



GEF/C.69/06/Rev.1
May 31, 2025

69th GEF Council Meeting
June 2 to 6, 2025
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 07

RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS¹

¹ This Council document has been revised to reflect the outcomes of the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which took place from April 28 to May 9, 2025, and of the first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom I) 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 which took place from April 14 to 25, 2025, both after the preparation of the original Council document GEF/C.69/06.

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.69/06/Rev.1, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network 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 October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, the document further provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora. Given that several major meetings took place after the reporting period and before the Council meeting, the document also includes a summary of some deliberations that took place after the reporting period.
3. During the reporting period, a number of MEA-related meetings took place, with participation of the GEF Secretariat personnel. The second resumed session of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD COP 16.2) convened at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from February 25 to 27, 2025. Parties reached consensus on pending items that could not be adopted in November 2024, including Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanism, i.e. guidance to the GEF and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF). The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 16) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13, 2024, and yielded decisions of relevance for the GEF.
4. The GEF Secretariat personnel participated in the first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom I) 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 April 14 to 25, 2025, in New York. The GEF Secretariat personnel attended the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (SC COP 12) which was held in Geneva from April 28 to May 9, 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 continued with the approval of GEF-8 programming, and the continuation of GBFF, LDCF and SCCF programming. Consultations with countries occurred through the GEF Country Engagement Strategy and the introduction of the new regional workshops focused on enhancement of OFP capacities and integrated programming.

7. Highlights reported in this document include:

- i. CBD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 16.2, on submissions of national reporting and related support, and ratifications.
- ii. UNFCCC: Updates on meetings related to GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 29, 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 COP 16 and related meetings, and on exchanges among the GEF Secretariat, the UNCCD Secretariat and country focal points.
- iv. Stockholm Convention: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 12, 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. Special Programme: Updates on outcomes of the tenth Meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme
- vii. BBNJ Agreement: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in BBNJ PrepCom I, 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.
- 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 with the full list of GEF's up-to-date responses to decisions from most recent COPs including CBD COP 16, UNFCCC COP 29, UNCCD COP 16.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	ii
Introduction	1
Convention on Biological Diversity	2
Summary of Key Activities	2
COP 16 Outcomes and GEF Engagement.....	3
Ratifications and Accessions.....	4
National Reporting.....	4
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.....	5
Summary of Key Activities	5
COP 29 and GEF Engagement	5
Additional Meetings and Consultations.....	6
Ratifications and Accessions.....	6
National Reporting.....	6
UN Convention to Combat Desertification.....	7
Summary of Key Activities	7
COP 16 and GEF Engagement	7
Ratifications and Accessions.....	9
National Reporting.....	9
Additional Meetings and Consultations.....	9
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	10
Summary of Key Activities	10
Stockholm Convention COP-12 Meeting Outcome and GEF Engagement.....	10
Ratifications and Accessions.....	11
National Reporting.....	11
Minamata Convention on Mercury	12
Summary of Key Activities	12
Ratifications and Accessions.....	12
National Reporting.....	12

Specific International Programme	13
Special Programme	13
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	13
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) ...	14
Summary of Key Activities	14
BBNJ Preparatory Commission Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement	14
BBNJ Agreement Additional Meetings and Consultations	15
Ratifications and Accessions	16
Relations with Multilateral Climate Funds	17
Adaptation Fund	18
Green Climate Fund	19
Climate Investment Funds	19
Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage	19
Group of 20 (G20)	19
Relations with Other International Institutions.....	20
UN Forum on Forests	20
Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS	21
Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)	21
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment	21
Annex I: Decisions and Guidance of the Conferences of Parties to the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD and GEF's Responses.....	23
Table 1: Decisions Adopted by CBD COP 16 (Decision 16/33) and GEF's Responses.....	23
Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 29 and CMA 6, Conclusion of SBI 61 and GEF's Response.....	55
Table 3: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 16 and GEF's Response.....	75

INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action 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 68th GEF Council held in December 2024. It covers the period from October 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024. It also reports 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 second resumed session of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD COP 16.2) convened at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from February 25 to 27, 2025.
4. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 16) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13, 2024, and yielded decisions of relevance for the GEF.
5. The first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom I) 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 April 14 to 25, 2025, in New York, United States of America.
6. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (SC COP-12) was held in Geneva, Switzerland from April 28 to May 9, 2025.
7. The Executive Secretaries of CBD, of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and of the Minamata Convention, along with the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, the Assistant Secretary General representing the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), and the Manger of Innovative Financing and Partnerships of the UNCCD addressed the GEF Council in December 2024 on the status of negotiations, guidance provided to the GEF and collaboration across multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the implementation of GEF-8 and in preparation for GEF-9.
8. 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 with countries

and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat. The GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

9. The 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16), the eleventh meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 11), and the fifth meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP 5) were held in Cali, Colombia, from October 16 to November 1, 2024. The meeting was suspended on November 2, 2024, with several key decisions left unadopted, including on, resource mobilization, the financial mechanism, and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

10. The second resumed session of CBD COP 16 convened at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from February 25 to 27, 2025. Parties reached consensus on the pending items that could not be adopted in November 2024, including Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanism, i.e. guidance to the GEF, and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF). There were no GEF side-events at the resumed session, as the session was dedicated solely to negotiations.

