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Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 05

RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.70/04, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF partnership to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Executive Summary

1. This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol), and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

2. Covering the period from April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, the document further provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora. A revision to this document, to be published ahead of the 70th GEF Council, will report on meetings held after the reporting period, due to the importance of their timely consideration by the GEF Council.

3. During the reporting period, several MEA-related meetings took place, with participation of the GEF Secretariat personnel. The GEF CEO and officials participated in the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention took place in Geneva, Switzerland from April 28 to May 9, 2025. GEF officials participated in the second substantive meeting of the Preparatory Commission (Prep Com II) for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement took place from August 18 to 29, 2025, in New York, USA. Representatives of the GEF also attended the sixty-second session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 62) of the UNFCCC was held in Bonn, Germany from June 16 to 26, 2025.

4. The GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat staff also participated in the 6th Global Conference on Biodiversity Finance convened from May 4 to 10, 2025 in Santiago, Chile. They also participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from October 9 to 15, 2025.

5. The GEF CEO and senior officials took part in key MEA engagements to discuss priorities, explain how the GEF has responded to relevant decisions and guidance, explore GEF engagement potential, address questions and concerns raised by Parties and member States regarding the GEF support, and help raise the level of ambition for action.

6. The provision of finance to countries progressed with the approval of projects and programs with the GEF Trust Fund, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). The GEF

Secretariat also continued consultations and engagement with Conventions, countries and Agencies as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.

7. Highlights reported in this document include:

- i. CBD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in CBD-related meetings, on submissions of national reporting and related support, and ratifications.
- ii. UNFCCC: Updates on meetings related to GEF Secretariat's participation in UNFCCC-related meetings, LDCF/SCCF support to address climate adaptation and resilience priorities of countries, continued efforts to support the timely implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, including support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT); submission of national reports; and ratifications.
- iii. UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in CCD-related meetings, including the inaugural conference of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP), submission of national reports, and ratifications.
- iv. Stockholm Convention: Updates from COP 12, collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting.
- v. Minamata Convention: Updates on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting.
- vi. BBNJ Agreement: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in BBNJ Prep Com II, the operationalization of the GEF-8 International Waters Focal Area funding of ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement, and on signatures, ratifications, accessions, acceptances and approvals.
- vii. Summary of International Waters focal area engagement with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), at the UN Oceans Conference and Blue Economy Finance Forum, at the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Annual Consultative Meeting, at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), and with UN-Water and UN-Oceans.
- viii. Summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: the UN Forum on Forests, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (Plastic INC), Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), and multilateral climate funds and related processes.

8. An annex provides the full list of GEF's up-to-date responses to decisions from most recent COPs including CBD COP 16, Stockholm COP 12, UNFCCC COP 29, and UNCCD COP 16.

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Introduction

1. This document reports on actions by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). The report further provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other multilateral funds.

2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report presented to the 69th GEF Council held in June 2025. It covers the period from April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025. A revision to this document to be published ahead of the 70th GEF Council will report on two meetings held after the reporting period, due to their importance for the attention of the GEF Council.

3. During the reporting period, the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention took place from April 28 to May 9, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The second substantive meeting of the Preparatory Commission (Prep Com II) for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) took place from August 18 to 29, 2025, in New York, USA. The 62nd session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 62) of the UNFCCC was also held in Bonn, Germany from June 16 to 26, 2025.

4. The Executive Secretaries and senior officials of the six MEAs participated in an interactive exchange with the GEF Council, chaired by the GEF CEO, in June 2025. The exchange addressed the ongoing GEF replenishment process in which they have been engaged, how the GEF can support MEA priorities in the remaining GEF-8 period, and what to expect from upcoming multilateral negotiations.

5. The provision of finance through the GEF family of funds in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued in the reporting period, as well as consultations and engagement with Conventions. The GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground.

GEF-9 Replenishment

6. The MEA representatives have been engaged in the GEF-9 replenishment and the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy development process as observers. The first GEF-9

replenishment meeting took place in Paris, France, from May 20 to 21, 2025. The second GEF-9 replenishment meeting took place in Kasane, Botswana, from October 7 to 9, 2025. The LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvement meetings took place on May 22, 2025 and October 10, 2025, back-to-back with the replenishment meetings.

7. The GEF Secretariat has continued to review and address COP guidance and decisions of relevance as they are decided in MEA meetings described in this document, in replenishment and LDCF/SCCF documents. Some MEA Secretariats have provided written comments on the replenishment and LDCF/SCCF documents, which have been considered in the updating of these documents, as described further below.

8. The CBD Secretariat participated in the first and second replenishment meetings, held in May and October 2025. The CBD Secretariat also provided comments on the two iterations of the draft programming directions and draft policy directions, coordinating input from biodiversity-related conventions.

9. The UNFCCC Secretariat attended the first and second GEF-9 replenishment meetings, as well as the first and second meetings on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for LDCF and SCCF. The GEF Secretariat received comments after the first meeting. These comments were considered in the revised replenishment documents. Guidance and relevant decisions from UNFCCC COP 30, to take place in November 10 to 21, 2025 are to be addressed in documents for the third replenishment and LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy meetings to take place in January 2026.

10. The Managing Director of the UNCCD Global Mechanism participated in the first replenishment meeting in Paris, and a representative of the UNCCD Global Mechanism joined the second meeting in Botswana online. UNCCD provided comments on the draft versions of the GEF-9 Programming Directions.

11. A representative of the Stockholm Convention attended the first meeting of the replenishment in May 2025 and provided comments on the draft Programming Directions, which were incorporated into the revised draft document presented to the second replenishment meeting. The Stockholm Convention personnel also attended the second meeting in October 2025. Guidance from Stockholm COP 12 was also incorporated into the draft Programming Directions.

12. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention attended the first meeting of the replenishment in May 2025 and the Secretariat provided comments on the draft Programming Directions which were incorporated into the revised draft Programming Directions presented to the second replenishment meeting. The Secretariat personnel also attended the second meeting in person. Guidance from Minamata COP 6, from November 3 to 7, 2025, will be addressed in documents for the third replenishment meeting.

13. For the BBNJ treaty, a DOALOS representative attended the first replenishment meeting in May 2025. Following the BBNJ Prep Com II, the GEF Secretariat received correspondence regarding GEF support, which are considered for documents prepared for the third replenishment meeting.

Summary of GEF Engagement with Conventions

Convention on Biological Diversity

Summary of Key Activities

14. The GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat staff participated in the 6th Global Conference on Biodiversity Finance convened from May 4 to 10, 2025 in Santiago, Chile. Funded in large part through the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans, the event united more than 130 countries in the largest conference ever dedicated to biodiversity finance. The GEF CEO highlighted the GEF's contribution to bridging the global biodiversity finance gap through unprecedented direct investments in biodiversity in GEF-8, and through support to domestic resource mobilization and policy coherence. The GEF Secretariat staff clarified the different entry points and processes for countries to pursue domestic resource mobilization, realignment of financial flows, blended finance and other innovative biodiversity finance through the GEF Trust Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF).

15. The GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat staff participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from October 9 to 15, 2025. The GEF Secretariat led and participated in events, organized a pavilion under the theme of "Whole of Society," and sponsored the participation of the Fonseca Fellows, youth scientists and conservation activists. The strong engagement of the GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat highlighted the contribution of GEF family of funds, including the GBFF, LDCF and SCCF. The GEF CEO also shared his vision and ambition for the GEF-9 replenishment.

16. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat staff coordinated with the CBD Secretariat and engaged with CBD focal points through multiple events and webinars to raise their awareness on the second programming tranche of the GBFF, which opened on August 12, 2025, and to facilitate access to these additional resources.

17. GEF Secretariat staff participated in multiple events dedicated to supporting eligible countries with their reporting requirements under the Convention and under its Protocols organized by the CBD Secretariat, and UNEP and/or UNDP.

18. CBD Secretariat staff participated in the 69th GEF Council and the 4th GBFF Council meetings.

CBD-related Meetings and GEF Engagement

19. The GEF Secretariat staff participated in the 11th BIOFIN Regional Dialogue for Africa and Arab States organized from June 25 to 27, 2025, in Kigali, Rwanda. The GEF Secretariat clarified the different entry points and processes for countries to receive support from the GEF Trust Fund or the GBFF for the implementation of biodiversity finance plans.
20. On July 2, 2025, the GEF CEO sent a communication to GEF operational focal points to convey the importance of the GEF funding needs assessment carried out by the CBD Secretariat, as mandated by COP 15, to inform the GEF-9 replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.
21. In July 2025, GEF Secretariat staff held a series of webinar in English, French, Spanish and Arabic dedicated to the opening of the second programming tranche of the GBFF. GEF operational focal points were invited by the GEF CEO, while the CBD Secretariat invited focal points of the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol to the CBD.
22. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the [15th Conference of the Contracting Parties](#) to the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), which took place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from July 23 to 31, 2025. GEF Secretariat staff highlighted the GEF's contribution to wetlands through projects harnessing synergies between CBD and RAMSAR. The COP adopted Resolution XV.4 "Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions", which welcomed the decision of the Seventh Assembly of the GEF to approve the establishment of the GBFF.
23. The GEF Secretariat staff organized a virtual consultation on a zero-draft for an enhanced GBFF results framework on July 30, 2025. Along with GEF agencies and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), the CBD Secretariat participated and provided comments. The CBD Secretariat also participated on October 1, 2025, in the virtual consultation on draft GBFF guidelines on tracking financial flows supporting actions by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) for biodiversity.
24. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the steering committees of the GEF-8 biodiversity enabling activities. The second Steering Committee meeting for the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme to Support National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Update, and the seventh National Reports took place on September 4, 2025. Government representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lao PDR, Mexico, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vanuatu, as well as the CBD Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat, UNDP and UNEP took stock of progress to date and provided guidance on an acceleration plan to better support countries finalize their NBSAP and meet the reporting deadline of February 2026. The second Steering Committee of the Umbrella Program to develop biodiversity finance plans took place on October 15, 2025. UNDP, the GEF Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat reviewed progress to date and approved the 2026 workplan.

25. The regional dialogue on biodiversity monitoring and reporting for francophone African countries co-organized by the UNEP, the CBD Secretariat and the GEF from September 3 to 5, 2025, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. GEF Secretariat staff also participated virtually in the Africa regional workshop co-organized by UNEP, the CBD Secretariat and the GEF on reporting under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing on October 13 to 15, 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ratifications and Accessions

26. As of October 31, 2025, there were 196 Parties to the CBD, 173 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 54 Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 142 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD. The list of Parties did not change during the reporting period. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found from [this link](#).

National Reporting

27. GEF support to seventh National Reports to the CBD was approved by the GEF Council in June 2023 as part of the “Umbrella Programme to support the revision and updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the production of the seventh National Reports” (Total GEF Project Financing: \$72,035,000). A total of 139 countries are supported by UNDP and UNEP under this Umbrella Programme with \$450,000 of national grants and additional global technical assistance. Seventh national reports are due in February 2026.

28. GEF support to the first National Reports under the Nagoya Protocol was approved by the CEO in April 2025 as part of the one-step Medium-Sized Project (MSP) “Support to Preparation of the First National Report on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization”. The project was amended in August 2025 to add 19 countries that had not provided a letter of endorsement in time for the first approval. A total of 96 countries are supported by UNEP with \$30,000 of national-level grants and additional global technical assistance (Total GEF Project Financing: \$3,701,250). National reports are due in February 2026.

29. GEF support to the Fifth National Reports under the Cartagena Protocol was approved by the CEO in April 2025 as part of the one-step MSP “Support to Preparation of the Fifth National Reports on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”. The project was amended in October 2025 to add 14 countries that had not provided a letter of endorsement in time for the first approval. A total of 105 countries are supported by UNEP with \$30,000 of

national-level grants and additional global technical assistance (Total GEF Project Financing: \$4,059,825).¹ National reports are due in February 2026.

30. The Convention Secretariat has received no additional sixth national reports since the last report to Council. The list of national submissions received can be found on [this page](#).

31. The GEF Secretariat closely monitors disbursements to countries and the overall roll-out of the Enabling Activities following delays in implementation at start-up, including through active participation in respective steering committees, and regular check-ins on disbursements with agencies and recipient countries.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Summary of Key Activities

32. Engagement with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement process continued during the reporting period. A GEF Secretariat delegation participated in the 62nd session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 62) of the UNFCCC held in Bonn, Germany from June 16 to 26, 2025. Notable additional meetings include the Global Transparency Forum, held from September 3 to 5, 2025 in Songdo, Republic of Korea, and the 2025 Forum and 38th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, held from September 8 to 11 in Rome, Italy.

33. The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC attended the 69th GEF Council virtually, and emphasized the importance of the Baku to Belem Roadmap to \$1.3 trillion moving toward COP 30 and its relevance to the GEF. The UNFCCC Secretariat participated in the second GEF-9 replenishment meeting and the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy meeting held in Botswana from October 7 to 10, 2025 and submitted comments on climate change focal area programming ahead of the meeting. COP 30 guidance and decisions will be addressed in documents prepared for the third GEF-9 replenishment and LDCF/SCCF meetings, to be held in January 2026.

34. The GEF submitted its report to UNFCCC COP 30 on August 6, 2025 after approval by the GEF Council, and submitted the Addendum on the status of National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, and Biennial Transparency Reports on October 30, 2025, after approval by the GEF Council. These documents can be found on the GEF website.²

¹ The list of supported countries can be found on the [GEF website](#) for the following global projects: GEF ID 11907- Support to Preparation of the Fifth National Reports on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and GEF ID 11908 - Support to Preparation of the First National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

² <https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-unfccc-cop30>

SBSTA/SBI 62 and GEF Engagement

35. At SB 62 held in June 2025, the GEF delegation participated in various technical engagements, including mandated and side events as well as bilateral discussions with stakeholders, agencies, and countries.

36. GEF staff conducted bilateral meetings with Parties in relations to negotiations of relevance to GEF, on topics such as provision of financial and technical support, transparency, adaptation matters, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. GEF participated in a mandated event during SB62 titled “Workshop to facilitate the sharing of experiences of developing country Parties in preparing their first biennial transparency reports”, on June 18, 2025, in Bonn, Germany.³

Additional Meetings and Consultations

37. GEF participated in the second Global Transparency Forum, held from September 3 to 5, 2025 in Songdo, Republic of Korea, organized under the #Together4Transparency banner by CBIT-GSP UNEP, UNEP-CCC, UNDP, FAO, UNFCCC, ICAT, and PATPA⁴.

38. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 2025 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) from September 8 to 9, 2025, which focused on Accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture, and the 38th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Finance (SCF) from September 10 to 11, 2025, in Rome, Italy. The SCF produced a streamlined draft guidance document for the consideration of the COP. The document incorporates the submission of parties and compiles the paragraphs on specific issues and topics together in sections.

39. The GEF Secretariat participated virtually in the 31st meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), held from September 9 to 11, 2025, as well as in the 26th meeting of the Advisory Board of the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), which took place from September 12 to 17, 2025.

40. During the UNFCCC SB62 sessions, representatives of the GEF Secretariat briefed the Least Developed Countries Group and the Alliance of Small Islands Developing States (AOSIS) on progress in the development of the LDCF and SCCF Programming Strategy for the GEF-9 period.

41. At the 69th meeting of the GEF Council in June 2025, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC noted that support from the multilateral climate funds (MCFs) to nationally determined contributions and NAPs needed to help transition from ambition to investment and economic transformation. In view of the GEF-9 replenishment, he highlighted the need for creativity given

³ <https://unfccc.int/event/workshop-for-sharing-of-experience-of-developing-country-parties-in-preparing-the-first-biennial>

⁴ <https://climate-transparency-platform.org/events/global-transparency-forum-2025>

the constrained financial environment, to ensure additional funding, strong coordination between envelopes available, and clarity on how these resources can result in the strongest impact on the ground. The GEF CEO and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary held a follow-up bilateral call on July 18, 2025.

42. The GEF Secretariat virtually attended the fifth global dialogue and investment-focused event under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, from May 19 to 20, 2025. The GEF Secretariat participated in the NAP Expo 2025, held in Lusaka, Zambia, from August 12 to 15, 2025, and jointly organized with the GCF and the Adaptation Fund an event titled “Financing for NAPs under the climate funds.”

