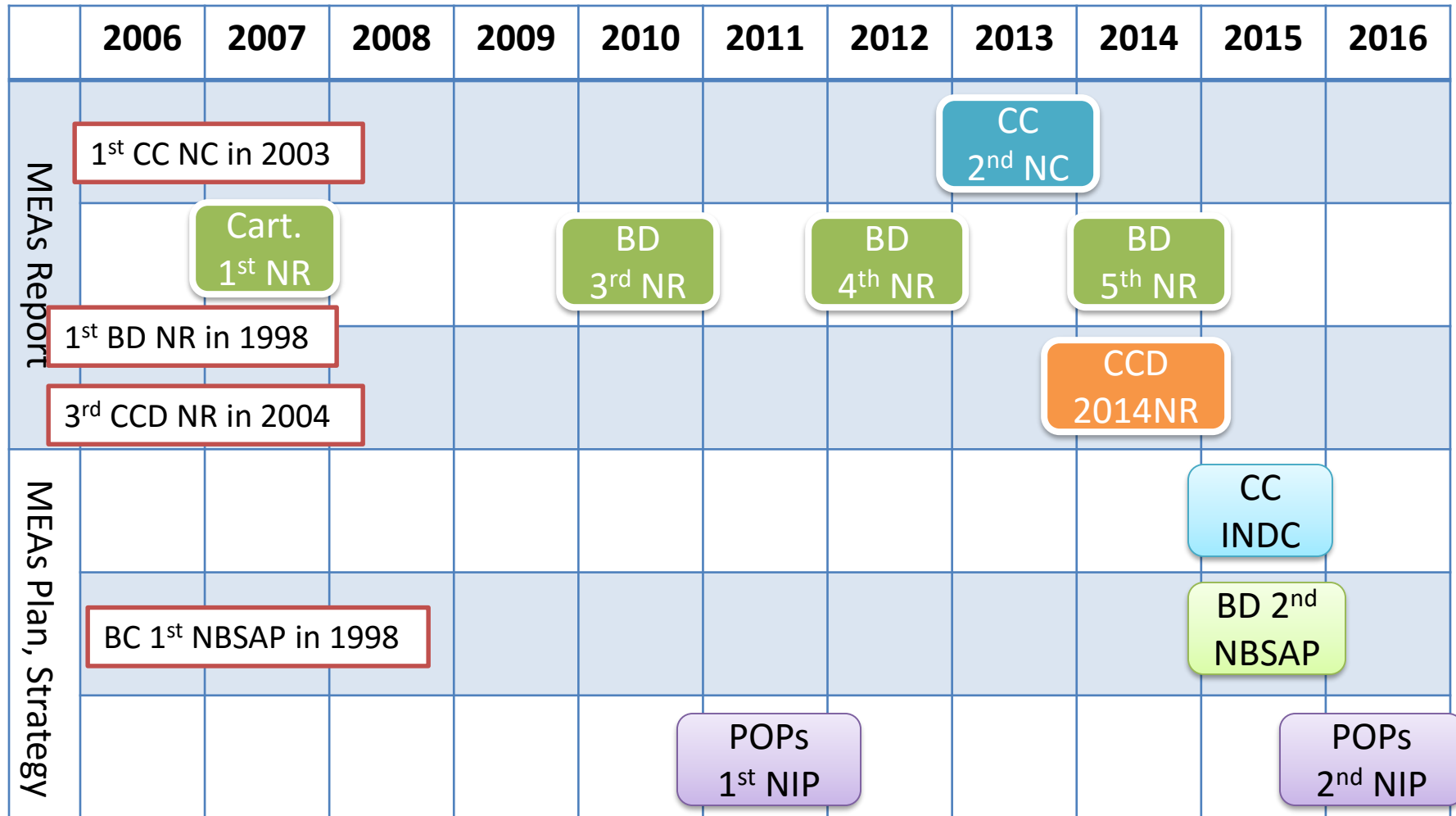
- Circular Economy
- Environmental Security
- Green Finance
- Integrated National Planning



# MEAs and SDG plan and report

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
MEAs Report	CC BUR			CC NC				CC NC	
	BD NR		CC BUR		CC BUR		CC BUR		
		Cart. NR		Nago. NR	BD NR	Cart. NR			
	CCD NR		CCD NR		CCD NR		CCD NR		
	POPs NR				POPs NR				
MEAs Plan, Strategy	CC NAP								
			CC NDC				CC NDC		
		BD NBSAP							
			LDN						
	POPs NIP		POPs NIP		POPs NIP		ASGM NAP		
 GLOB IN	reporting	SDG	Voluntary national reviews + global SDG report each year						

# Submissions: Seychelles case



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# Questions for today's discussion

**Convention Focal Points:** Based on the COP decision what does synergy mean to you from the point of view from 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  
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