11. The Executive Secretary participated in the 68th GEF Council and the third GBFF Council in December 2024. She briefed the Councils on key CBD COP 16 outcomes, including the creation of a subsidiary body and adoption of a new Programme of Work related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. She also informed the Council on the operationalization of the multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism from use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources and the establishment of a dedicated Fund (the Cali Fund) to be hosted by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in a partnership between the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the CBD Secretariat hosting the Cali Fund Secretariat.

12. The CBD Executive Secretary and senior officials participated in the GEF-9 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings from February 18 to 20, 2025, to inform GEF-9 replenishment scope and programming. The Executive Secretary addressed the opening plenary, further highlighting COP 16 outcomes and expressing the need to scale up action on biodiversity. The Executive Secretary and CBD Secretariat staff participated in thematic sessions.

COP 16 Outcomes and GEF Engagement

13. The outcomes of CBD COP 16 and the GEF engagement in were reported in detail to the 68th Council meeting.²

14. In the intersessional period between the first session (CBD COP 16) and the resumed session of CBD COP 16 (CBD COP 16.2), and during COP 16.2, the GEF Secretariat made itself available to provide information to facilitate Parties' deliberations. GEF Secretariat staff participated in numerous bilateral meetings, including with the COP Presidency, and in several regional group meetings. The CEO issued a statement welcoming CBD COP 16.2 decisions.

15. COP 16.2 adopted decision 16/34 on Resource Mobilization,³ which includes the CBD strategy for resource mobilization for the period 2025–2030. Parties also “decide[d] to implement Articles 21 and 39⁴ of the Convention and to address the global biodiversity finance gap by 2030, by: (a) Establishing the permanent arrangement for the financial mechanism envisioned under Article 21 of the Convention; (b) Assessing and improving the mobilization of finance from all sources”. The COP decision creates intersessional processes with milestones up until 2030 (COP 19) to deliver on these two mandates, including through contributions of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI). The SBI will further discuss opportunities for broadening the contributor base and develop a draft decision for consideration by COP 17. With regards to the financial mechanism, COP 17 is to further develop criteria adopted by COP 16,⁵ so that, by or at CBD COP 18:

- (i) If appropriate, a review is conducted of progress in the reform of relevant existing financial entities to fit the criteria identified at COP 17.
- (ii) A decision is made either to establish a new entity to operate the financial mechanism, whether by itself or alongside an existing entity or entities, or to confirm an existing entity or entities in that role.
- (iii) If appropriate, an intersessional process is established to develop the terms of reference and modalities of a new entity on the basis of criteria developed in subparagraph (i) above.

² GEF, 2024, [Relations with the Conventions and other International Institutions](#), Council Document GEF/C.68/09_Rev.01.

³ CBD, 2025, [Resource Mobilization](#), CBD/COP/DEC/16/34.

⁴ CBD, Article 21. Financial Mechanism; and CBD, Article 39. Financial Interim Arrangements

⁵ COP 16 decided that the operation of the financial mechanism can be entrusted to one or more entities, new, reformed or existing, which would form an institutional structure fulfilling at least the following criteria: (a) functions for the purpose of implementing the Convention and its Protocols, (b) is under the authority and guidance of, and accountable to, the COP; (c) operates within a democratic and transparent system of governance, ensuring a structure that is fair, equitable, inclusive, efficient and representative; (d) is accessible by all eligible country Parties of the Convention in a fair, timely, simplified, equitable, inclusive, and non-discriminatory manner.

(iv) The stock take review on the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) is acted upon, as already mandated in CBD COP decisions 15/7 and 15/15.

16. Parties committed to determine the institutional structure, that will permanently operate the financial mechanism by COP 19 at the latest. Decision 16/34 also calls upon developed country Parties and Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties, and invited other Governments and non-sovereign contributors, such as the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to make or increase their contributions to the GBFF.

17. COP 16.2 further adopted guidance to the GEF,⁶ including requests related to governance reforms and changes in operational processes and procedures to facilitate access and enhance country ownership. The guidance also includes the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention and its Protocols as the main guidance for the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund. Guidance and responses are provided in Annex 1, Table 1, with most items pending consideration by the GEF replenishment process. Parties also adopted the Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review mechanism, and the Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which will inform the update of the GBFF and the GEF Trust Fund results frameworks.