Ratifications and Accessions

43. As of September 30, 2025, the UNFCCC had been ratified or acceded by 198 Parties, including 197 States and the European Union. The details can be found from [this link](#).

National Reporting

44. The following is the total number of National Communications (NCs) submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of September 30, 2025:

- (a) Initial National Communications: 154
- (b) Second National Communications: 147
- (c) Third National Communications: 116
- (d) Fourth National Communications: 47
- (e) Fifth National Communications: 11
- (f) Sixth National Communications: 2

45. Full details are available at this [UNFCCC website](#).

46. The following is the total number of Biennial Update Reports (BURs) submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of September 30, 2025:

- (a) First Biennial Update Reports: 115
- (b) Second Biennial Update Reports: 46
- (c) Third Biennial Update Reports: 28
- (d) Fourth Biennial Update Reports: 15
- (e) Fifth Biennial Update Reports: 5

47. Full details are available at this [UNFCCC website](#).

48. The following is the total number of BTRs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of September 30, 2025:

(a) First Biennial Transparency Reports: 110

49. Full details are available at this [UNFCCC website](#).

UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Summary of Key Activities

50. While no major UNCCD meetings took place in the reporting period, GEF Secretariat staff actively participated in two workshops of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP) and the UNCCD Business for Land (B4L) Initiative.

51. The Managing Director of UNCCD addressed the Council in June 2025 to provide an update of the progress with the implementation of the convention and decision items on the collaboration with the GEF.

52. On the occasion of the appointment of the new CCD Executive Secretary the GEF CEO welcomed her appointment and expressed his readiness to further enhance collaboration.

CCD meetings and GEF Engagement

53. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the inaugural conference of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP) hosted by the UNCCD Secretariat in Cologne, Germany, from June 23 to 24, 2025. The conference marked a significant step in the establishment of the RGDRP's strategic, operational, and governance frameworks. GEF was selected as a member of the steering committee of the partnership, which will facilitate GEF's engagement with the RGDRP in establishing operational procedures and shaping an investment pipeline that can potentially be aligned with GEF financing related to drought.

54. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the UNCCD Business for Land (B4L) strategy meeting for project and investment planning with a diverse group of private sector, donor and technical partners held in Berlin, Germany, from September 7 to 9, 2025. UNCCD is unique in that incorporates a specific private sector engagement platform under the management of the Convention. As such, the UNCCD has the mandate to continue to develop the B4L Initiative as the main vehicle for private sector engagement in the implementation of the Convention. The working sessions focused on UNCCD processes for private sector recommendations with consultations for the recommendations taking place throughout 2025 and 2026 with a final submission planned at UNCCD COP 17. The GEF plans to be part of these processes.

Ratifications and Accessions

55. As of September 30, 2025, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 Parties, including 196 States and the European Union. The details can be found from [this link](#).

National Reporting

56. The funding support available in GEF-8 for CCD national reporting is \$120,000 per eligible country. The funding is available in order to allow sufficient time for parties to collect and analyze the necessary data for the 2026 reporting deadlines. Further [details on the process are published on the GEF website](#).

57. In preparation for the 2026 reporting process, 133 GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) submitted funding requests through letters of endorsement. To process these requests, UNEP and FAO submitted four and one umbrella projects, respectively. All five umbrella projects, encompassing 133 Parties, were approved during this reporting period. As of September 30, 2025, 65 Parties have completed the due diligence process and signed contracts to receive cash advances and technical assistance in support of their UNCCD reporting efforts.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

58. The GEF CEO and the new Executive Secretary of the UNCCD held an online meeting on August 20, 2025 to discuss ongoing collaboration and emerging opportunities in view of the GEF-9 replenishment, in particular related to (i) private sector engagement in the context of UNCCD's Business for Land Initiative, (ii) collaboration on proactive drought management following the Riyadh Action Agenda and further operationalization of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, and (iii) conceptualization of a rangeland initiative in view of the upcoming UNCCD COP 17 in Mongolia.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Summary of Key Activities

59. The GEF Secretariat, led by the CEO participated in the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention which took place in Geneva from April 28 to May 9, 2025 and included a high-level segment.

60. The Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention attended the 69th Council meeting and participated in the relations with conventions agenda item.

61. The Convention Secretariat participated in the first replenishment meeting in May 2025 as well as the second meeting in October 2025.

Stockholm Convention COP 12 Meeting Outcome and GEF Engagement

62. At COP 12, updated guidance for the GEF in its capacity as the Stockholm Convention’s financial mechanism was adopted. A summary of GEF Secretariat’s engagement at Stockholm COP 12 was provided in the revised June 2025 Council document on Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions.⁵ The guidance received at COP 12 and GEF response is presented in Table 4 of Annex I of this document.

Ratifications and Accessions

63. During the reporting period, there were no new ratifications of the Convention. The current number of ratifications to 186. The status of ratifications is available from this [link](#).

National Reporting

64. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavor to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention’s entry into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of September 30, 2025, the status of Submission of NIPs and updates are as follows.

NIP Phase	Number of Parties that have submitted NIP and NIP updates	Change since the last report
Initial NIP	177	0
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	121	3
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	112	3
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	79	3
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	59	4
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	44	4
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	28	2
NIP Update for COP 10 amendments	4	1

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Summary of Key Activities

65. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention attended the 69th Council meeting and participated in the relations with conventions agenda item.

⁵ 2025, GEF/C.69/06/Rev.1, Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

66. The Executive Secretary attended the first replenishment meeting in May 2025, and Secretariat personnel attended the second meeting in October 2025.

67. Minamata Convention COP 6 took place from November 3 to 7, 2025, with engagement of the GEF Secretariat personnel. An update will be included in a revised document.

Ratifications and Accessions

68. Isreal joined the convention bringing the number of Parties to 153.

National Reporting

69. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has created a website to house national reports from Parties, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), National Action Plans (NAPs) for the ASGM sector, National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention. The GEF provides resources to Parties for the preparation of the MIAs and NAPs.

70. No new reports were submitted during the reporting period. There are currently 82 MIAs submitted, 37 NAPs, four NIPs and 99 first full national reports and 82 second short national reports submitted under Article 21. The second full national reports are due in December 2025.

- MIAs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).
- NAPs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).
- NIPs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).
- Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at this [link](#).

Specific International Programme

71. There were no meetings of the SiP during the reporting period.

Special Programme

72. There were no meetings of the Special Program during the reporting period.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

73. The GEF did not participate in meetings of the Montreal protocol as they overlapped with GEF meetings.

International Waters, including Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Summary of Key Activities

74. This section includes information on activities related to the GEF International Waters (IW) Focal Area support that took place in the period from April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, including support to the BBNJ Agreement. The GEF Trust Fund is part of the financial mechanism for the BBNJ Agreement.

75. On September 19, 2025, the BBNJ Agreement surpassed the necessary 60 Party ratification threshold to initiate entry into force on January 17, 2026 and a first COP to be held within one year. As of September 30, 2025, 74 Parties have ratified the BBNJ Agreement.

76. GEF Secretariat participation over the period included engagement with the BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission, with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), at the UN Oceans Conference and Blue Economy Finance Forum, at the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Annual Consultative Meeting, at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), and with UN-Water and UN-Oceans.

GEF Engagement

77. The GEF Secretariat co-convened and participated in a global workshop on the conservation and restoration of transboundary freshwater ecosystems hosted by the UNECE in Geneva, Switzerland from June 16 to 17, 2025. The GEF Secretariat also participated in the ninth meeting of the Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus on June 18, 2025 also in Geneva, Switzerland. The GEF Secretariat also continues to be an active participant in the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition (TWCC) that is hosted by the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat.

78. The GEF Secretariat participated in intergovernmental dialogues and conferences on ocean conservation and transboundary management of marine resources. This included participation at the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) from June 9 to 13, 2025 in Nice, France. It also included participating in the Blue Economy Finance Forum (BEFF) from June 7 to 8, 2025 in Monaco, one of several convenings that preceded the UNOC. At UNOC and BEFF, the GEF Secretariat participated in over forty side events and held many bilateral meetings with GEF partner countries and other organizations. The GEF Secretariat also participated in the Large Marine Ecosystems Consultation Meeting (LME24) from May 14 to 16, 2025 in Athens, Greece.

79. The GEF Secretariat became a partner of UN-Water in April 2025 and has participated actively, including in-person participation at the UN-Water meeting from September 30 to October 1, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The focus of this meeting was mainly on the roll-out of the first UN-wide System-wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation, on early preparation for the 2026 UN Water Conference to be held from December 2 to 4, 2026 in UAE, as well as a high-level preparatory meeting from January 26 to 27, 2026 in Dakar, Senegal. Similarly, the GEF Secretariat continues to observe UN-Oceans meetings where the BBNJ Agreement is on the agenda. UN-Water and UN-Oceans are inter-agency mechanisms to enhance coordination as UN entities.

80. While beyond the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat observed the International Maritime Organization Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) second extraordinary session from October 14 to 17, 2025 in London, England. The second extraordinary session discussed, with a view for adoption, draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, including the IMO Net-Zero Framework, which was approved by MEPC 83 in April 2025. The MEPC was unable to reach a consensus and agreed to reconvene in one year. The GEF has worked closely with the IMO for nearly three decades, largely through the IW Focal Area, on a range of topics related to protection of the marine environment from shipping, including management of ballast water, hull biofouling, underwater noise, marine litter, and ship emissions.

81. The GEF Secretariat also engaged in other related meetings, including in cooperation with the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN). These included co-convening with IW:LEARN and a range of partners several sessions at the Stockholm World Water Week from August 24 to 28, 2025, participation at the 4th International Symposium on Transboundary Waters in Latin America and the Caribbean from September 30 to October 2, 2025 in Lima, Peru, and the Third Annual Stocktaking Meeting of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (April 8 to 19, 2025 in Istanbul, Türkiye), bringing together Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

BBNJ Agreement Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement

82. From August 18 to 29, 2025 in New York City, the GEF Secretariat participated in the second session of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement (Prep Com II). The second session advanced discussion on governance, including the rules of procedure for the COP, the model and seat of the secretariat, and cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional, and sectoral bodies (IFBs). It also deliberated operationalization of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) and discussed draft terms of reference (ToRs) for an informal expert group to work intersessionally. The financial rules,

including the BBNJ Agreement special fund and voluntary trust fund were also discussed. A third session of the Preparatory Commission will be held from March 25 to April 2, 2026.

83. Directly related to the GEF, the second session advanced discussions on Arrangements with the Global Environment Facility to give effect to the relevant provisions on funding of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction: Aid to discussions and negotiations prepared by the Co-Chairs (A/AC.296/2025/14), which includes a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Council of the Global Environment Facility. It is anticipated that this document will be further discussed at the third session of the Preparatory Commission to be held from March 25 to April 2, 2026.

84. Also discussed under “Other Matters” at Prep Com II was the further consideration by the Preparatory Commission to provide provisional guidance to the ninth GEF replenishment process. In advance of Prep Com II, the GEF Secretariat prepared an information note on the ninth GEF replenishment to inform discussion on this topic. The Preparatory Commission Co-Chairs invited Parties to submit written input on the matter, and a letter from the Co-Chairs on behalf of the Preparatory Commission was sent to the GEF CEO on October 10, 2025.

BBNJ Agreement Additional Meetings and Consultations

85. Since April 1, 2025, the GEF Secretariat has continued to raise awareness among recipient countries on accessing GEF-8 funding for the BBNJ Agreement, including bilateral meetings, briefings, and at a side event during Prep Com II. GEF Secretariat staff have also participated in briefing sessions to explain the role of the GEF Trust Fund as part of the BBNJ Agreement Financial Mechanism. These included in person and virtual participation at meetings hosted by CARICOM, African Group, and non-government organizations.

86. As of September 30, 2025, \$11,898,500 including fees have been approved from the \$34 million allocated by GEF Council for GEF-8 support to the BBNJ Agreement (GEF Council Decision 14/2023). This includes national Enabling Activity funding to 34 countries for ratification support or implementation readiness and a global-regional medium sized project. An additional \$4,599,000 is currently under final GEF Secretariat review for forthcoming approvals, supporting an additional 24 countries. In total, this amounts to \$16,497,500 approved or assigned GEF-8 funding to support the BBNJ Agreement with \$17,502,500 of the GEF-8 funding remaining.

Ratifications and Accessions

87. As of September 30, 2025, the BBNJ Agreement had 145 signatories and 74 Parties, including the European Union. The Agreement was open for signature by all States and regional economic integration organizations from 20 September 2023 until 20 September 2025. Having

met the requirements for entry into force on 19 September 2025, the Agreement will now enter into force on January 17, 2026 and the first COP is to be held within one year.

88. During the April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 reporting period, 52 new Parties ratified the BBNJ Agreement. The current status of signatures and of ratification, accession, acceptance and approval is available from this [link](#).

Relations with Multilateral Climate Funds

Collaboration across funds

89. Collaborative efforts to strengthen complementarity and coherence with the other major multilateral climate funds (MCFs) continued during the reporting period. Following the development during the previous reporting periods of the joint Multilateral Climate Funds Action Plan on Complementarity and Coherence and presentation to respective governing bodies, the four funds continued collaborating ahead of UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil.

90. As in previous years, a joint institutional presence and engagement is ensured through a joint pavilion and events at COP 30 at both strategic and technical levels. In addition to coordinated and complementary engagement with partners and other actors at COP30, the joint pavilion and events aim to enable greater synchronization among the Secretariats.

91. Through the MCF task force and respective working groups, the MCF Secretariats continued technical level discussions on numerous issues, including notably to advance the work of the Collaborative Platform on harmonization of results metrics and indicators, with the GEF Secretariat hosting an in-person meeting of the platform from July 21 to 22 in Washington D.C., United States.

92. The CIF and AF Secretariat participated in-person throughout the Second Meeting for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund from October 7 to 9 2025, and the Second Meeting on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the period of July 2022 to June 2026 on October 10, 2025, in Kasane, Botswana. Additionally, inputs were sought on a gap analysis comparing accreditation standards and policies across the AF, GCF, and GEF, with the intention to inform the GEF Council on potential fast-track options for accrediting new agencies in GEF-9. Early findings indicate that there is substantial alignment between GEF accreditation requirements and those of the GCF and AF in fiduciary, gender, and ESS policies, which is noted in the *Draft Policy Directions*⁶ presented at the second GEF-9 replenishment meeting.

93. Under the MCF Action Plan, the AF, CIF, GCF, and GEF, continued to collaborate in mapping policies related to gender and social inclusion to articulate common elements and

⁶ GEF 2025, [GEF/R.9/09, Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9](#), GEF/R.9/09.

opportunities to ensure meaningful participation, including for indigenous people and women, as well as to explore opportunities for joint capacity-building on gender mainstreaming and inclusion. During the reporting period, the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) was invited to join meetings of the Heads of the Multilateral Climate Funds.

Collaboration between Individual Funds

94. The AF was established under the Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC with the AF Board (AFB) as its operating entity to supervise and manage the fund. Since the 2019, the AF has been formally serving the Paris Agreement. In accordance with Decisions 1/CMP.3 and 1/CMP.4, and in line with the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the Council of the GEF regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), the GEF has continued to provide secretariat services to the AFB in the reporting period through a dedicated team of officials that serve as the AFB Secretariat in a functionally independent and effective manner.⁷

95. In preparation for the AF Board at its 45th meeting scheduled on October 9 and 10, 2025 considered matters related to the arrangements for the transition of the Adaptation Fund to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement. To prepare for the transition, the Board considered memorandum of understanding with the GEF Council regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund exclusively under the Paris Agreement, which would be further revised, in consultation with the GEF, in light of any additional guidance that may be provided by the CMP and/or CMA, as appropriate, regarding the Fund's transition to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement.

96. The AF Board through its secretariat continues to observe the GEF Council meetings to ensure continued complementarity and coherence of its activities and operations. AF secretariat staff participated and contributed to the TAG meeting to provide inputs into the preparation of the GEF-9 programming directions and LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy.

97. Bilateral collaboration between the GEF and AF has continued to increase during this reporting period. This has included increased coordination on collaborative programming of funds for projects to be supported in a complementarity manner. For example, efforts are underway to engaged with a set of countries who have expressed interest in exploring how GEF-managed LDCF and AF can work together more effectively to support them through coordinated upstream programming, streamlined access, and integrated adaptation solutions.

98. The AF secretariat also consulted the GEF Secretariat while preparing revisions to the AF's Strategic Results Framework for consideration by the AF Board. The results team across the multi-lateral climate funds meet periodically and are planning to jointly report on beneficiaries at

⁷ Available at : <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/generic/mou-between-cmo-and-gef-council-regarding-secretariat-services-to-the-afb-2/>

COP30. Continuous engagement on monitoring and results has led to increased coherence between indicators and results frameworks across the climate funds.

99. The AF Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the GEF on issues related to knowledge management. During the Adaptation Futures 2025 Conference, the GEF hosted a session in collaboration with the AF on the sustainability of adaptation interventions after project financing ends. This joint effort reflects the shared commitment of both Funds to foster learning and exchange on long-term resilience outcomes and the factors that enable sustained adaptation impacts beyond project lifetimes.

100. Efforts to advance the implementation of the Long-Term Vision between the GEF and the GCF (LTV) continued during the reporting period. Consultations continued during the reporting period with the NDC Partnership, which assumed the functions of Secretariat of the Taskforce's new Centre for Access to Climate Finance, and GEF Secretariat staff was invited to participate and contribute to the Taskforce's annual steering committee meeting.

101. The GCF and GEF teams also held a knowledge exchange on non-financial risk management practices during this reporting period, to share experiences and explore synergies on this topic at the portfolio and policy levels.

102. Consultations with the CIF continued during the reporting period, including regarding ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The two Secretariats are currently also discussing the organization of a retreat to identify areas of possible joint programming and further in-country cooperation.

Group of 20 (G20)

103. During this period, the GEF Secretariat continued its participation in the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting (ECSWG) under the South African Presidency. The theme for South Africa's Presidency is "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability". This Working Group is intended to advance the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals along the following thematic areas: (1) Biodiversity and Conservation, (2) Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought, (3) Chemicals and Waste Management, (4) Climate Change and Air Quality, and (5) Oceans and Coasts.

104. The GEF Secretariat participated in the in-person second meeting of this Working Group, held over July 14 to 18, 2025. During these discussions, the GEF highlighted its relevance to each topic, focusing on key projects and programs, programming priorities, and track record in delivering global environmental benefits. A draft Ministerial Declaration was also discussed. The GEF hosted a side event titled "*Unlocking Synergies and Scale Impact: Integrated Approaches for Global Environmental Action*" with a focus on, and the participation of, delegates of South Africa and Brazil who discussed their experiences in generating environmental benefits through GEF

financing. The GEF also participated in a UNCCD-organized side event on the Southern Africa Great Green Wall, further demonstrating the GEF's commitment to supporting regional and thematic environmental initiatives.

105. Although it took place two weeks after the end of the reporting period, the GEF participated in the ECSWG Ministerial Meeting held on October 16–17, 2025, where it underscored the alignment of its priorities with the G20 agenda, including along the two Cape Town Ministerial Declarations on crimes affecting the environment and air pollution.

Relations with Other International Institutions

UN Forum on Forests

106. GEF Secretariat continued to actively participate in work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), notably for the preparation of UNFF20 (held on 5–9 May 2025) and its main outcomes: technical discussions on its thematic priorities in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF), namely, Global Forest Goal (GFG) 1, GFG3, and GFG5.

107. Notably the GEF Secretariat attended UNFF20 from May 5 to 9, 2025 to support the CPF engagement and discuss as needed with UNFF member countries. In particular, the GEF participated in two events in plenary on the “Significance of a global hub on data, information, and knowledge on forest financing opportunities and best practices, and the role of the GFFFN Clearing House” and the “Sustaining food and nutrition security in dryland landscapes in the context of agriculture and forest linkages”.

108. The GEF also provided UNFF a report of its main contributions to forest conservation and sustainable use over the year 2024 including the approval of the Amazon, Congo and critical forest biomes Integrated Program mobilizing nearly \$307 million (the biggest Integrated Program of GEF-8) and 43 new stand-alone forest-related projects in 41 countries mobilizing \$312 million.

109. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat also participated in two CPF meetings held on May 5, 2025, and September 4, 2025. The main topics discussed were mainly focused on possible new CPF Joint Initiatives, the finalization of the new CPF Work Plan 2025–2028 to be adopted by UNFF20, new joint initiatives and the planning for major events such as notably UNFCCC COP30 (participating in the meetings of the Organization Committee of the Forest Pavillion).

110. The GEF also contributed to the preparation of the CPF “Policy Day” as part of the Southern Africa Workshop of the GEF-funded Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Integrated Program, to be held on October 2, 2025.

Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS

111. The GEF continues to closely follow the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) with a view to ensuring GEF eligible recipient SIDS are supported to achieve their priorities under the new agenda. In this regard, the GEF has taken part in a series of Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IAGC) on SIDS meetings on June 25 and October 23, 2025, where updates have been provided on the ABAS Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (led by UN-DESA and UN-OHRLS), the SIDS Centre of Excellence, the SIDS Partnership Framework and Global Business Network as well as piloting of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.

Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

112. The GEF participated in Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste First meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, June 24 to 27, 2025. The meeting prepared inputs into the First International Conference, which is scheduled for the end of 2026.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment

113. The INC process has been ongoing to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

114. The GEF participated in the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which took place from August 5 to 14, in Geneva, Switzerland. This was the second opportunity to reach an agreement, after member states did not agree at the fifth session in Busan, Republic of Korea, in December 2024. Member States discussed on the basis of a Chair’s text that was shared in December 2024.

115. The GEF is one of the options to serve as financial mechanism for the new plastics instrument in the Chair’s text published on December 1, 2024. The GEF can also support the other options under consideration. The Chair’s Text includes Article 11 on Financial [Resources and] Mechanisms, with the following presented as paragraph 7:

“The mechanism shall include [a new dedicated independent multilateral fund [and a remediation fund and GEF trust fund]] [an existing fund] [and any other funds or entities] [the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund] operating under [the authority of] the Conference of the Parties. [The Conference of the Parties shall provide guidance on policies, programme priorities [and eligibility criteria for access to] and utilization of financial resources.]”

116. The original text was expanded and the meeting proved limited progress toward a new treaty. The INC Chair issued new texts at the end of the session, but they did not receive support as basis for negotiations. Member states were unable to agree on a new instrument. The session was adjourned, and a resumed session will be convened at a later date to be decided.

Annex I: Decisions and Guidance of the Conferences of Parties to the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD and GEF's Responses

Table 1: Decisions Adopted by CBD COP 16 (Decision 16/33) and GEF's Responses⁸

At COP 16, Parties provided guidance on GEF operations and on specific biodiversity thematic topics. GEF's response is provided in Table 1 below.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Preambular paragraphs</i></p> <p><i>The Conference of the Parties,</i></p> <p><i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the full application of the provisions of Article <u>20</u>, in particular paragraphs 2 and 3, and Article <u>21</u>, in particular paragraphs 1 and 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁹ and of access for all eligible Parties to the financial mechanism for the full implementation of the Convention,</p> <p><i>Welcoming</i> the valuable role of the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim and ongoing basis,</p> <p><i>Reaffirming</i> the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to reviewing periodically the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as reflected in its memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility,¹⁰</p> <p><i>Reaffirming also</i> the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the context of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,</p> <p><i>Noting with concern</i> the lack of financial voluntary contributions to finance the implementation of the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund,¹¹ resulting in limited activities reported for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the integrated and indivisible nature of the components of the Kunming-Montreal Global</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-15-en.pdf>

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁰ Decision [III/8](#), annex.

¹¹ Decision [15/15](#), annex III.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>Biodiversity Framework,¹² which include considerations for its implementation (sect. C of the Framework), implementation and support mechanism and enabling conditions (sect. I) and responsibility and transparency (sect. J),</p> <p><i>Noting with concern</i> that, in the first half of the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, no project proposals were submitted from eligible Parties to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹³ and that only three project proposals were submitted by eligible Parties to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,¹⁴ and recognizing also the need to improve the understanding of possible causes thereof,</p> <p><i>Welcoming</i> the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility through the funding of its biodiversity focal area to support eligible Parties, while emphasizing the need to further scale up the mobilization of resources to respond to the challenges and needs of developing country Parties, in contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and of the Framework,</p> <p><i>Noting</i> that a number of eligible Parties have not yet accessed support from the Global Environment Facility, in particular for the revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans to align them with the Framework,</p> <p><i>Noting also</i> the contributions of the integrated programmes of the Global Environment Facility towards achieving the targets of the Framework and that all those programmes contribute towards achieving Targets 8, 10, 11 and 20 to 23,</p> <p><i>Welcoming</i> the significant portion of other focal area resources under the Global Environment Facility that contribute to the implementation of the Framework,</p> <p><i>Welcoming also</i> the efforts by the Global Environment Facility to harness synergies among other biodiversity-related conventions and to address multiple environmental challenges in a holistic manner,</p>	

¹² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Highlighting</i> the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Convention, and welcoming the support that the Global Environment Facility currently provides to them,</p> <p><i>Noting with appreciation</i> the enhanced support provided by the Global Environment Facility to indigenous peoples and local communities for the implementation of the Framework, including through the aspirational programming share of 20 per cent at the portfolio level by 2030 in the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund,</p> <p><i>Underlining</i> the continued efforts to improve the strategic guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim and ongoing basis,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> that the resources of the Global Environment Facility are allocated in a predictable manner through its Trust Fund as a result of the implementation of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, that improvements have been made in terms of the timely disbursements of funds to eligible Parties and that the streamlining of the Global Environment Facility project cycle is also likely to have a positive impact on the timely disbursements of funds,</p> <p><i>Welcoming</i> the efforts by the Global Environment Facility to support policy coherence and streamlining measures,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the importance of strengthening country leadership, ownership and accountability with regard to activities supported by the Global Environment Facility,</p> <p><i>Recognizing also</i> that, over the years, the Global Environment Facility has taken steps to enhance the quality of its reports,</p> <p><i>Recognizing further</i> and considering the importance of living in harmony with nature and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth to achieve human well-being, a healthy planet and economic prosperity for all people,</p>	
<p>1. <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,¹⁵ and takes note of the report on the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;¹⁶</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>

¹⁵ [CBD/COP/16/8/Rev.1](#).

¹⁶ [CBD/COP/16/7](#). See also [CBD/COP/16/INF/25](#).

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>2. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to encourage eligible Parties to submit project proposals in support of the implementation of Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the implementation plan ¹⁷ and the capacity-building action plan ¹⁸ for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;</p>	<p>The GEF organized a joint side event at COP 16 titled “<u>GEF support to the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols</u>” with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and UNDP. The side event showcased successful country projects and shared information on support opportunities for Target 17 and the Cartagena Protocol. Through the activities of the Country Engagement Strategy, the GEF will continue to promote such proposals.</p>
<p>3. <i>Invites</i> relevant Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to access proactively the notional allocation available for the Protocol from the eighth replenishment programming directions;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>4. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary and the Global Environment Facility to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge in project development and implementation in support of the implementation of Target 13 of the Framework;</p>	<p>The GEF organized a joint side event at COP 16 titled “<u>GEF support to the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols</u>” with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and UNDP, which showcased successful country projects and shared information on support opportunities for Target 13 and the Cartagena Protocol. Through the activities of the Country Engagement Strategy, the GEF will continue to promote such proposals.</p>
<p>5. <i>Invites</i> relevant Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to access proactively the notional allocation available for the Protocol from the eighth replenishment programming directions;</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>6. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to identify, in collaboration with eligible Parties, the causes for the underuse of the notional allocation available for the Protocols and to propose adequate measures to address those causes in order to increase its use and to include related information in the next report of its Council to the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>Noted. Measures to increase programming in support of the Protocols are considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process, under negotiation.</p>
<p>7. <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to explore potential opportunities for maximizing the contribution of its integrated programmes to the implementation of the Framework, including through</p>	<p>Noted. Response(s) are considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process, under negotiation.</p>

¹⁷ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

¹⁸ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
dedicated support to indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;	
8. <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility and eligible Parties to maintain the contribution of the international waters focal area to the implementation of the Framework and to extend that practice to other focal areas, including climate change, land degradation, and chemicals and waste, in line with national circumstances and priorities;	The GEF-8 programming directions promote integration and introduced the use of the Biodiversity Rio Markers and a 60 percent portfolio-level target for biodiversity-relevant programming to track and also incentivize contributions from all Focal Areas to the implementation of the KMGBF. Further response(s) are considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process, under negotiation.
9. <i>Invites</i> developed country Parties, other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties and other governments to participate in the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund to support eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition;	No response needed.
10. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility and its Council to consider how to integrate Mother Earth-centric actions into the programming directions of the Facility and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;	Further response(s) are considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process, under negotiation. The Programming directions of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund includes support to target 19, including target 19(f), through support to implement all financial solutions identified in national biodiversity finance plans and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.
11. <i>Underscores</i> the importance of providing adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties for preparing and updating national reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments;	GEF support has been provided through: i) GEF-7: Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support approved as a set of one-step MSPs for a total GEF funding of \$44.7 million, which all were approved for implementation start by June 2022. It includes approximately \$270,000 per country for national activities and \$3 million for global technical assistance provided by UNDP and UNEP for a total of 138 countries. ii) GEF-8: Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports approved by the

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	<p>Council in June 2023 and endorsed by the CEO in January 2024 (UNDP) and March 2024 (UNEP) for a total GEF funding of \$78.5 million. It includes \$450,000 per country for in-country activities on NBSAP and national and \$6 million of global technical assistance to be provided by UNDP and UNEP for 139 countries.</p> <p>iii) GEF-8: Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans approved by the Council in December 2022 and endorsed by the CEO in November 2023 for a total GEF funding of \$41,627,100. It includes \$300,000 per country and \$8.87 million of global technical assistance provided by UNDP for 91 participating countries.</p>
<p>II Global Biodiversity Framework Fund 12. <i>Expresses its appreciation</i> to the Global Environment Facility for the establishment and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>13. <i>Notes with appreciation</i> the contributions made to the capitalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund by donor countries and other governments, namely, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the government of Quebec, which amounted to about 382 million United States dollars at the time of adoption of the present decision;¹⁹</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>
<p>14. <i>Underscores</i> the need to significantly scale up the mobilization of adequate and predictable resources made available to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to contribute to the timely implementation of the Framework, in particular its Target 19;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>15. <i>Invites</i> developed country Parties, other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties and other countries, as well as the private and financial sectors, philanthropic organizations, non-governmental organizations, non-sovereign entities and other stakeholders, to make or increase their contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in order for it to</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>

¹⁹ See the contributions at <https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/dfi/fiftrustee/fund-detail/gbff>.