Ratifications and Accessions

18. As of March 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 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

19. 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 \$100,000 of national grants and additional global technical assistance. Seventh national reports are due in February 2026.

20. 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 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” (Total GEF Project Financing:

⁶ CBD, 2025, [Financial Mechanism](#), CBD/COP/DEC/16/33.

\$2,997,750) A total of 77 countries are supported by UNEP with \$30,000 of national-level grants and additional global technical assistance. National reports are due in February 2026.

21. 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”. (Total GEF Project Financing: \$3,511,200) A total of 91 countries are supported by UNEP with \$30,000 of national-level grants and additional global technical assistance.⁷ National reports are due in February 2026.

22. 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](#).

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

23. During the reporting period, efforts continued to implement the guidance received from UNFCCC COP 29, held from November 11 to 22, 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Responses by the GEF Secretariat to these decisions are contained in Annex 1, Table 2.

COP 29 and GEF Engagement

24. A summary of GEF Secretariat’s engagement at UNFCCC COP 29 was provided in the Addendum to the December 2024 Council document on Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions.

25. In the remainder of the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued to engage with the UNFCCC Secretariat on several issues related to the negotiation process, as well as the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and National Adaptation Plan Technical Working Group, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

26. During the reporting period, the fifth Work Program for the LDCF/SCCF for the GEF-8 period was approved at the 37th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting in December 2024. The approved LDCF/SCCF Work Program will support nine least developed countries (LDCs) and four non-LDC small island developing states (SIDS) in addressing climate change adaptation priorities. All approved projects are aligned with, and contribute to the implementation of, national climate

⁷ The list of supported countries can be found on the [GEF website](#) for the following global projects: GEF ID 11859 - Support to Preparation of the Fifth National Reports on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and GEF ID 11860 - Support to Preparation of the First National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

change policies and strategies, including the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), and other policy documents.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

27. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 47th meeting of the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group held in Luanda, Angola from February 20 to 21, 2025. The GEF provided updates on its support to countries on their NAP formulation and implementation process. Additionally, the GEF Secretariat attended a virtual NAP Taskforce meeting on February 4, 2025.

Ratifications and Accessions

28. As of March 31, 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

29. The following is the total number of National Communications (NCs) submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of March 31, 2025:

- (a) Initial National Communications: 154
- (b) Second National Communications: 146
- (c) Third National Communications: 112
- (d) Fourth National Communications: 41
- (e) Fifth National Communications: 10
- (f) Sixth National Communications: 2

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

31. The following is the total number of Biennial Update Reports (BURs) submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of March 31, 2025:

- (a) First Biennial Update Reports: 113
- (b) Second Biennial Update Reports: 45
- (c) Third Biennial Update Reports: 28
- (d) Fourth Biennial Update Reports: 15
- (e) Fifth Biennial Update Reports: 5

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

33. The following is the total number of BTRs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of March 31, 2025:

(a) First Biennial Transparency Reports: 102

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

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

35. Key activities in the reporting period include the GEF's engagement in COP 16 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13, 2024. At COP 16, the GEF presented its report on progress made in the reporting period, participated in various high-level and side events, and interacted with all stakeholders, including Parties and national UNCCD focal points, GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs), civil society organizations, and youth.

36. The GEF Secretariat staff attended negotiations at COP 16, specifically on decision 9/COP.16 [on the collaboration with the GEF](#), which includes elements that will further enhance the collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD. An initial response to decision 9/COP.16 is contained in Annex 1, Table 3.

37. Decision 24/COP.16 on [policy frameworks and thematic issues of drought](#) decided to continue the discussions and negotiations on the basis of the progress made at COP 16. The text contained in the Annex of the decision 24/COP.16 has implications for the GEF. Although the decision was not formally adopted, it contains elements that the GEF Council and the participants to the GEF replenishment may wish to proactively consider.

COP 16 and GEF Engagement

38. A GEF Secretariat delegation headed by the GEF CEO engaged in UNCCD COP 16 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13, 2024. The GEF delegation observed negotiations, participated in various side events, and interacted with all stakeholders, including parties and national UNCCD focal points, GEF OFPs, civil society organizations, and Youth. Among the highlights of this engagement are the following:

39. The GEF CEO spoke at a high-level panel during the Dialogue on Finance to discuss the implications of the [UNCCD Financial Needs Assessment](#) (FNA), which calls for investments of \$1 billion per day to implement commitments related to land.

40. The GEF presented its [report to the COP 16](#) on progress made in the reporting period, highlighting the approval of 201 projects addressing sustainable land management, totaling \$1.6 billion, including eight enabling activities, 20 land degradation focal area (LDFA) stand-alone projects, and 173 multifocal area projects.