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<p>continue its rapid capitalization to support the implementation of the Framework; complement existing support; and scale up financing to ensure the timely implementation of the Framework, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability and the timely flow of funds to contribute to the quantitative ambition set in Target 19 of the Framework;</p>	
<p>16. <i>Regrets</i> the lack of contributions from the private and financial sectors, philanthropic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and requests the Global Environment Facility and the Council of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to explore ways to enhance resource mobilization and report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;</p>	<p>The GBFF is designed to receive contributions from sovereign countries as well as non-sovereign sources which can include sub-nationals, philanthropies, and the private sector. It already received a contribution from a sub-national government (Province of Quebec).</p> <p>The GBFF Secretariat has onboarded a Senior resource Mobilization specialist and is developing a GBFF resource mobilization strategy for consideration by the 5th GBFF Council.</p> <p>The Advisory Group of Non-Sovereign Participants has also been established to provide technical advice to the GBFF Council and the Secretariat on the engagement of non-sovereign contributors in the support of the implementation of the GBFF objectives and the support of the implementation of the GBFF Programming Directions. In line with the December 2024 GBFF Council, the GEF Secretariat opened a call for nominations from Council Members to expand the composition of the Advisory Group to include non-contributing members that may have relevant expertise and insights to inform the Advisory Group deliberations and the Council. The GEF Secretariat considered the nominations submitted and made recommendations of new members for two categories, as a Council decision by mail on November 6, 2025: (i) sub-national or regional public institutions with partnerships or experience in supporting biodiversity action in GBFF</p>

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	<p>recipient countries, and (ii) individual experts in resource mobilization and conservation finance, including innovative financial instruments, private sector finance, and domestic, bilateral, and multilateral support. The GEF Secretariat will confirm appointments once the Council decision is made.</p>
<p>17. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility and the Council of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to explore ways to enhance and strengthen predictability in financing the timely implementation of the Framework, including through multi-annual pledges and consideration of the opportunities of voluntary indicative scales of contributions, and report thereon for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted. Response(s) are considered as part of the GBFF resource mobilization strategy development, to be presented to the 5th meeting of the GBFF Council, and are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, which is under negotiation.</p> <p>The GEF Council adopted, in December 2024, the decision to launch the GEF-9 Replenishment process, which will contribute to enhancing finance available for the timely implementation of the KMGBF.</p>
<p>18. <i>Welcomes</i> the aspirational programming share of 20 per cent by 2030 from the total amount of resources allocated under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to support actions by indigenous peoples and local communities, and urges the Global Environment Facility to ensure that country-driven projects contributing to that target are designed and implemented in consultation and partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities;</p>	<p>Unless modified by the GBFF Council to respond to COP guidance, GEF policies apply to all GBFF Projects. This includes the GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples; and the GEF Policies on Stakeholder Engagement and on Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards, which aim to ensure, consistent with domestic legislation or applicable international obligations, the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in GEF policies, processes, programs and projects that may positively or negatively impact them, or infringe upon their rights and ability to sustain their way of life.</p> <p>The GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples go beyond the 'do no harm' of safeguards and calls for GEF projects to generate positive impacts for Indigenous Peoples. Each GBFF project is reviewed on its contribution to the aspirational 20 percent target of GBFF resources to support actions by IPLCs for biodiversity</p>

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	to ensure that underlying projects are designed and implemented in consultation and partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities. As decided by the 4 th GBFF Council, IPLC guidelines are under development, to be finalized by December 2025, to ensure robust, uniform tracking and reporting on this target.
19. Also welcomes the fact that 25 per cent of the resources of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund is to be programmed through international financial institutions that are agencies of the Global Environment Facility;	Noted
<p>Four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols</p> <p>20. <i>Adopts</i> the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention and its Protocols, as contained in annex I to the present decision, as the main guidance for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2026-June 2030), aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;</p>	Noted.
21. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties information on its responses to the four-year outcome-oriented framework and how those responses contribute to the achievement of each target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as considerations for its implementation (sect. C of the Framework), and the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;	Future reports will include requested information.
22. <i>Encourages</i> the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to include a standing item in the agenda of their meetings for the provision of strategic advice, as appropriate, concerning national actions that may support collaboration, cooperation and synergies, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the Framework, which may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and to request their respective secretariats to communicate such advice to the Executive Secretary of the Convention;	Not directed at the GEF.

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<p>23. <i>Invites</i> the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions to participate in and provide input under the inter-secretariat consultations to be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity when developing the inputs of the Secretariat of the Convention to draft programming directions and policy recommendations for the negotiations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, in which the Facility will participate, in line with paragraph 7 of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	
<p>IV Funding needs assessment</p> <p>24. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to compile and transmit, as soon as practical, the information on funding needs received from all eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition to the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the participants in the negotiations of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;</p> <p>25. <i>Also requests</i> the Executive Secretary to draw upon the experience gained and lessons learned in implementing the terms of reference for the assessment of needs for funding from the Global Environment Facility for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to prepare draft terms of reference for conducting the fifth determination of funding needs for the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF.</p>
<p>V Further guidance to the Global Environment Facility</p> <p>26. <i>Takes note</i> of the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in the annex to document CBD/COP/16/6/Add.1;</p> <p>27. <i>Adopts</i> the additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II to the present decision, and requests the Council of the Global Environment Facility to include information regarding the implementation of the additional guidance in its reports to the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>Future reports to the COP will include requested information.</p>
<p>28. <i>Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF.</p>

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<p>of the Conference of the Parties draft elements for further guidance developed in response to its recommendation 4/4, as contained in the annex to document CBD/COP/16/6/Rev.1 as well as additional text proposals submitted at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;²⁰</p> <p>29. <i>Recalls</i> paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of its decision XII/30 of 17 October 2014, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to liaise with the various biodiversity-related conventions and the Global Environment Facility to explore opportunities to enhance support from the Facility for countries with regard to activities relevant to the implementation of the various biodiversity-related conventions;</p>	
<p>30. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to support partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and to recognize and promote their contributions to the implementation of the targets of the Framework;</p>	<p>Noted. Further measures are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation.</p> <p>The GEF has in place several policies²¹ mandating important principles related to stakeholder consultations and engagement, incorporation of women's equality and youth, respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local communities (IPLCs) as well as avoiding and mitigating any potential negative impacts of GEF financed activities on vulnerable groups and individuals. Moreover, GEF has established dedicated programs such as the longstanding GEF Small Grants Programme, and the more recent Inclusive Conservation Initiative and Fonseca Leadership Program that serve as key GEF programs for CSOs, IPLCs, women and youth groups to access GEF financing, as well as capacity strengthening and technical support to address global environmental issues through decentralized delivery mechanisms. Every GEF project has to develop a Gender Action Plan and seek to</p>

²⁰ See the submission from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, available at www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/6717c9819a0ecc27c502d552/GEF%20Financial%20Mechanism.docx.

²¹ GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement Policy (SD/PL/01, 2017); GEF Policy on Gender Equality (SD/PL/02, 2017); and GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards (SD/PL/03, 2019)

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	<p>create a positive impact within the context it works.</p> <p>The GBFF Council has also expanded observer representation, including two seats each for IPLCs, Women, and Youth, to enable their engagement in the governance of the GBFF.</p>
<p>31. <i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to inform the Conference of the Parties on how it is taking into account the voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms developed under the Convention, recalling in that regard paragraph 6 of decision <u>14/15</u> of 29 November 2018;</p>	<p>COP12/3 adopted the voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms, to which the GEF responded through its update of the <u>GEF Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards</u> policy in 2018, which is now consistent with the voluntary guidelines. As of June 2025, all 18 GEF Agencies are assessed to be in compliance with the <u>GEF Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards</u> .” Please see more details in the “Progress report on GEF agencies’ compliance with GEF minimum standards (GEF/C.69/Inf.06, May 04, 2025), available here.</p>
<p>32. <i>Further requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to explore ways to further improve, facilitate access to and increase direct funding for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, ensuring that those resources support their rights and knowledge systems;</p>	<p>The GBFF uses a dedicated selection criterion “Engagement with and support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).” and portfolio-level target “An aspirational programming share of 20 percent at the portfolio level by 2030 from the total amount of resources allocated under the GBFF is to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity.”</p> <p>The GEF Council approved in December 2024 the second phase of the Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI-2), which is to increase resources, organizational strength, and recognition for IPLCs’ governance and stewardship of territories, lands, waters and resources to deliver global environmental benefits. Implemented by WWF, ICI-2 benefits from a total \$25 million grant from the GEF (including fees).</p> <p>The GEF has established dedicated programs such as the longstanding GEF Small Grants Programme, and the more</p>

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	<p>recent Fonseca Leadership Program that serve as key GEF programs for CSOs, women and youth groups to access GEF financing, as well as capacity strengthening and technical support to address global environmental issues through decentralized delivery mechanisms. Every GEF project has to develop a Gender Action Plan and seek to create a positive impact within the context it works.</p> <p>The GBFF has also expanded observer representation, including two seats each for IPLCs, Women, and Youth.</p> <p>Further measures are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</p>

<p>VI Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism</p> <p>33. <i>Requests</i> that the Global Environment Facility continue to strengthen its efforts to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and, in particular, the Framework, including by mobilizing voluntary contributions from developed country Parties, other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties, other countries and other sources, such as multilateral development banks, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, as well as through sustainable finance instruments, in order to improve the predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds and to contribute to closing the biodiversity financing gap;</p>	<p>The GEF Council approved in the December 2024 the launch of the GEF-9 Replenishment process which will directly contribute to resource mobilization. Further measures will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation.</p> <p>The GBFF is designed to receive contributions from sovereign countries as well as non-traditional partners which can include sub-nationals, philanthropies, and the private sector. It already received a contribution from a sub-national government (Province of Quebec).</p> <p>The GBFF Secretariat has onboarded a Senior resource Mobilization specialist and is developing a GBFF resource mobilization strategy for consideration by the 5th GBFF Council.</p> <p>The Advisory Group of Non-Sovereign Participants has been established to provide technical advice to the GBFF Council and the Secretariat on the engagement of non-sovereign contributors in the support of the implementation of the GBFF objectives and the support of the implementation of the GBFF. Programming Directions. In line with the December 2024 GBFF Council, the GEF Secretariat opened a call for nominations from Council Members to expand the composition of the Advisory Group to include non-contributing members that may have relevant expertise and insights to inform the Advisory Group deliberations and the Council. Specifically, nominations were received from two categories: (i) sub-national or regional public institutions with partnerships or experience in supporting biodiversity action in GBFF recipient countries, and (ii) individual experts in resource mobilization and</p>
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	<p>conservation finance, including innovative financial instruments, private sector finance, and domestic, bilateral, and multilateral support. The Council has been requested to consider recommendations by Council decision by mail, which was circulated on November 6, 2025. The confirmations will be made upon the Council decision.</p>
<p><i>Also requests</i> that the Global Environment Facility:</p> <p>(a) Further increase flexibility in project cycles for all eligible Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, also taking into consideration the most environmentally vulnerable countries in the context of the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article <u>20</u> of the Convention;</p> <p>(b) Consider increasing support for sustained programmatic approaches and capacity-building;</p> <p>(c) Continue to enhance country and local ownership, including by addressing the capacity support available to operational focal points and reviewing the role of its implementing agencies, while considering broadening their base, with a view to promoting more direct engagement of national entities in developing countries;</p> <p>(d) Further explore modalities to enhance the effectiveness of processes for funding activities under the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol and to encourage take-up by countries;</p> <p>(e) Further promote support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including by promoting their leadership of and partnership in projects, recognizing indigenous knowledge as a basis for activities supported by the Global Environment Facility and using targeted indicators to monitor projects, and consider establishing a funding target to support the priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities across the biodiversity programme of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund as whole;</p> <p>(f) Contribute to the implementation of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach for the Framework by continuing to enhance effective engagement with civil society organizations, women and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private</p>	<p>Noted. Measures are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. These elements have been reflected in the draft GEF-9 policy directions²² and Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions, under negotiation.²³</p> <p>On (a), the Council considered in December 2024 a <u>comprehensive package of 35 streamlining measures</u>. Specific measures proposed include: simplifying templates and approval process, streamlining project reviews, better tracking of service standards to enhance awareness of deadlines, improving consistency and scheduling of project monitoring, and guidance to Agencies to clarify project-related costs and their thresholds. Policy amendments were presented to Council at the 69th Council meeting, and further streamlining and efficiency improvement options are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment negotiations. Implementation measures will be reported to the 70th Council in December 2025.</p> <p>On (c):</p> <p>-the GEF started rolling out support to GEF operational focal points (OPFs) in February 2025, starting with Africa through partnerships with the African Wildlife Foundation and the Tropical Biology Association. Support provides</p>

²² GEF, 2025, [Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9](#), GEF/R.9/09.

²³ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

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<p>sector, philanthropic and conservation organizations and other major stakeholder groups;</p>	<p>OFPs with tools and means to effectively monitor and oversee their portfolio of GEF-funded projects.²⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the package of streamlining measures considered by the Council in December 2024 includes a set of measures dedicated to enhancing country ownership (e.g., funding to GEF OFPs to engage national steering committees and collaborate across ministries, to oversee projects, consult with stakeholders; Agencies to organize annual portfolio reviews with the GEF OFPs and the Convention Focal Points). - The GEF is also considering limited accreditation of Agencies. At its December 2024 meeting, the Council requested the GEF Secretariat to develop options to add a limited number of additional agencies to the partnership,²⁵ particularly for LDCs and SIDS, and to strengthen engagement with civil society organizations, NGOs and the private sector.
<p>35. <i>Further requests</i> that the Global Environment Facility:</p> <p>(a) Consider linking implementation outcomes in the Results Measurement Framework of the ninth replenishment of its Trust Fund, annual performance reviews and strategic country cluster evaluations to the objectives of multilateral environment agreements, such as those of the Convention;</p>	<p>Noted. Response are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation.</p>
<p>(b) Enhance efforts to meet all its current reporting requirements, and in that regard include information on projects on biological diversity that it funds outside the Convention and on its response to the needs assessments made by the Conference of the Parties under the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, so as to enable the Conference of the Parties to improve the quality of its guidance;</p>	<p>Noted. Future reports will provide requested information.</p>

²⁴ Updates on the status of this support is shared in table 2 below.

²⁵ GEF, 2024, [Strength of the Partnership: Coverage by Agencies](#), GEF/C.68/10/Rev.01.

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<p>(c) Ensure that reports to the Conference of the Parties include data related to indigenous peoples and local communities, in particular disaggregated data, where available;</p> <p>(d) Explore alternative programming modalities, procedures and processes for facilitating and expediting access to increased financial resources for enabling activities;</p>	<p>Noted. Response is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation.</p>
<p>36. <i>Requests</i> the Council of the Global Environment Facility to explore ways to enhance equitable geographical representation within and among its constituencies, including by giving due consideration to the elements outlined in the report on the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;</p> <p>37. <i>Also requests</i> the Council of the Global Environment Facility to ensure the effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in decision-making, given their contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;</p> <p>38. <i>Invites</i> the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, in the context of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to consider reforms to its governance on the basis of the recommendations by its Council with respect to paragraphs 36 and 37 above;</p>	<p>Noted. Response is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation.</p>
<p>39. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to liaise with the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund, in line with their respective mandates, with a view to enhancing collaboration and support for the Convention, including through the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>The GEF collaborates with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF), and Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to enhance access to finance, focusing on complementarity, coherence, and joint action plans to maximize impact and avoid duplication. Since 2021, the GCF and GEF have a Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity and Collaboration, which aims to build on pilot coordinated engagement and further define specific areas of cooperation and publishes regular progress reports on its implementation.</p>
<p>40. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to prepare draft terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, taking into account the compilation of views referred to in annex III to the present decision, and also ensuring that the review includes the views of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, as well as possible impacts on their rights, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF</p>

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seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;	
41. <i>Also requests</i> the Executive Secretary to commission a study benchmarking the Global Environment Facility against those financial mechanisms or similar instruments of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including with regard to funding modalities and financial performance, criteria and process for funding, access and disbursement modalities, monitoring and evaluation, governance, cost-effectiveness of operations, and legal nature, to inform the discussions of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	Not directed at the GEF. The GEF will provide information, as requested, to support the study.

Annex I

Four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030)

I. Objective

1. The present four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities serves as guidance related to the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁶ and its Protocols for the Global Environment Facility for the ninth replenishment period of its Trust Fund (2026–2030).
2. The framework is provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention with the expectation that it will be used by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the participants in the replenishment negotiations in determining the programming directions and policy recommendations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.
3. The framework is also provided within the context of the mandate of the Global Environment Facility to provide resources for achieving global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the Facility by the Conference of the Parties in its memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility.²⁷
4. The framework uses the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁸ to set the strategic priorities for the financial mechanism of the Convention, which are expected to be operationalized by the Global Environment Facility through its programming directions for the ninth replenishment period.
5. It is recognized that, in the present framework of programme priorities, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols over the period up to 2030.
6. In particular, the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provide the direction for the outcomes of the present four-year framework, bearing in mind that the ninth replenishment period coincides with the four-year period leading up to the 2030 deadline for achieving the targets, while recognizing that each of the three objectives of the Convention should be addressed by the Global Environment Facility in a balanced manner when designing and implementing its

The Four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. The draft GEF-9 programming directions, under negotiation²⁹ have been prepared to reflect it.

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<p>programming directions and policy recommendations for the ninth replenishment.</p> <p>7. The integrated and indivisible nature of the components of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which include considerations for its implementation (sect. C of the Framework), implementation and support mechanism and enabling conditions (sect. I) and responsibility and transparency (sect. J), are recognized in the present framework, as is the operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its complementary support for the Global Environment Facility in facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>8. Recognizing that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, the present framework seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies among the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral environmental agreements and frameworks, relevant to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the mandate of the Global Environment Facility, while recognizing the need to enhance significantly the transparency and reporting thereof.</p>	

²⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁷ Decision [III/8](#), annex.

²⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁹ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

Elements

9. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities for the period 2026–2030 includes the following elements under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols for which effective implementation support is to be provided:

- (a) The balanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;
- (b) The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including each of its goals and targets, which define the outcomes being sought;
- (c) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets on biodiversity;
- (d) National biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments;
- (e) The mechanisms and strategies adopted under the Convention to strengthen the means of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular eligible activities under the following mechanisms:
 - (i) The strategy for resource mobilization for the period 2025–2030;³⁰
 - (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;³¹
 - (iii) The knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;³²
- (f) Eligible activities under the plans of action adopted under the Convention to support the effective and inclusive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including:
 - (i) The plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity (2023–2030);³³
 - (ii) The gender plan of action (2023–2030);³⁴
 - (iii) The global action plan on biodiversity and health;³⁵
- (g) The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³⁶ and the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review;³⁷
- (h) The implementation plan³⁸ and the capacity-building action plan³⁹ for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;⁴⁰
- (i) The Capacity-building and Development Action Plan⁴¹ for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to

These elements are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. They are reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁴³.

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<p>Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;⁴²</p> <p>(j) The guidance on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Protocols, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting, contained in enclosures I and II, respectively.</p>	
<p>III. Strategic considerations</p> <p>10. The programming directions and the policy recommendations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as they relate to the Convention and its Protocols and their financial mechanism established under Article <u>21</u> of the Convention, operated by the Facility on an interim and ongoing basis, in accordance with Article <u>39</u> of the Convention, should:</p> <p>(a) Be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that the projects funded by the Global Environment Facility during the ninth replenishment period of its Trust Fund to support biodiversity objectives are developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis and address the priority needs identified by the eligible Parties;</p> <p>(b) Support the rapid and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including by contributing to a significantly enhanced mobilization of resources, including Global Environment Facility funding that is adequate, predictable, sustainable,</p>	<p>These elements are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. They are reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁴⁵.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>(a) The GEF-9 replenishment process will be transparent and inclusive⁴⁶. As per the GEF instrument, the GEF will continue to fund programs and projects that are country-driven and based on national priorities.</p> <p>(d) Biodiversity-related projects will continue to be requested to demonstrate how they contribute to national biodiversity strategies and action plans</p>

³⁰ Decision 16/34, annex I.

³¹ Decision [15/8](#), annex I.

³² Decision [16/9 B](#), annex.

³³ Decision [15/12](#), annex.

³⁴ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

³⁵ Decision [16/19](#), annex I.

³⁶ Decisions [15/5](#) and 16/31.

³⁷ See decision [15/6](#).

³⁸ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

³⁹ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

⁴⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁴¹ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

⁴³ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

⁴² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁴⁵ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

⁴⁶ GEF, 2024, [GEF-9 Replenishment: Participation, Workplan, and Proposed Timetable](#), GEF/R.09/01.

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<p>timely and accessible to all developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition eligible to receive support through the financial mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols, as determined under the Convention itself and by the Conference of the Parties. While such funding may be provided to eligible Parties by the Global Environment Facility primarily through allocations under programming directions dedicated to the biodiversity focal area, there can be co-benefits for biodiversity arising from other focal areas and global programmes and through the integrated programmes, heightening the need for streamlined programming and an approval process that enables the timely disbursement of resources;</p> <p>(c) Build upon support being provided under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;</p> <p>(d) Take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support the implementation of the Framework;</p> <p>(e) Promote engagement with eligible Parties to support national resource mobilization and the development, implementation and update of national biodiversity finance plans;</p> <p>(f) Promote the achievement of global environmental benefits and sustainable development pathways that ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and are carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including by encouraging coherence and complementarity among the Global Environment Facility focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and chemicals and waste and its integrated programmes, within the context of country-driven priorities and programmes;</p> <p>(g) Reflect the fact that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, may contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the Framework;</p> <p>(h) Promote cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the related objectives of the other conventions served by the Global Environment</p>	<p>and support the implementation of the Framework</p>

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<p>Facility, as well as those of other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, while considering synergies and recognizing the potential contributions of those instruments to the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and to the Framework, and the reciprocated contributions to their own objectives;</p> <p>(i) Reinforce the efforts of the Global Environment Facility to mobilize and engage with all stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;</p> <p>(j) Take into account the important contribution that can be made by transboundary, multi-country, regional and global projects to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the Framework, including towards the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and transboundary, multi-country, regional and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements;</p> <p>(k) Promote and implement, as appropriate, nature-based solutions and or ecosystem-based approaches.⁴⁴</p>	
<p>11. The outcome and indicators for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and associated monitoring processes should be effective in their ability to assess the contribution of programming to the attainment of the three objectives of the Convention, the implementation of its Protocols and the implementation of the Framework, including by measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant activities of the Facility.</p>	<p>Noted. Response is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. Co-benefits for biodiversity are already measured through GEF core indicators and, since GEF-8, Rio Markers for Biodiversity.</p>
<p>12. Over the ninth replenishment period of its Trust Fund, the Global Environment Facility should:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that the level of funding to be made available to eligible Parties is commensurate with the ambition of the Framework and the needs and challenges faced by those Parties;</p> <p>(b) Explore ways to continue to improve access to funding for eligible Parties;</p> <p>(c) Explore ways to further support capacity-building and to improve direct access to funding by indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional</p>	<p>Noted. Response is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation.</p> <p>(b) The Council considered in December 2024 a <u>comprehensive package of 35 streamlining measures</u>. Specific measures proposed include: simplifying templates and approval process, streamlining project</p>

⁴⁴ As defined in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5.

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<p>lifestyles and holding traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, and to support activities and initiatives of women and youth that enhance biodiversity;</p> <p>(d) Provide capacity-building and support for eligible Parties to enhance the full and effective representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in the implementation of the Framework;</p> <p>(e) Further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions with the aim of facilitating the integration of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, the goals and targets of the Framework and the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements into their activities, and encourage those institutions to report on funding contributing to the implementation of those objectives;</p> <p>(f) Continue to enhance its policies regarding governance and the standards that its implementing partners are held to in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results.</p>	<p>reviews, better tracking of service standards to enhance awareness of deadlines, improving consistency and scheduling of project monitoring, and guidance to Agencies to clarify project-related costs and their thresholds. Policy amendments were presented to Council at the 69th Council meeting, and further streamlining and efficiency improvement options are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment negotiations. Implementation measures will be reported to the 70th Council in December 2025.</p>
<p>IV. Reporting</p> <p>13. Following the conclusion of the ninth replenishment of its Trust Fund, the Council of the Global Environment Facility will include in its reports to the Conference of the Parties a description of how the ninth replenishment has responded to the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities and, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and each goal and target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework.⁴⁷</p>	<p>Noted. Future reports will include the requested information.</p>

⁴⁷ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

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<p>Enclosure I</p> <p>Additional elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p> <p>Elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁴⁸ as adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its eleventh meeting, comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Strengthening its funding dedicated to the Cartagena Protocol to support eligible Parties in implementing the Protocol, including its implementation plan⁴⁹ and its capacity-building action plan;⁵⁰ (b) Continuing to provide support to eligible Parties for undertaking activities in the following areas, on the basis of their expressed requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Development and implementation of legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Cartagena Protocol; (ii) Risk assessment and risk management; (iii) Detection and identification of living modified organisms; (iv) Public awareness, education and participation; (v) Socioeconomic considerations; (vi) Liability and redress; (vii) National reporting, information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; (viii) Knowledge-sharing and technology transfer; (ix) Implementation of action plans to achieve compliance with the Cartagena Protocol. 	<p>These elements are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. They are reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵¹.</p>

⁴⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁴⁹ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

⁵⁰ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

⁵¹ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

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<p>Enclosure II</p> <p>Additional elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization</p> <p>Elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,⁵² as adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fifth meeting, comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Supporting eligible Parties with and providing adequate financial resources for the implementation of the Capacity-building and Development Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol;⁵³ (b) Continuing to provide support to eligible Parties for undertaking activities in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Specific priorities for continued capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; (ii) Integration and mainstreaming of access to and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources into policies and activities related to biodiversity and sustainable development; (iii) Development of long-term institutional capacities for managing, monitoring and evaluating national access and benefit-sharing frameworks. 	<p>These elements are considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. They are reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵⁴.</p>

⁵² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁵³ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

⁵⁴ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

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<p>Annex II Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility The Conference of the Parties: <i>Biodiversity and health</i> 1. Requests the Global Environment Facility to provide financial assistance, upon request, to all eligible Parties, including for eligible capacity-building and development activities, for subnational, national and regional projects to implement the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health;⁵⁵</p>	<p>Support to the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. It is reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵⁶. Numerous GEF projects and GEF-8 entry points already contribute to the Global Action Plan and address the nexus between biodiversity and health. It includes, among others, multiple Integrated Programs such as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the Global Wildlife Program, which addresses zoonotic spillover risks and supports One Health approaches -the Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution IP, which addresses the impact of plastic pollution on biodiversity and the impact on health of exposure or ingestion to toxic chemicals contained or collected by plastics -the Sustainable Cities IP, which notably supports the achievement of KMGBF Target 12 and its related health benefits.

⁵⁵ Decision [16/19](#), annex I.

⁵⁶ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

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<p><i>National biodiversity strategies and action plans</i></p> <p>2. Requests the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to provide timely support to all eligible Parties, aligned with national circumstances and needs, upon request, to enable them to revise or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</p>	<p>As part of the Biodiversity Focal Area strategy, resources have been set aside outside the STAR in GEF-7 and GEF-8 to this effect. GEF support has been provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) GEF-7 Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support approved as a set of one-step MSPs for a total GEF funding of \$44.7 million, which all were approved for implementation start by June 2022. It includes approximately \$270,000 per country for national activities and \$3 million for global technical assistance provided by UNDP and UNEP for a total of 138 countries. ii) GEF-8 Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports approved by the Council in June 2023 and endorsed by the CEO in January 2024 (UNDP) and March 2024 (UNEP) for a total GEF funding of \$78.5 million. It includes \$450,000 per country for in-country activities on NBSAP and national and \$6 million of global technical assistance to be provided by UNDP and UNEP for 139 countries. <p>The GEF Secretariat has been continuously engaging with agencies to ensure the support provided is aligned with national circumstances and needs, and to speed up the roll-out of corresponding support.</p>

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<p><i>Clearing-house mechanism</i></p> <p>3. Requests the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, to consider funding requests from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, to enable them to implement the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030;</p>	<p>In accordance with its mandate, the GEF will consider such funding requests as part of country-driven projects when activities to be supported also contribute to the generation global environmental benefits.</p>
<p><i>Knowledge management</i></p> <p>4. Requests the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, to provide support for knowledge management in country-driven projects;</p>	<p>Knowledge management is a key component of all projects and programs supported by the GEF, as detailed in annex 16 of the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy.⁵⁷ The GEF will continue to support knowledge management as a cross-cutting element in country-driven projects to support the achievement of higher-level goals and generate global environmental benefits.</p>
<p><i>Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer</i></p> <p>5. Requests the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to support in all eligible Parties country-driven projects that include technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁵⁸</p>	<p>All GEF investments provide significant support to capacity building and may include technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer as part of country-driven projects designed to achieve higher-level goals and generate global environmental benefits.</p>
<p>6. Also requests the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and in accordance with their mandates, and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and other funds are invited, to support, as appropriate, the operationalization and eligible activities of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition as part of country-driven projects;</p>	<p>As part of eligible country-driven projects, countries can use and allocate STAR or GBFF resources to regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to help achieve higher-level project goals and generate global environmental benefits.</p>

⁵⁷ GEF, 2020, Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy

⁵⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

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<p data-bbox="203 233 907 296"><i>Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i></p> <p data-bbox="203 302 907 617">7. Requests the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to contribute to the development and implementation of national biodiversity monitoring systems, including through capacity-building and development, to support the reporting efforts of Parties, in response to requests by all eligible Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and according to its mandate;</p>	<p data-bbox="930 233 1421 407">Support to national biodiversity monitoring systems is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. It is reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵⁹.</p> <p data-bbox="930 413 1421 793">Assessment of monitoring systems and development of monitoring action plans were part of the menu of activities countries could pursue under the GEF 7-Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support. Capacity building for using KMGBF headline and other indicators is included as part of the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports.</p>

⁵⁹ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</i></p> <p>8. Requests the Global Environment Facility, and invites other relevant funds, to continue to make funds available to Parties in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House and national biosafety websites;</p> <p>9. Also requests the Global Environment Facility to assist eligible Parties by providing timely access to the means of implementation at the scale required to cover the scope and speed of the assistance needed, including for strengthening the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, establishing regional networks of laboratories, undertaking capacity-building activities and developing or acquiring certified reference materials, and urges Parties to submit appropriate proposals in that context to the Global Environment Facility to enable support for such activities;</p> <p>10. Further requests the Global Environment Facility:⁶⁰</p> <p>(a) To make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;⁶¹</p> <p>(b) To further explore modalities to reform its operations, including by considering how to increase funds dedicated to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the use of global and regional projects, in such a manner as to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities effectively in operating the financial mechanism for the Protocol on an interim and ongoing basis, and report on those matters to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventeenth meeting;</p> <p>(c) To consider the relevance of creating a stand-alone finance window for biosafety, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its twelfth meeting;</p> <p>(d) To simplify the process for the submission of biosafety project proposals;</p> <p>(e) To facilitate capacity-building activities, including through webinars, on designing biosafety projects;</p>	<p>Response is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. It is reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁶².</p> <p>On (e), the GEF organized a joint side-event to COP 16 with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and UNDP "<u>GEF support to the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols</u>" which showcased successful country projects and shared information on support opportunities for Target 17 and the Cartagena Protocol. Through the activities of the Country Engagement Strategy, the GEF will continue to promote such proposals.</p>

⁶⁰ The requests in subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c) of decision CP-11/2 have been included in enclosure I of annex I to the present decision, as recommended by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

⁶¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁶² GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization</i>⁶³</p> <p>11. Requests the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its funding dedicated to supporting eligible Parties in implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;⁶⁴</p> <p>12. Also requests the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate in a timely manner the relevant processes to ensure that support for the preparation of the first national reports is provided to Parties that submit their letters of endorsement;</p> <p>13. Further requests the Global Environment Facility to examine options to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in order for the Global Environment Facility to be able to fulfil its responsibilities in operating the financial mechanism for the Protocol on an interim and ongoing basis in the most effective manner, and to report on this matter to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.</p>	<p>Response is considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process, under negotiation. It is reflected in the draft GEF-9 programming directions⁶⁵.</p>

⁶³ The requests recommended in subparagraphs 3 (a), (b) and (e) of decision [NP-5/2](#) are reflected in paragraphs 12, 11 and 13 of annex II, respectively. The requests recommended in subparagraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the same decision have been included in subparagraphs (a) and (b), respectively, of enclosure II to annex I to the present decision, as recommended by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. The invitation recommended in paragraph 8 of decision [NP-5/3](#) has also been included in subparagraph (a) of enclosure II to annex I to the present decision.

⁶⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁶⁵ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/08.

Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 29 and CMA 6 and GEF’s Response

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF’s Response
COP 29 Decisions (2024)	
Decision 2/CP.29: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 20: <i>Recalls</i> concerns about the working modalities of the Standing Committee on Finance for preparing the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism in accordance with its mandate, and the request to Parties and other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to provide elements for the draft guidance well in advance of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate in this regard;</p>	<p>This is addressed to Parties and other constituted bodies.</p>
Decision 3/CP.29: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Welcomes</i> : (h) The ongoing efforts of the Green Climate Fund, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds, to enhance access to climate finance in line with paragraph 5 below with a view to scaling up successful projects, maximizing their impact and strengthening coherence;</p> <p>Paragraph 5: <i>Invites</i> the Board to ensure that efforts to enhance coherence and complementarity do not restrict the access of developing countries to resources or reduce the finance available to them;</p>	<p>While this guidance is for the GCF Board, the reference to the ongoing collaborative efforts among the multilateral climate funds, as well as the invitation to ensure that access of developing countries to resources is not restricted, is noted.</p>
Decision 4/CP.29: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Notes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session,⁶⁸ including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance received from the Conference of the Parties, and <i>welcomes</i> the approval by the Council of the Global Environment Facility of several work programmes</p>	<p>Noted, and appreciates the welcoming of the Work Programs approved by Council.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2:</p>	

⁶⁶ COP 28 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-29>

⁶⁷ CMA 6 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-6>

⁶⁸ UNFCCC, 2024, Report of the GEF to the COP Note by the Secretariat, Addendum, FCCC/CP/2024/8/Add.1.