41. [Decision 9/COP.16 on the collaboration with the GEF](#) includes elements that will further enhance the collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD. Decision 9/COP.16 calls for a robust ninth replenishment with an increase in the allocation dedicated to desertification, land degradation and drought and encourages the GEF to prioritize the allocation of resources to proactive drought management as well as to strengthen the focal area strategy to enable countries to address their drought priorities and support implementation of national drought plans. An initial response to the decision is contained in Annex 1, Table 3.
42. Decision 24/COP.16 on the [follow up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: drought](#) decided to continue the discussions and negotiations on the basis of the progress made at COP 16. The text contained in the Annex of the decision has implications for the GEF. Despite not yet formally adopted, it contains elements that the GEF Council and the participants to the GEF replenishment may wish to proactively address, such as to (i) enhance its efforts to enable UNCCD Parties to implement their national drought plans and drought resilience initiatives and (ii) consider renaming the “Land Degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation” focal area to “Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought” to better reflect the growing environmental and socioeconomic impacts of drought and the importance of funding for addressing drought.
43. The GEF side event “*GEF-8 and Beyond: Securing a Sustainable Future for Land*”, discussed what changes could better enable GEF funds to ‘move the needle’ on sustainable landscape management, in view of commitments under UNCCD and the GEF-9 replenishment.
44. The GEF participated on a side event organized by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) on “*Why Drought Matters to the Global Environment.*” The GEF presented its [portfolio and current efforts](#) on addressing drought across the GEF family of funds. The event highlighted the integrated approach of funding drought related projects and programs through various GEF funding windows and discussed how to increase the visibility and financial resources through enhanced programming options in GEF-9 and beyond.
45. GEF together with FAO and IFAD launched the GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Program (IP) during Food Day with keynote speeches by the President of IFAD, GEF CEO, and the Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). In addition, there were two panels, the first to highlight country voices, while the second showcased
46. the role of implementing partners, including IUCN, TNC, UNDP and the World Bank Group.
47. An informal dialogue between the GEF CEO, GEF OFPs, and UNCCD focal points brought together 25 GEF recipient countries and over 70 participants to discuss a range of opportunities and challenges with accessing GEF funding and mechanisms to strengthen country engagement and collaboration between GEF OFPs and UNCCD focal points.
48. The One Water Summit was held on December 3, 2024 at the margins of COP 16, co-organized by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Government of France, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the World Bank Group. Multiple Heads of State spoke and made follow-up announcements.

Kazakhstan will host a regional climate conference in 2026. Saudi Arabia will be hosting a water council for countries in the region in 2027. The GEF CEO announced a \$5 million investment to the Freshwater Challenge, a country-led initiative for achieving 30x30 goals for freshwater and freshwater ecosystems.

Ratifications and Accessions

49. As of March 31, 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

50. 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](#).

51. In preparation for the 2026 reporting process, funding requests were made by 119 GEF OFPs through letters of endorsement. UNEP and FAO submitted four umbrella projects to process these requests for GEF funding. One umbrella project including 39 parties has been approved in this reporting period. Three umbrella projects are under review. The GEF Secretariat will provide regular updates on how many parties requested funding, were approved, and on the progress of implementing agencies in disbursing the funding to parties.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

52. Several additional high level and technical bilaterals were held at the margins of COP 16 by the GEF CEO and GEF staff with key partners such as the UNCCD Executive Secretary, the UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, GEF agencies, UNCCD's CSO panel, delegates of several GEF partner countries, and private sector representatives.

53. The GEF CEO met with the COP Presidency, represented by the Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (MEWA) of Saudi Arabia, which was followed up by a meeting of GEF staff with the Deputy Minister. The COP Presidency expressed interest in collaborating with GEF on the topic of drought and utilizing GEF's expertise in establishing and operationalizing partnerships and funding mechanisms in the context of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, initiated by Saudi Arabia. GEF invited Saudi Arabia to consider becoming a GEF participant, which could enhance future collaboration on the topic of drought and on other environmental initiatives in the region, such as the Middle East Green Initiative.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

54. At the 68th Council meeting in December 2024, the Executive Secretary for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, shared his perspectives on the upcoming Stockholm COP 12, including inputs to the GEF-9 replenishment through the ongoing assessment of funding needs.

55. In February 2025, the Executive Secretary and staff of the BRS secretariat participated in the TAG Meeting for the GEF-9 replenishment. The Executive Secretary addressed the opening plenary and expressed the urgency to address pollution including plastic pollution.

56. In March 2025, the BRS Secretariat participated in the GEF chemicals and waste task force, where they highlighted key agenda items for the upcoming twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including the sixth review of the financial mechanism and the needs assessment for the period 2026-2030.