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the context of programming for the climate change focal area under its ninth replenishment, to consider, inter alia:</p> <p>(a) Working with developing countries on ways of incorporating just transition elements into national climate plans and programmes;</p> <p>(b) Working with developing countries on establishing nationally determined mechanisms to facilitate coordination of support received;</p> <p>(c) Ways of increasing the contribution of the Global Environment Facility project portfolio to adaptation, as appropriate, in line with its mandate;</p>	<p>The invitation to consider the elements listed in this paragraph is noted. The GEF-9 Replenishment process is underway and the first draft programming strategy for the Climate Change Focal Area, as included in the document "Draft GEF-9 Programming Directions", which was presented to and considered by the participants of the GEF 9 replenishment negotiations during the first GEF-9 Replenishment Meeting held in May 20-21, 2025, and during the Second Replenishment Meeting held in Kasane, Botswana, from October 7 to 9, 2025, addresses the COP guidance as follows⁶⁹:</p> <p>a) Support for just transition elements and their incorporation into national climate plans and programs is explicitly included and configured as eligible.</p> <p>b) Support for the design, establishment or implementation of nationally determined coordination mechanisms, such as country platforms, is also explicitly configured as eligible. Interested countries will be able to access climate change resources for this purpose. This is an area of interest and focus, which the GEF has already engaged with substantially in GEF-8. More specifically, the GEF has participated in Country Platform pilots in several countries, increasingly organized in cooperation with IMF, World Bank, and regional development banks, including in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, and Seychelles. For more details, please refer to Section 3 of Part II - Key Updates, of the GEF report to UNFCCC COP30.</p> <p>c) The GEF will continue to promote maximization of climate adaptation co-benefits in the context of programming of GEF Trust Fund resources, across all the</p>

⁶⁹ GEF, 2025, Draft GEF-9 Programming Directions, GEF/R.9/08.

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
<p>(d) Supporting the development of pipelines of projects in line with national plans and strategies; (e) Ways of supporting developing countries in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and/or arrangements, as appropriate, for climate action, in line with needs and priorities of developing country Parties;</p> <p>(f) Consulting with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network on technology-related elements of the programming;</p>	<p>focal areas. The GEF also continues to implement the STAP guidance on climate risk screening for projects financed through the GEF Trust Fund. In addition, as outlined in the draft GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF Fund and Operational Improvements, the LDCF/SCCF is considering options to enhance and increase the development of Multi-Trust Fund projects between GEF TF and LDCF/SCCF to enable larger and more impactful programming with adaptation outcomes.</p> <p>d) & e) The GEF will continue to engage with recipient developing countries throughout the programming cycle to support the development of pipelines of projects that reflect national priorities and are aligned with the GEF programming directions. The GEF Country Engagement Strategy (CES) global program is specifically designed to support this process, and to support developing countries in strengthening their institutional capacity and arrangements to effectively plan, design and execute climate and environment-related investments and regulatory environment reforms.</p> <p>f) The UNFCCC is an observer to the GEF replenishment negotiations, as described in the Planning Note for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund⁷⁰. Inputs into the replenishment process and documents on matters concerning the UNFCCC, including those related to scope of work of the Technology Executive committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), may be provided by the representative of</p>

⁷⁰ GEF, 2025, GEF-9 Replenishment: Participation, Work Plan and Proposed Timetable, Planning Note for the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, GEF/R.9/01.

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
<p>(g) Continuing to provide technical support for developing country Parties for their preparation of national communications, recognizing that such support is based on technical considerations and should enhance the technical capacity of countries;</p>	<p>the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat received comments by the UNFCCC Secretariat on June 18, 2025. Such submission focused on technology related matters and was titled "Inputs by the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network on technology-related elements of the programming for the climate change focal area." These comments were considered in the revised replenishment documents submitted to the second meeting of the GEF-9 Replenishment in October 2025. The Policy Directions and Policy Recommendations documents are expected to be approved at the GEF-8 Assembly to be held in May/June 2026.</p> <p>In addition, the first step of the replenishment process includes the gathering of the GEF Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs). The TAGs met in February 2025 to discuss the scope and content of the Draft GEF-9 Programming Directions.⁷¹ An invitation to participate in the TAG meetings was extended to the CTCN, as the implementation arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism.</p> <p>g) Support for the preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) is core to the mandate of the GEF as operating entity of the financial mechanism. As such continuation of provision of financial resources to provide such support is included in the Draft GEF-9 Programming Directions, as part of the climate change focal area set aside.⁷²</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Welcomes</i> the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate</p>	<p>This invite is noted. The ongoing efforts of the multilateral climate funds to enhance their collaboration and coherence are</p>

⁷¹ GEF, 2025, *Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions*, GEF/R.9/05.

⁷² Ibid.

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<p>Investment Funds, with a view to enhancing developing countries' access to climate finance, scaling up successful projects, maximizing the impact of climate finance and strengthening coherence and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to ensure that efforts to enhance coherence and complementarity among climate funds do not restrict the access of developing countries to resources or reduce the finance available to them;</p>	<p>indeed aimed at increasing and simplifying access to climate finance resources from the climate funds by developing countries.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to contribute to improving the coherence of and coordination across the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage in line with decisions 1/CP.28 and 5/CMA.5;</p>	<p>As part of the development of the GEF's programming strategy on climate change adaptation for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) during the GEF-9 period, a representative from the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) was invited to participate in the strategy development process.</p> <p>The secretariats of both the GEF and FRLD are actively coordinating to ensure coherence and collaboration between the two institutions. They have been exchanging information on relevant policies and operational frameworks and exploring options for cooperation. This includes collaboration as part of the FRLD's initial "Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM)" phase. The GEF has also offered to support the FRLD in its early operations, pending further development of specific arrangements.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Also Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue ensuring that its efforts to enhance coherence and complementarity with other climate funds do not result in restricted access to resources by developing countries or reduced availability of finance for them;</p>	<p>The request is noted. The ongoing efforts of the multilateral climate funds to enhance their collaboration and coherence are indeed aimed at increasing and simplifying access to climate finance resources for developing countries, rather than restricting or reducing availability of such resources.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to ensure that a broad range of implementing agencies are engaged in its programming in order to reduce concentration of projects among few implementing agencies and <i>also urges</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the context of its review of</p>	<p>Under the broader streamlining exercise, the GEF Secretariat is implementing a variety of measures to engage all implementing agencies and enhance Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)</p>

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<p>the Global Environment Facility partnership, to consider national and regional entities in developing countries in all regions, with a focus on underserved regions, when expanding the number of implementing agencies;</p>	<p>and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) programming, encourage active participation by agencies in project preparation, implementation and supervision with close collaboration and coordination with countries' Operational Focal Points (OFPs). These measures are reflected in changes and revisions to the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy⁷³.</p> <p>Under the GEF-9 negotiation process, replenishment Participants are considering a set of policy reforms as included in the GEF-9 Draft Policy Directions document that was presented during the GEF-9 First Replenishment Meeting, in May 2025, and during the Second Replenishment Meeting, in October 2025.⁷⁴ Proposed policy adjustments aim to strengthen accessibility to GEF funding and streamline policy requirements, including by expanding the cohort of implementing Agencies in specific instances, enhancing support for country platforms, and improving collaboration across national institutions. This will involve scaling up capacity-building initiatives and deepening country engagement further. These efforts aim to further empower countries to take ownership of their environmental agendas while ensuring equitable and rapid access to GEF resources. The Policy Directions for GEF-9 and GEF-9 Policy Recommendations documents are expected to be approved at the GEF-8 Assembly to be held in May/June 2026.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: Further urges the Global Environment Facility to consider ways of strengthening local capacities and country ownership in its provision of support;</p>	<p>Building on GEF-8 progress, the GEF is enhancing the capacity of OFPs by providing dedicated capacity-building and technical</p>

⁷³ GEF, 2025, [Policy Amendments to Streamline the GEF Project Cycle](#), Council Document GEF/C.69/12.

⁷⁴ GEF, 2025, [Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9](#), GEF/R.9/06 (first draft). And GEF, 2025, [Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9](#), GEF/R.9/09 (second draft).

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	<p>assistance. This includes training, resources, financial support for national coordination, international event participation, and South-South twinning opportunities. Many OFPs rely on GEF Agencies for information, and frequent turnover challenges continuity. The GEF is providing support to enable OFPs to join supervision missions, organize field visits, and contribute to project performance reports. A summary of efforts to date to provide such support during the reporting period is shared in the response to guidance provided under paragraph 15 below and in section IV.3 of the GEF report to UNFCCC COP 30.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the GEF organized six regional training workshops in April, May, and September 2025, targeting capacity building for OFPs, respectively in Africa (4 workshops), Asia (1 workshop), Latin America and the Caribbean (1 workshop), and in the Pacific region (1 workshop), covering 106 countries.⁷⁵</p>
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Notes with concern</i> the absence of a pledging session for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund at this session of the Conference of the Parties owing to the small number of pledges, highlighting the importance of increased support for both Funds, and recalling paragraph 8 of decision 17/CP.27, while acknowledging approval of the largest ever Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund work programme in fiscal year 2024, with USD 382.32 million allocated to 31 projects and programmes under the Least Developed Countries Fund and USD 24.87 million to five projects under the Special Climate Change Fund, totalling USD 407.19 million across 36 projects and programmes;</p>	<p>Appreciate the acknowledgment of the largest ever programming in a fiscal year. The concern about the financial situation has been shared in LDCF/SCCF Council meetings.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to further streamline the processes of the Least Developed Countries</p>	<p>The discussions on the draft GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF for</p>

⁷⁵ GEF, 2025, "GEF and AWF roll out regional training for Operational Focal Points from 23 African countries," GEF Newsroom.

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<p>Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to simplify access for eligible countries, as appropriate;</p>	<p>the GEF-9 period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030 and Operational Improvements will explore different options including on issues of access, governance, simplification of procedures and resource mobilization. The ongoing streamlining efforts will continue, with GEF Council deliberations.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Welcomes</i> the ongoing collaboration of the Global Environment Facility with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and encourages the Global Environment Facility to consider opportunities for scaling up programmes focused on technology and innovation;</p>	<p>This is noted. Innovation and technology development and transfer continues to be at the core of the GEF's provision of support. Innovation and technology potential is one of the criteria the GEF uses to assess funding proposals. GEF-8 programming is supporting developing countries to advance their climate investment priorities in areas with high innovation potential, such as zero emission transport, green hydrogen and battery storage, early warning systems, and innovative financing solutions. As such, GEF continues to consider opportunities to scale up programming in this area, and welcomes funding proposals from countries and implementing agencies that address national priorities related to innovation and technology transfer, including those intended to implement solutions identified through TNAs.</p> <p>Specifically on climate adaptation, the GEF has continued to finance the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation. This program is a successful global initiative aimed at accelerating climate adaptation through innovative solutions. It is designed to catalyze innovation and harness the power of private sector actors to enhance the impact of climate adaptation financing. It focuses on testing and validating scalable and bankable investment models and technologies that can be replicated and expanded across different regions. So far, the program has invested \$40 million in 23 pilot initiatives, over three calls for</p>

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	projects. One of these projects is implemented in partnership with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN).
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider areas for improvement in the context of the gender-responsiveness of its work, taking into account relevant insights, including the summary report of the 2024 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance;⁷⁶</p>	<p>The GEF participated in the 2024 Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance. The GEF continues to implement its policy on Gender Equity and to incorporate gender into its programs and activities.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to work to ensure that all its implementing agencies fully comply with its policy on gender equality⁷⁷ in implementing climate projects funded by the Global Environment Facility in order to help ensure equal opportunities for women and men in terms of participating in, contributing to and benefiting from activities financed by the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>The GEF has recognized gender equality as a cross-cutting priority that is integral to the GEF's ability to achieve global environmental benefits. It has made, together with GEF Agencies, significant progress on gender mainstreaming over the past years. The GEF Policy on Gender Equality outlines a set of mandatory requirements for mainstreaming gender throughout the GEF project cycle. The GEF Secretariat consistently screen project proposals against these requirements throughout the project cycle, including at initial PIF stage, at CEO Endorsement stage and during implementation. The policy requires Agencies to submit the following documents at PIF stage: an Initial gender-responsive stakeholder consultations and analysis, and a socio-environmental pre-screening. At CEO endorsement stage, GEF Agencies are required to submit a stakeholder consultations report, a fully developed gender analysis and action plan, a stakeholder engagement plan, sex-disaggregated indicators, and a social/environmental screening. Finally, during the implementation period, GEF Agencies submit annual project</p>

⁷⁶ UNFCCC, 2024, Report of the Standing Committee on Finance: Addendum – Summary report of the 2024 Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance, FCCC/CP/2024/6/Add.5–FCCC/PA/CMA/2024/8/Add.5.

⁷⁷ GEF, 2017, Gender Equality Policy, OP/PL/03.

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	implementation reports, mid-term evaluation and terminal evaluations, which include updates on gender-related elements and monitoring on progress with gender-related project indicators. More information on the GEF approach to gender issues is available in the 2024 GEF publication "Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF Project and Programs." ⁷⁸
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to clearly outline in its work programmes how Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities can meaningfully engage in the development of Global Environment Facility programmes and projects and benefit therefrom;</p>	<p>Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) can engage in the GEF's work programs in several meaningful ways, including, among others:</p> <p>(i) Advisory and decision-making at GEF: The Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Group (IPAG), created in 2012, enables IPLCs leaders to advise the GEF on policy, strategy, and program implementation. IPAG promotes knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and ensures IPLCs' voices shape GEF's directions, including compliance with Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). They also participate in the GEF's council sessions.</p> <p>(ii) Rights-based policies and safeguards: GEF applies strong environmental and social safeguards, upholding instruments like the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and implementing the FPIC in all projects affecting Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the Project Identification Form, CEO endorsement, mid/annual term reports and finalization stages. The GEF, also in 2012, created Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples⁷⁹, and in 2025 it is working to update these principles and guidelines.</p> <p>(iii) Targeted finance to indigenous-led initiatives: although targeting the GEF biodiversity portfolio, such finance also has relevance to climate change through co-</p>

⁷⁸ GEF Secretariat, 2018, GEF Guidance on Gender Equality.

⁷⁹ GEF, 2012, Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, GEF/C.42/Inf.03/Rev.01.

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	<p>benefits, including for landscape level activities. Portfolio-level aspirational target has been set at 20 percent of resources allocated to indigenous-led biodiversity projects through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. The Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) funds site-based and self-determined conservation efforts by IPLCs. The second phase (ICI2), launched in 2024, expands this support with a \$22.5 million budget and the call for proposals has been launched in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April, 2025.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of developing countries graduating from least developed country status by continuing to provide approved funding through the Fund until the completion of projects approved by the Least Developed Countries Fund Council prior to those countries' graduation from least developed country status and also requests the Global Environment Facility to consider developing further measures to help ensure this smooth transition for recently graduated least developed countries;</p>	<p>This request is well noted. The draft GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF for the GEF-9 period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030 and Operational Improvements proposes support measures to help ensure smooth transition for recently graduated LDCs, in response to this COP guidance. It is under negotiation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Further requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the building of capacity in developing countries with a view to facilitating improved access to and use of Global Environment Facility resources, facilitating knowledge-sharing and South–South learning on Global Environment Facility projects and exploring areas for further collaboration;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to place significant emphasis on supporting developing countries in building their capacity to effectively access and program climate change resources. Over the reporting period, the GEF, through its Country Engagement Strategy, continued to provide upstream support for country focal points and government institutions to ensure timely programming of GEF-8 resources. A summary of Country Engagement Strategy activities is provided in more detail under section IV.3 of the GEF report to UNFCCC COP 30.</p> <p>These meetings are important opportunities for countries to interact directly with GEF secretariat staff, to receive training on GEF policies and operational modalities, to benefit from</p>

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	<p>South-South exchanges with other countries within the region and to enhance portfolio management capacities.</p> <p>Section II.4 of the GEF report to UNFCCC COP 30 also provides updates on GEF-8 Integrated Programs and their contributions to knowledge-sharing and South-South learning, which are promoted notably as part of their regional and global knowledge coordination platforms.</p>
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Decides</i> to modify the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Global Environment Facility,⁸⁰ as outlined in the annex, for consideration and approval by the Council of the Global Environment Facility before the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2025), thereby making the revised memorandum of understanding effective upon the Council's approval, and ensuring that the subsequent guidance from the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement is provided to the Global Environment Facility annually until their thirty-first (November 2026) and eighth (November 2026) sessions respectively, and biennially thereafter, and also at sessions held in the year immediately preceding the initiation of discussions on new replenishments;</p>	<p>The 69th GEF Council considered and approved an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the GEF, which operationalized the guidance provided in Paragraph 16.⁸¹</p>
<p>Paragraph 17: <i>Confirms</i> that guidance may be provided outside the biennial cycle referred to in the modification to the memorandum of understanding as outlined in the annex upon request by a Party consistent with rules 9–13 of the draft rules of procedure⁸² being applied, as well as at each session preceding the final year of each replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>This point is well-noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility</p>	<p>This invitation is for Parties.</p>

⁸⁰ Contained in decision 12/CP.2, annex.