57. The GEF secretariat, led by the GEF CEO, participated in the BRS COPs, held from April 28 to May 9, 2025, including the high-level segment. The CEO moderated a high-level round table of Ministers as well as a high-level panel in plenary.

58. The GEF CEO participated in several bilateral conversations with groups of key recipients including SIDS and Africa to discuss key negotiation issues.

59. The GEF CEO, along with the Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions, launched the inaugural GEF-MEA Exchange at the COPs. The Executive Secretaries of the BRS Conventions, Minamata Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Secretary Generals of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and The Convention on Wetlands participated in this event where they discussed ongoing reforms of the GEF and how the GEF can serve the conventions better.

Stockholm Convention COP-12 Meeting Outcome and GEF Engagement

60. The twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention took place in Geneva from April 28 to May 9, 2025 and included a high-level segment. The COP adopted updated guidance for the GEF in its capacity as the Stockholm Convention's financial mechanism.

61. The priorities for the GEF-9 programming period remain the elimination of PCBs, the environmentally sound disposal of POP-containing stockpiles, an accelerated global DDT phase-out, and wider application of best available techniques and practices to curb unintentional releases. The COP welcomed the current \$413 million POPs allocation under GEF-8 and called for predictable, scaled-up resources in future replenishments. Parties considered a proposal to amend the Rotterdam Convention so it can draw directly on GEF resources; although no consensus was reached, the item is retained on the 2027 agenda. In addition, the Stockholm

Convention Compliance Committee will examine the national implementation of Articles 12 and 13 of the Stockholm Convention, a process that may generate recommendations for the GEF before the next COP.

62. The Stockholm COP listed chlorpyrifos, a pesticide, and two industrial chemicals, Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs) and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) in Annex A, triggering a new round of National Implementation Plan (NIP) updates as well as support for the phase out of these chemicals.

63. At the high-level segment (April 30 and May 1, 2025), the GEF CEO moderated a high-level roundtable and a plenary panel on means of implementation, and convened the inaugural GEF–MEA Exchange with five convention heads, including three to which the GEF serves as the Financial Mechanism. The CEO also held informal consultations with African and SIDS delegations on the upcoming replenishment. In each setting, he highlighted GEF results under the Stockholm Convention, encouraged early engagement with the Council and signaled readiness to pilot private and other non-state finance.

64. A full slate of bilateral meetings, with the African Union, UNDP, environment ministers and civil-society leaders, opened follow-up on country pipelines and upcoming events such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and Davos. These engagements kept Council priorities and replenishment messages visible at the political level and reinforced trust in the GEF across the BRS cluster.

Ratifications and Accessions

65. 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

66. 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 March 31, 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	118	2
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	109	2
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	76	2
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	55	1

NIP Phase	Number of Parties that have submitted NIP and NIP updates	Change since the last report
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	40	1
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	26	0
NIP Update for COP 10 amendments	3	3

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

67. At the 68th Council meeting in December 2024, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention shared her perspectives on the partnership between the Convention and the GEF, appreciated the increased chemicals and waste programming, while noting remaining gaps in GEF-8.

68. In February 2025, the Executive Secretary and staff of the Minamata Secretariat participated in the TAG Meeting for the GEF-9 replenishment. The Executive Secretary addressed the opening plenary and expressed the need to scale up action on mercury and highlighted the linkages with the biodiversity convention.

69. In March 2025, the Minamata Secretariat participated in the GEF chemicals and waste task force.

Ratifications and Accessions

70. Serbia joined the convention bringing the number of Parties to 152.

National Reporting

71. 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.

72. 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.

- i. MIAs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).
- ii. NAPs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).

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

SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

73. The 10th meeting of the SIP Governing Board reviewed 29 and approved ten projects for approximately \$2 million in total under the fourth round of applications.

74. Currently there is no deadline set for the fifth round. Based on past experience and subject to availability of funds, the next round could be launched in approximately three years.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

75. The GEF secretariat participated in the Tenth Meeting of the Executive Board of the UNEP Special Programme which took place in Geneva, Switzerland from March 17 to 19, 2025. The meeting provided an update on the financial status of the programme, examined eligible applications for the eighth round of funding, and considered the interpretation of the GEF mandate in the Special Programme Terms of Reference.

76. Due to financial constraints, the Special Programme Executive Board has provisionally approved eight new projects for the eighth funding round, subject to the availability of funds. The Board decided not to launch a new funding round pending the identification of additional funds to support it.

77. As it relates to the GEF mandate in the Special Programme, the Executive Board based on its interpretation of paragraph 4 of the programmes Terms of Reference took the decision that the Special Programme should not fund activities that are in the GEF's active project portfolio but may consider funding those within the GEF's potential scope but not yet planned for GEF support.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

78. The GEF Secretariat received a proposal to address hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and support ratification in four countries with economies in transition. The proposal was shared with the Multilateral Fund Secretariat for their input into the review.

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

79. This section includes information on activities supporting the BBNJ Agreement from the GEF International Waters (IW) Focal Area that took place in the period from October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Over this period, the BBNJ Agreement did not have any official convenings. GEF engagement largely consisted of bilateral country support, participation in meetings and webinars, and collaboration with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) of the United Nations Secretariat, as the interim secretariat, in advance of the upcoming first session of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission meeting to take place from April 14 to 25, 2025.

80. Given the importance of this major meeting which took place after the reporting period but before the 69th meeting of the GEF Council, detailed information on its outcomes and GEF Secretariat engagement is provided in this report, in the section below.

81. The GEF Council Decision 14/2023 authorized the use of up to \$34 million from the GEF-8 International Waters Focal Area for ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement. As of March 31, 2025, \$13,419,250 is approved or committed and \$20,580,750 remains available.

BBNJ Preparatory Commission Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement

82. The GEF Secretariat participated in the first session of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom 1) 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 (BBNJ) and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement from April 14 to 25, 2025 in New York, USA. A second and third session of the BBNJ PrepCom are planned in New York from August 18 to 29, 2025 and March 23 to April 2, 2026.

83. PrepCom 1 focused on a cluster of issues related to governance, operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism, financial rules, and financial resources and mechanism. This included an item 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.296/2025/8).

84. Document A/AC.296/2025/8 presents, as an annex, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the BBNJ Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council. The document was developed by the BBNJ PrepCom Co-chairs, in consultation with the BBNJ Agreement interim secretariat, the DOALOS of the United Nations. The GEF Secretariat was

consulted and existing MOUs between the GEF Council and relevant MEA COPs were made available as the basis for the drafting of the document.

85. The proposed text was discussed on three occasions over the two weeks. Oral reports from the BBNJ PrepCom Co-chairs summarized the discussions from the first week⁸ and the second week.⁹ An advanced and unedited closing statement from the BBNJ PrepCom Co-chairs was also made available.¹⁰

86. Overall, there was consensus that the proposed text was generally fit for purpose and a good basis for further discussion, with various initial views exchanged on specific aspects. A few questions were raised by delegations and the Co-chairs invited the GEF Secretariat to provide clarifying responses to delegations during Week 2. Delegations had the option to submit written comments after PrepCom 1. A revised version of the document will be prepared by the PrepCom Co-Chairs and be discussed at BBNJ PrepCom 2 (August 18 to 28, 2025). It was noted that, if consensus is reached at PrepCom 2, a revised draft MOU could be shared with the GEF Council for comment at its 70th meeting in December 2025. This would follow a similar process for the drafting of the MOU with the Minamata Convention.

87. The GEF Secretariat also discussed with the BBNJ Co-chairs the opportunity for the BBNJ PrepCom to offer provisional guidance for consideration by the GEF-9 replenishment in the interim period until guidance comes from the BBNJ COP. Building on this discussion, multiple delegations requested that this topic be discussed at PrepCom 2.

88. The GEF Secretariat also held an official side event together with DOALOS during Week 1 on the BBNJ PrepCom 1. The side event focused on presenting to delegations the current support by both organizations to assist with ratification and implementation readiness of the BBNJ Agreement. The GEF Secretariat presentation focused on explaining the GEF-8 funding supporting the BBNJ Agreement that is available to all GEF-recipient countries.

BBNJ Agreement Additional Meetings and Consultations

89. Since October 1, 2024, the GEF Secretariat continued to hold frequent bilateral conversations with GEF recipient countries related to accessing GEF-8 BBNJ Agreement support. 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 and to explain the process for accessing GEF-8 BBNJ Agreement support. These included virtual presentations at workshops organized by the Global Ocean Forum on November 21, 2024, the Commonwealth Secretariat on January 15, 2025, and an advisory group for the BBNJ Financial Mechanism on March 5, 2025.

90. While outside the reporting period, the GEF also presented virtually in briefings for Latin America hosted by the High Seas Alliance and Interamerican Association for Environmental

⁸ <https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/sites/default/files/2025-04/20250421Cluster3Issue9Gef.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/sites/default/files/2025-04/20250425Cluster3Issue9Gef.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/sites/default/files/2025-04/30April2025ClosingStatement.pdf>

Defense (AIDA), for Pacific Island Countries hosted by Office of The Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), and for the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) on April 3 and 4, 2025 in advance of the first session of the first session of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission. The GEF Secretariat also hosted a webinar for accessing GEF-8 BBNJ Agreement resources for Pacific SIDS GEF OFPs on April 9, 2025.