⁸¹ GEF, 2025, Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs, GEF/C.69/Joint Summary.

⁸²UNFCCC, 1996, Draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies, FCCC/CP/1996/2.

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via the submission portal no later than 16 weeks prior to the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties;	
<p>Paragraph 19: <i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 18 above in preparing its draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirtieth session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its seventh session (November 2025);</p>	This request is for the Standing Committee on Finance.
<p>Paragraph 20: <i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision;</p>	The GEF report to COP 30, and specifically its Table 1, "Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 29 and CMA 6, Conclusion of SBI 61 and GEF's Response", includes information on how the GEF has taken steps to implement the guidance that was provided at COP 29.
<p>Paragraph 21: <i>Takes note</i> of decision -/CMA.6⁸³ and decides to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 2–6 of that decision⁸⁴;</p>	Noted.
<p>ANNEX: Modification to the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility Paragraph 3: For the existing paragraph 3 <i>substitute</i> 3. The Conference of the Parties will communicate to the Council of the Global Environment Facility any policy guidance approved by the Conference of the Parties concerning the Financial Mechanism: (a) Annually after each of its sessions, until the end of 2026, and biennially thereafter, after every other session; (b) After each of its sessions immediately preceding the final year of each replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	As noted above, the 69 th GEF Council considered and approved an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the GEF, which operationalized the guidance provided in Paragraph 16. ⁸⁵

⁸³ Draft decision entitled "Guidance to the Global Environment Facility" proposed under agenda subitem 11(d) of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its sixth session.

⁸⁴ In accordance with decision 1/CP.21, para. 61.

⁸⁵ GEF, 2025, Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs, GEF/C.69/Joint Summary.

GEF, 2025, [Draft Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, GEF/C.69/10](#)

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(c) Where applicable, after any session not referred to in paragraph 3(a–b) above, should the Conference of the Parties decide to do so.	
Decision 7/CP.29: Gender and climate change	
<p>Paragraph 20: <i>Encourages</i> Parties and relevant public and private entities to strengthen the gender responsiveness of climate finance with a view to further building the capacity of women and for implementation work under the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan, and in order to facilitate simplified access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations as well as for Indigenous Peoples, especially women, and local communities;</p>	While this guidance is directed to Parties in addition to relevant public and private entities, it is nonetheless noted.
<p>Paragraph 25: <i>Encourages</i> Parties, the secretariat and relevant organizations, in implementing the enhanced Lima work programme on gender, to fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change;</p>	While this guidance is directed to Parties, the secretariat and relevant organizations, it is nonetheless noted.
Decision 9/CP.29: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility under the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, including for undertaking technology needs assessments, supporting the regional climate technology transfer and finance centres and piloting priority technology projects aimed at scaling up the level of investment in technology transfer;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Requests</i> the secretariat, under the guidance of the Technology Executive Committee and in consultation with the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixty-fourth session (June 2026), on the evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme, to take stock of progress, challenges, and successes in and lessons learned from implementing the Poznan strategic programme;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Also requests</i> the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider the report referred to in paragraph 2 above with a view to recommending a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the</p>	This request is for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider.

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Parties at its thirty-first session (November 2026) with the aim of supporting the implementation of activities, such as those identified and prioritized in developing countries' nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, technology needs assessments, technology action plans and long-term strategies, and informing the technology implementation programme; ⁸⁶	
Decision 11/CP.29: Terms of reference for the fifth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Invites</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, representatives of relevant processes under the Convention and other non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 28 February 2025 views on the fifth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries based on the terms of reference contained in the annex;</p>	Noted.
<p>ANNEX: Terms of reference for the fifth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention <i>*See full annex text as needed in decision 11/CP.29</i> V. Information sources 5. Information sources that could be drawn on in the fifth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention are, inter alia: (e) Annual reports of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;</p>	The GEF report to the COP is made available each year and publicly accessible.
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	This invitation is noted. The GEF stands ready to support Parties, including through the provision of financial resources for capacity building, in their taking action across the areas covered by the recommendations included in the "Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building" ⁸⁷ .
<p>Paragraph 6:</p>	Noted.

⁸⁶ UNFCCC, Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), 2023, Decision 1/CMA.5, FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/16/Add.1, para. 110.

⁸⁷ UNFCCC, 2024, Annual Technical Progress Report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, FCCC/SBI/2024/19.

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<p><i>Reiterates</i> the importance of reforming the multilateral financial architecture⁸⁸ and underscores the need to remove barriers and address disenablers faced by developing country Parties in financing climate action, including high costs of capital, limited fiscal space, unsustainable debt levels, high transaction costs and conditionalities for accessing climate finance;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Reaffirms</i>, in this context, Article 9 of the Paris Agreement and decides to set a goal, in extension of the goal referred to in paragraph 53 of decision 1/CP.21, with developed country Parties taking the lead, of at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035 for developing country Parties for climate action: (a) From a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources; (b) In the context of meaningful and ambitious mitigation and adaptation action, and transparency in implementation; (c) Recognizing the voluntary intention of Parties to count all climate-related outflows from and climate-related finance mobilized by multilateral development banks towards achievement of the goal set forth in this paragraph;</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF welcomes Paragraph 8 and stands ready to work with all Parties to ensure the timely delivery of at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035 of climate finance to developing country Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Recognizes</i> that multilateral climate funds, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, are key in supporting developing country Parties and encourages Parties to work through the governing bodies on which they serve to continue enhancing climate finance, including with respect to coherence, complementarity and access;</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF stands ready to work to ensure it is able to continue to provide financing to support developing country Parties meet the objectives of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Acknowledges</i> the fiscal constraints and increasing costs to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and, in this context, also acknowledges the need for public and grant-based resources and highly concessional finance, particularly for adaptation and responding to loss and damage in developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15:</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

⁸⁸ UNFCCC, Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), 2023, Decision 1/CMA.5, FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/16/Add.1, para. 95.

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<p><i>Underscores</i> the critical importance of significantly reducing the cost of capital and increasing the mobilization ratio of finance mobilized from public sources by 2030 and creating fiscal space in developing country Parties through the use of innovative instruments, such as first-loss instruments, guarantees, local currency financing and foreign exchange risk instruments, taking into account national circumstances, and encourages the exploration, use and scaling up of innovative sources and instruments of finance, as appropriate;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Decides</i> that a significant increase of public resources should be provided through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and also decides to pursue efforts to at least triple annual outflows from those Funds from 2022 levels by 2030 at the latest with a view to significantly scaling up the share of finance delivered through them in delivering on the goal contained in paragraph 8 above;</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF welcomes Paragraph 16 and stands ready to substantially increase, with the view of at least tripling from 2022 levels by 2030, the annual outflows of financing that it channels to developing country Parties.</p>
<p>Paragraph 21: <i>Underscores</i> the importance of reducing existing constraints, challenges, systemic inequities and barriers to access to climate finance, such as high cost of capital, co-financing requirements and burdensome application processes, <i>welcomes</i> ongoing efforts to improve access to climate finance and <i>urges</i> all climate finance actors to strengthen their efforts to enhance efficient and effective access to bilateral, regional and multilateral climate finance for developing countries, in line with country-driven strategies and plans, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to eliminate conditionalities for access, as appropriate, and to enhance transparency regarding efforts undertaken in this regard;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 24: <i>Calls</i> on multilateral climate funds, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to strengthen their efforts to enhance access and promote effectiveness, including by, as appropriate: (a) Scaling up and prioritizing direct access; (b) Simplifying and harmonizing application pre-approval and post-approval requirements and disbursement processes; (c) Establishing flexible information requirements;</p>	<p>The GEF has substantial ongoing work related to streamlining its processes and project cycle, as evidenced by ongoing deliberations on this item at the last three Council meetings, in June and December 2024, and June 2025. Additional elements are being considered as part of the Policy Directions presented for the ninth GEF replenishment.</p>

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(d) Promoting programmatic approaches; (e) Streamlining reporting requirements;	
<p>Paragraph 32: <i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to consider in its assessment of progress for the report referred to in paragraph 30 above information from all relevant and available data sources, such as information provided in biennial transparency reports and reporting based on project-level data from, for example, multilateral development banks, multilateral climate funds and other international financial institutions;</p>	<p>This request is for the Standing Committee on Finance.</p>
<p>Decision 7/CMA.6: Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 4/CMA.3</p>	
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Recognizes</i> the importance of developing and implementing integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches, which may include joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for implementation under the framework for non-market approaches, which can link addressing climate change to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, considering the benefits that may arise from such approaches, including “Mother Earth Centric Actions”, as recognized by some cultures, the benefits of which include, but are not limited to: (a) Ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity when addressing climate change; (b) Enhancing different value systems, including for living in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, as recognized by some cultures, in the context of addressing climate change;</p>	<p>The majority of GEF financing qualifies as non-market approaches. The GEF supports countries to strengthen their capacity to plan for and design conducive policies and regulatory environments, build and retain technical capacity within government and technical agencies and pilot innovative approaches to lower emissions, enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate impacts. Serving as part of the financial mechanism for several Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the GEF also places particular emphasis on financing activities that can generate climate benefits while also advancing objectives related to biodiversity, land degradation and sustainable development. Indeed, integration of climate and nature objectives, which is advanced through the suite of GEF Integrated Programs, sits at the center of the programming directions for both GEF-7 and the GEF-8 cycles. While proactively looking to engage the private sector and enable private investments, these programs embody non-monetary and non-market approaches that are largely based on grant-financing. As such, they are particularly well suited to maximize synergies between climate and nature action, engage and support Indigenous Peoples and local communities as environmental stewards, and promote</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
	traditional knowledge and local solutions for addressing climate change.
<p>Paragraph 22: Reiterates its invitation⁸⁹ to interested Parties, relevant bodies and representatives of institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, including United Nations bodies, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations, to provide information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available or provided for identifying, developing or implementing non-market approaches for recording on the NMA Platform;</p>	Noted.
Decision 10/CMA.6: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Recommends</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–6 below,⁹⁰</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include further information in its annual report for 2025 regarding how funds are used to ensure that enabling activities support the sustainability of national reporting systems and enhance institutional capacity in developing country Parties;</p>	<p>Further information is included in this GEF report to the COP on the use of funds to support the sustainability of reporting systems and enhance institutional capacity in developing countries.</p> <p>Operational improvements implemented in previous reporting periods within GEF-8 include: (i) the revision and streamlining of all funding application templates to ease access to GEF financing, (ii) the introduction of the possibility to combine two BTRs (one combined with a National communication) through one single bundled application within each GEF 4-year cycle.</p> <p>As of September 30, 2025, 45 countries received BTR support using this bundled approach. Moreover, the GEF has encouraged countries that requested BTR</p>

⁸⁹ UNFCCC, Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), 2022, Decision 8/CMA.4, para. 8.

⁹⁰ In accordance with Decision 1/CP.21, para. 61.

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
	<p>support in the previous cycle, GEF-7, that have not done so during the current cycle, GEF-8, to do so. As a result, four countries have received support from the GEF to submit up to their third BTR, which is due by December 31, 2028.⁹¹</p> <p>CBIT support is complementary to the support to reports, such as BTRs and NCs, by the GEF and it can help to establish and maintain local capacity to set up and run national reporting systems. CBIT support is specifically designed for developing countries to strengthen their national reporting systems and institutional capacity, reducing dependency on external experts, and allowing government agencies and local institutions to maintain and retain the knowledge required to produce timely and comprehensive BTRs, and to meet the ETF reporting requirements.⁹²</p> <p>Countries that have completed or are nearing completion of the first CBIT project can apply for a second (or successive) round of financing. The availability of support across GEF cycles is meant to provide continuity and predictability of GEF support. Five countries have already received support for their second CBIT project, while three additional countries have second CBIT proposals under review by the GEF Secretariat.</p> <p>Additionally, since the start of GEF-8 on July 1, 2022, countries can combine two BTRs with an NC within the same enabling activity project, as per information note GEF/C.62/Inf.15. More than 45 countries have benefitted from this measure, and</p>

⁹¹ GEF, 2025, [Status of Biennial Update Reports from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention \(as of Sept. 2025\)](#)

⁹² The CBIT Progress Report for the period from May 1st to September 30th 2025 is submitted as an Information document to the 70th meeting of the GEF Council.

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
	<p>more recently some countries have requested support for their BTR3, which is due by December 31, 2028.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat is closely monitoring progress and coordinating with its Agencies to improve the delivery of support to enabling activities and CBIT. This includes quarterly meetings to monitor the portfolio and pipeline of projects, and intervening when requested by countries or agencies to address potential issues in implementation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider how it can improve the delivery of support for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and enabling activities to avoid gaps between the project cycles, provide support that is timely, and enhance the sustainability of national reporting systems and workflows necessary for developing country Parties to meet their requirements under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement on a continuous basis;</p>	<p>Please refer to the answer to Paragraph 2 above. Since the previous cycle, GEF-7, the GEF has made available the possibility to bundle two BTRs (one of them combined with an NC) through one single bundled application within each GEF 4-year cycle. Consequently, a country can request support for the preparation of subsequent reports if they have not done so during the current GEF cycle, noting that resources for the subsequent reports will be disbursed by the agency once the preceding reports are submitted to the UNFCCC. Countries do not need to wait until they submit their reports to request additional support from the GEF. This process can be done in parallel, to avoid gaps between projects.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the GEF has continued to engage with Parties and GEF Agencies, through both formal and informal exchanges, to gather additional feedback and discuss options to further alleviate remaining barrier Parties may face in implementing the ETF, including the avoidance of gaps between projects. These interactions include the active participation of the GEF and its Agencies in the recent workshop at SB62 (“Workshop to facilitate the sharing of experiences of developing country Parties in preparing their first biennial transparency reports”, held on June 18, 2025), and bilateral</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
	<p>discussions with Parties on their specific reporting needs. The GEF remains available to discuss project or governance issues and encourages Parties to contact the GEF Secretariat directly.</p> <p>These direct consultation with Parties often highlighted that some of the remaining barriers faced by Parties are beyond the direct scope of control of the GEF, as they relate to the relationship between recipient Parties and their selected GEF Agencies. The GEF Secretariat has increasingly been and will continue to be engaged in coordination efforts with and between GEF Agencies, to promote exchange of information on recurrent issues and viable approaches to mitigate them.</p> <p>In terms of knowledge and experience exchange, GEF Agencies facilitate peer learning events among recipient countries. The CBIT-GSP hosts such events via its 10 networks and the Climate Transparency Forum, with the next forum having taken place in September 3-5, 2025 in Songdo, Korea. During the reporting period, 37 webinars had been convened through the CBIT-GSP.</p> <p>GEF Agencies are also implementing measures to streamline access to GEF funding. One approach includes grouping countries with similar circumstances under the GEF enabling activity expedited modality. The increase of the MSP cap from \$2 million to \$5 million allows multiple countries to be included in a single expedited project request, which can reduce potential delays and transaction costs, and help standardize access to GEF funding.</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the context of its ninth replenishment, to consider: (a) Information submitted by developing country Parties in their first biennial transparency reports pursuant to paragraphs 143–145 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1; (b) Information submitted by Parties pursuant to paragraph 17 of decision 18/CMA.5; (c) The synthesis report referred to in paragraph 18 of decision 18/CMA.5; (d) The use of transparency support funds available through the transparency allocation under its eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>Noted. The negotiations for the ninth replenishment of the GEF (GEF-9) are ongoing. The second meeting of the GEF-9 negotiations, which took place on October 7-9, 2025, including the revised the draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions and the Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9, which are in line with paragraphs 143–145 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 and paragraphs 17 and 18 of decision 18/CMA.5. These documents will continue to be revised until spring 2026, with the view of reaching their adoption at the GEF-9 Assembly, currently planned for June 2025. The GEF-9 cycle will start on July 1, 2026.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Notes</i> paragraphs 16–17 of decision 4/CP.29 regarding guidance to the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Confirms</i> that guidance may be provided, for transmission by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the modification to the memorandum of understanding as outlined in the annex to decision 4/CP.29, upon request by a Party consistent with rules 9–13 of the draft rules of procedure being applied, as well as at each session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement preceding the final year of each replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.</p>	<p>This is well-noted.</p>
<p>Decision 14/CMA.6: Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue on the scope of Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement</p>	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Invites</i> Parties, the UNFCCC constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations, and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit via the submission portal by 1 March 2025 views on the issues to be addressed during the workshops to be held in 2025;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Decision 20/CMA.6: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2024</p>	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Paris Agreement, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations</p>	<p>This invitation is noted. The GEF stands ready to support Parties, including through the provision of financial resources for building and maintaining capacity, in their action across the areas covered by the</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁶⁶ / CMA 6 Decision ⁶⁷	GEF's Response
referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;	recommendations included in the "Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building" (FCCC/SBI/2024/19).
Decision 21/CMA.6: Provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for reporting and capacity-building	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomes</i>, in particular, the support provided by the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework, including through the joint programme of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and the Global Support Programme;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Also welcomes</i> the information provided by the Global Environment Facility in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session and its addendum⁹³ on financial support requested, approved and provided for the preparation of biennial transparency reports by developing country Parties;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Acknowledges</i> the progress of the Global Environment Facility in streamlining the process that enables Parties to access resources for preparing their biennial transparency reports, including by enabling them to access resources for two biennial transparency reports and/or one national communication as part of the same enabling activity and raising the threshold for expedited approvals;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Requests</i> the secretariat to organize a workshop in consultation with the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, as applicable, to be held at the sixty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2025), to facilitate the sharing of experiences of developing country Parties in preparing their first biennial transparency reports, including in accessing the funds received and their adequacy for the sustainability of the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	The GEF Secretariat and its agencies that are active in the provision of support to transparency participated in the "Workshop to Facilitate the Sharing of Experiences of Developing Country Parties in Preparing their First Biennial Transparency Reports," held during the 62 nd Subsidiary Body Meetings in Bonn, Germany in June 2025. The GEF Secretariat and its agencies presented lessons they had learned and success stories in the process of supporting developing countries to access GEF funding for the preparation of their first BTRs.

⁹³ UNFCCC, 2024, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties, FCCC/CP/2024/8; and Addendum, FCCC/CP/2024/8/Add.1.

Table 3: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 16 and GEF's Response

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
<p><i>Takes note</i> of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2024, as published on the Global Environment Facility website and referred to in document ICCD/CRIC(22)/4;</p>	<p>Noted. The permanent website link for the report of the GEF to COP 16 is included for ease of reference: https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-unccd-cop16</p>
<p><i>Welcomes</i> the increased focus on land-based actions implemented through the Global Environment Facility's integrated programmes, and the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy's emphasis on people in vulnerable situations such as women, children, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and traditional communities, and <i>calls on</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide opportunities for enhanced synergies among all focal areas through multifocal area programming;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p><i>Notes with appreciation</i> the implementation of Multi-Trust Fund projects to achieve a higher impact and co-benefits;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility and the Global Mechanism to mobilize new and additional financial resources by further collaborating with multilateral funds, including the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds, thereby addressing issues of joint interest for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;</p>	<p>The GEF collaborates with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF), and Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to enhance access to finance, focusing on complementarity, coherence, and joint action plans to maximize impact and avoid duplication. Since 2021, the GCF and GEF have a Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity and Collaboration, which aims to build on pilot coordinated engagement and further define specific areas of cooperation and publishes regular progress reports on the implementation of the LTV.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its support for countries in programming Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;</p>	<p>The current GEF-8 Land Degradation Focal Area programming strategy supports countries in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues and is fully aligned with the LDN concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. As reported to the COP 16, the GEF has provided substantial support through 201 approved projects,</p>

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
	including eight Enabling Activities, 20 LDFA stand-alone projects, and 173 multifocal area (MFA) projects totaling \$1.6 billion in funding and \$12.4 billion in leveraged co-financing. GEF is striving to further enhance this support in the future through further improving its strategies as well as enhancing its operational effectiveness.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility and invites its implementing agencies to support Parties in meeting their reporting obligations in a timely manner;	Funding support available in GEF-8 is \$120,000 per eligible country, inclusive of GEF agency fees. The funding can be made available two years prior to the 2026 reporting deadlines to allow sufficient time for parties to collect and analyze the necessary data. Further details on the process are published on the GEF website . In preparation for the 2026 reporting process, funding requests were received by GEF Operational Focal Points through 133 letters of endorsement submitted by FAO and UNEP through 5 umbrella projects for funding. All five umbrella projects including 133 parties have been approved as of September 30, 2025.
<i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility to streamline its project cycle and progress made in this regard, which aims to further simplify and accelerate the access of developing countries, especially small island developing States and least developed countries, to the resources of the Global Environment Facility, and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to pursue these efforts so as to improve its operational effectiveness;	Noted with appreciation. GEF continues its streamlining efforts in the context of the ongoing Working Group on the Streamlining Process, which provides regular updates on its progress to the GEF Council.
<i>Recognizing</i> the role of the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship initiative in supporting countries to improve national reporting, access necessary data sets and tools to prioritize interventions, and monitor outcomes so as to better manage land; <i>noting</i> the need and potential for scaling up requests to the Global Environment Facility to support the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship initiative in their efforts; and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to look into further support;	GEF support to the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO LDN) Flagship initiative is based on countries demand, with several countries including those requests in their project proposals. Further, GEF will collaborate with the GEO LDN to explore further support. Two initial meetings were held with GEO LDN and further discussions are planned.

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
<p><i>Welcomes with appreciation</i> the Global Environment Facility's encouragement to project implementing and executing agencies to use the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database, as appropriate, especially in projects applying sustainable land management practices, and invites the Global Environment Facility to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;</p>	<p>Based on the efforts made in the previous reporting period, the collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database (WOCAT) will be continued and additional efforts made to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices.</p>
<p><i>Notes with appreciation</i> the Global Environment Facility's support for the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and requests continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;</p>	<p>GEF will continue to provide support for the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWI) through the implementation of its ongoing programs and projects and based on future country demands. Further, the GEF continues to engage with partners, namely through the UNCCD GGW Accelerator and through engagement with the private sector.</p>
<p><i>Also notes with appreciation</i> the Global Environment Facility's upstream engagement with key partners, including the Southern African Development Community in support of the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative, and requests continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;</p>	<p>GEF will continue to engage with the Southern African Development Community in support of the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative and its relevant partners, based on their ownership of the initiative and demand-based requests made to the GEF through project submissions.</p>
<p><i>Takes note of</i> (i) the Global Environment Facility's efforts to align the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility with the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and (ii) the Global Environment Facility's enhanced attention to drought mitigation and adaptation, and invites the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its efforts in this regard to enable countries to address their desertification, land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management, integrated and transboundary water resource management, drought resilience and the restoration of degraded lands;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation. GEF will further strengthen its efforts in the context of its future strategies. The topic of drought mitigation and adaptation was discussed during the GEF-9 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings, which provided the basis for the development of the GEF-9 programming strategy with a view to further enhance attention to drought management.</p>
<p><i>Notes that</i> the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, continues to give countries the opportunity to implement their national drought plans and other drought-related policies, and</p>	<p>GEF has so far supported four countries in the implementation of their national drought plans (NDP) as an element of national projects and further engages with 12 countries in a stocktaking of their</p>

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
<i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to continue to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems, and capacity-building;	NDPs. Continued support is envisaged in the future, based on countries' demands.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, under its ninth replenishment, considering the increased frequency and severity of drought, which poses a global challenge in the context of climate change, to prioritize the allocation of resources to proactive drought management to support Parties in the implementation of their actions;	Noted.
<i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies (i) among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals; as well as (ii) with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the implementation level, including by encouraging collaboration among the national focal points of the Global Environment Facility, as well as of the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;	GEF continues to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions primarily through the implementation of its integrated programs. GEF also pays attention to the inclusion of all relevant national focal points in the planning, design, and implementation of its projects and programs as well as in knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives in the context of the GEF country support program.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to continue to promote and take into account the co-benefits of sustainable land and water management approaches, in particular innovative practices such as agroecology and agroforestry;	GEF and its implementing agencies place high emphasis on sustainable land and water management approaches, in particular innovative practices such as agroecology and agroforestry as evidenced, for example, in the GEF-8 programming strategy , and will continue to do so.
<i>Commends</i> the continued attention paid by the Global Environment Facility to policy coherence in the field of desertification, land degradation and drought, and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to track progress on policy coherence;	The GEF is striving to enhance policy coherence through mainstreaming into its projects and programs and has recently outlined the approach and action areas for this work.
<i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider, upon request, projects that support Parties in reviewing public expenditures, incentives and investments, and to support public policies and investments that decrease land degradation, combat desertification, and build resilience to drought, in a nationally determined manner;	The GEF welcomes such requests and will consider them when they are submitted as project proposals.
<i>Calls for</i> a robust ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility with an increase in the allocation	Noted.

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
dedicated to desertification, land degradation and drought;	
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session.	Noted. GEF will report at COP 17.

Table 4: Decisions Adopted by Stockholm Convention COP 12 and GEF’s Responses

At COP 12, Parties provided guidance to the GEF. GEF’s response is provided in Table 4 below.

Stockholm COP 12 Guidance: Decision SC-12/17: Financial mechanism	GEF’s Response
1. Urges the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraphs 8 and 10 below, to consider, in its programming of areas of work for the period 2026–2030, the following priority areas:	
(a) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment, and environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls as soon as possible and no later than 2028;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 407 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08.
(b) Environmentally sound management and disposal of listed industrial persistent organic pollutants, including products and articles containing persistent organic pollutants;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 407 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08.
(c) Environmentally sound management and disposal of pesticides containing or consisting of persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A to the Convention, including obsolete stockpiles, with a focus on eliminating those substances;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 407 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08.
(d) Facilitation of the phase-out of the use of DDT and provision of support to Parties on environmentally sound management of DDT, including safe disposal of DDT stockpiles and waste. This includes support for the development of locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives in order to remove the need for acceptable purposes;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 407 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08.
(e) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 415 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08.
2. Also urges the Global Environment Facility to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2026–2030:	
(a) The review and updating of national implementation plans, including, as appropriate, their initial development and the transmission of complete reports on time;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 411 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08. The GEF will follow up with agencies and countries to

Stockholm COP 12 Guidance: Decision SC-12/17: Financial mechanism	GEF's Response
	remind them of the need to submit completed enabling activities.
(b) The development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 411 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08.
(c) The implementation of the activities related to the global monitoring plan and capacity building to sustain the new monitoring initiatives that provide data and information for the global monitoring report prepared in connection with the continued evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention;	This has been incorporated into the GEF-9 programming directions for the chemicals and waste focal area, paragraph 411 of GEF document GEF/R.9/08. Additionally, the GEF Council has approved the Global Chemicals Monitoring Program which will provide direct input into the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention.
3. Reiterates its request to the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;	Noted
4. Reiterates its request to the Secretariat, in paragraph 2 of decision SC-11/14, to update the guidance to the financial mechanism, and decides to retire any guidance referring to the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility;	Not directed at the GEF
5. Requests the Secretariat to transmit to the Global Environment Facility:	Not Directed at the GEF
(a) The complete set of guidance to be developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 4 above;	
(b) The report on the sixth review of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 8 below;	
(c) The report on the assessment of funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2026–2030 referred to in paragraph 10 below;	
(d) The report on further options for addressing the needs, including funding needs, and challenges met to reach the targets related to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls referred to in paragraph 15 below;	
II. Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility	
6. Welcomes the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;	Noted with thanks.

<p align="center">Stockholm COP 12 Guidance: Decision SC-12/17: Financial mechanism</p>	<p align="center">GEF's Response</p>
<p>7. Requests the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its reports to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, how the information received pursuant to paragraph 5 above has been taken into account in the negotiation outcomes and implementation of the ninth replenishment of the Facility trust fund;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>III. Monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Not directed to the GEF</p>
<p>8. Welcomes the report on the sixth review of the financial mechanism;</p>	
<p>9. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the sixth review set out in Annex I to decision SC-11/14 and taking into consideration the recommendations of the sixth review, draft terms of reference for the seventh review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;</p>	
<p>IV. Assessment of funding needs</p>	<p>Not directed to the GEF</p>
<p>10. Welcomes the report on the assessment of funding needed by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2026–2030;</p>	
<p>11. Invites developed-country Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 October 2026, with information on ways in which they will provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including for the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls according to obligations under part II of Annex A on polychlorinated biphenyls, as well as information on access to such support for developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, taking into full account the specific needs and special situation of the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	

<p align="center">Stockholm COP 12 Guidance: Decision SC-12/17: Financial mechanism</p>	<p align="center">GEF's Response</p>
<p>12. Invites other Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 October 2026, with information on ways in which they may voluntarily provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including for the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls according to obligations under part II of Annex A on polychlorinated biphenyls, as well as information on access to such support for developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;</p>	
<p>13. Invites other sources to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 October 2026, with information on ways in which they may voluntarily provide contributions to the implementation of the Convention, including for the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls according to obligations under part II of Annex A on polychlorinated biphenyls, as well as information on access to such contributions for developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;</p>	
<p>14. Requests the Secretariat:</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF</p>
<p>(a) To prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 11 to 13 above, a report on the availability of financial resources that are additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility, and on ways and means of mobilizing and channeling such additional financial resources, including, as set out in the note by the Secretariat on the mobilization of resources under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention, from non State actors, in support of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its thirteenth meeting;</p>	

Stockholm COP 12 Guidance: Decision SC-12/17: Financial mechanism	GEF's Response
(b) To prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2030–2034, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in annex II to decision SC-11/14 and taking into consideration the recommendations contained in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 10 above, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;	
(c) To conduct, subject to the availability of resources, validation activities with developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties to verify, on an ongoing basis, existing inventory data;	
(d) To collect additional data and other relevant information on the calculation of disposal costs for listed persistent organic pollutants and the costs of substituting them for safer alternatives, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, the Facility's implementing agencies and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;	
(e) To prepare a report, subject to the availability of resources, on the activities set out in subparagraphs 14 (c) and (d) above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;	
V. Assessment of funding needs with regard to polychlorinated biphenyls	
15. Takes note of the report on further options for addressing the needs, including funding needs, and challenges met to reach the goals related to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls;	
16. Welcomes with appreciation the approval of the global elimination programme for polychlorinated biphenyls by the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its sixty eighth meeting, in December 2024, and the support of the World Bank and other agencies involved in its development;	Noted with thanks
17. Recalls part II of Annex A on polychlorinated biphenyls to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and on the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;	

<p align="center">Stockholm COP 12 Guidance: Decision SC-12/17: Financial mechanism</p>	<p align="center">GEF's Response</p>
<p>18. Requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a report on lending operations of multilateral development banks relevant to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls, including the use of bank guarantees, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;</p>	
<p>VI. Cooperation between secretariats and reciprocal representation</p>	
<p>19. Takes note of the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Convention and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	
<p>20. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.</p>	<p>The GEF will provide information as requested.</p>