91. The GEF Secretariat also participated in BBNJ Regional Workshops organized by DOALOS. This included in-person participation at the Caribbean small island developing States workshop in Belize from October 7 to 10, 2024. The GEF also participated virtually in BBNJ Regional Workshops organized by DOALOS for Latin America countries from October 14 to 18, 2024, and Africa countries on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts, from December 16 to 19, 2024.

92. At the invitation of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the GEF gave a briefing on March 17, 2025 at the UN in New York to AOSIS member States on issues related to the GEF in the first session of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission, as well as BBNJ related topics in the GEF-9 replenishment, and accessing GEF-8 BBNJ resources.

93. In their capacity as the interim secretariat of the BBNJ Agreement, DOALOS participated in the GEF-9 TAG meetings organized from February 18 to 20, 2025. This included engagement in TAG cluster dialogues related to MEAs, Islands and Oceans, and the International Waters Focal Area.

94. Through the invitation of DOALOS, the GEF Secretariat is also a regular participant of UN-Ocean meetings where the BBNJ Agreement is on the agenda.

Ratifications and Accessions

95. As of March 31, 2025, the BBNJ Agreement had 112 signatories and 21 Parties. It will enter into force 120 days after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.

96. During the reporting period, 8 new Parties ratified the BBNJ Agreement: Antigua and Barbuda, France, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Panama, Republic of Korea, Spain, and St. Lucia.

97. The current status of signatures and of ratification, accession, acceptance and approval is available from [this link](#).

98. GEF Council Decision 14/2023 authorized the use of up to \$34 million from the GEF-8 International Waters Focal Area for ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement. During the reporting window, the GEF CEO approved two additional umbrella Enabling Activities and one Major Amendment to add new countries to an existing umbrella Enabling Activities for national level support for ratification and implementation readiness of the BBNJ Agreement. This includes seven countries supported by FAO, nine countries supported by UNDP, and 14 countries supported by UNEP. This totals 30 countries for \$5,748,750 inclusive of Agency Fees. The GEF has approved BBNJ enabling activities for the following countries:

GEF Agency	Country benefiting from BBNJ Enabling Activities
FAO	Colombia, Marshal Islands, Morocco, Palau, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Vanuatu
UNDP	Belize, Cabo Verde, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mexico, Philippines, Tanzania, Uruguay
UNEP	Albania, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Liberia, Maldives, Mozambique, Nigeria, Panama, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia

99. Under preparation is an additional \$7,670,000 of funds to be committed for a \$5 million global project and 14 additional countries that have signed Letters of Endorsement but not yet been included in submitted umbrella Enabling Activity projects for GEF CEO approval.

100. Out of the \$34 million allocated in the GEF-8 period for BBNJ support, \$13,419,250 is approved or committed and \$20,580,750 remains available as of March 31, 2025.

RELATIONS WITH MULTILATERAL CLIMATE FUNDS

101. Collaborative efforts to strengthen complementarity and coherence with the other major multilateral climate funds (MCFs) saw good progress during the reporting period. Following the development during the previous reporting period of the joint Multilateral Climate Funds Action Plan on Complementarity and Coherence and presentation to respective governing bodies, the first deliverables answering short-term priorities of the Action plan were presented at UNFCCC COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

102. Developments included the design of a joint platform to access programs and project information across the MCFs, which was unveiled at COP 29.¹¹ Further, a Joint Statement by the Heads of the four MCFs was issued to follow up on the progress achieved and identify the comparative advantage of MCF in the multilateral climate finance landscape.¹² Following up on the positive experience of COP 28, a joint institutional presence and engagement was also ensured through a joint pavilion, as reported on in the Addendum to the report to council for the previous reporting period.

103. MCFs Secretariats through respective working groups also continued to exchange on mapping of the respective project cycles of the four Funds to identify areas of potential harmonization; advancing the work of the Collaborative Platform on harmonization of results metrics and indicators; and the definition of modalities for joint work in the context of country-driven investment platforms.

104. The independent evaluation and knowledge units of the four funds also continued to join forces independently on a joint climate finance evidence series to share lessons learnt on specific sectoral themes of joint interest, such as forestry investments.

¹¹ <https://climateprojectexplorer.org/>

¹² <https://www.greenclimate.fund/statement/multilateralism-must-be-core-our-climate-response>

Adaptation Fund

105. The Adaptation Fund (AF) was established under the Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC with the AF Board (AFB) as its operating entity. 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 amended and restated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the Council of the GEF regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), adopted in Decision 3/CMP.15, 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.¹³

106. The AF Board at its 44th meeting that took place from April 7 to 11, 2025 considered matters related to the arrangements for the transition of the Adaptation Fund to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement¹⁴. To prepare for the transition, the Board will consider a new memorandum of understanding between the CMA and the GEF Council regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund exclusively under the Paris Agreement.

107. The AF Board through its secretariat continues to observe the GEF Council meetings to ensure continued complementarity and coherence of its activities and operations. A member of the AFB secretariat attended the 68th GEF Council meeting and the 37th LDCE/ SCCF meetings that took place from 16 to 20 December 2024 as an observer.

108. Together with the other Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs), the AF and GEF have continued the strengthening of their collaboration to implement the joint statement by the heads of the MCFs at COP 28, including through a joint pavilion and events at COP 29 at both strategic and technical levels, including thematic workstreams such as linking adaptive social protection and climate finance, gender mainstreaming in adaptation finance, and knowledge management and evaluations. AF and GEF recognize that there is a scope for potential alignment with the AF (and GCF) Accreditation Panel as part of the proposed fast-track approach. Given the substantial overlap in panel members between AF and GCF, aligning with AF existing panel could be an efficient approach. Regarding overlapping standards across the three funds, the fast-tracked approach is straightforward and aligns well with the current perspective of GEF. In the draft paper which will be part of the GEF-9 policy package, GEF aims to propose conducting a gap analysis by leveraging assessments already completed by AF and GCF and waiving the overlapping parts—similar to the existing practice between GCF and AF.

109. The AF secretariat also consulted the GEF Secretariat while preparing revisions to the AF's Strategic Results Framework for consideration by the AF Board.

¹³ Available at : <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/generic/mou-between-cmo-and-gef-council-regarding-secretariat-services-to-the-afb-2/>.

¹⁴ AF Board document AFB/B.44/5 available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/arrangements-for-the-transition-of-the-adaptation-fund-to-exclusively-serve-the-paris-agreement/>.

110. The GEF and AFB secretariats continued exchanging information on implementing the new cost recovery measures for World Bank Financial Intermediary Funds, which was released in March 2021.

Green Climate Fund

111. Efforts to advance the implementation of the Long-Term Vision between the GEF and the GCF (LTV) continued during the reporting period, specifically around joint and collaborative programming. 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.

Climate Investment Funds

112. Consultations with the Climate Investment Funds continued during the reporting period about ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The GEF staff participated in the Third Workshop on MCF-MDB Collaboration on Country Resilience Platform organized by the CIF Secretariat on October 8 and 9, 2024, to discuss how MCFs can collaborate on climate adaptation and resilience programming. CIF 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. The two Secretariats are currently also discussing the organization of a retreat to identify areas of possible joint programming and further in-country cooperation.

Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

113. The GEF participated to the first High-Level Dialogue of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), which centered on the theme "Strengthening Responses to Loss and Damage through Complementarity, Coherence, and Coordination", which was organized during the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings on April 25, 2025.¹⁵ At the meeting, the GEF welcomed the progress made on the operationalization of the new fund and adoption by the FRLD Board of the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM), which allocates \$250 million for the start-up phase of the FRLD covering 2025–2026.

Group of 20 (G20)

114. During the period of this reporting, the GEF Secretariat followed up on its participation in the in two G20 discussion groups, the Sustainable Financing Working Group (SFWG) and the Task Force Clima (TF CLIMA), under the 2024 Brazilian presidency. This was done by taking into consideration in the preparation of the GEF-9 Replenishment documents, in particular the GEF-9 Policy Directions, the outcomes of these discussion groups (the final report of the SFWG, titled

¹⁵ While after the end of this reporting period, this engagement was reported on here given relevance for the upcoming Council meeting.

2024 G20 Sustainable Finance Report - <https://g20sfdwg.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-G20-Sustainable-FinanceReport.pdf> - and its chapter on optimizing the operations of the International Environmental and Climate Funds to deliver sustainable finance, and the final report of the iHLEG - <https://g20sfdwg.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/G20-IHLEG-VCEF-Review.pdf> -, which based on an assessment of the mandate and activities of each Fund, proposed a strategy to enable the Vertical Climate and Environment Funds to deliver at their full potential and enhance their impact).

115. During this period, the GEF Secretariat was invited to participate in the first G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting (ECSWG) under the South African Presidency, held virtually over March 25 to 28, 2025. The theme for South Africa's Presidency is "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability". The ECSWG meeting outlined the five key priorities of the Working Group, which are intended to advance the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: (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. The program of work for the ECSWG for 2025, including meetings and proposed deliverables, was also discussed. The GEF Secretariat continues to remain available for active engagement with the ECSWG process.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

UN Forum on Forests

116. The GEF Secretariat continued to actively participate in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) supporting the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and through its portfolio of projects, contributing to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and its Global Forest Goals.

117. In particular GEF Secretariat participated in a CPF meeting held on December 20, 2024, and took part in the CPF task force for the elaboration of the CPF Work Plan 2025-2028.

118. The GEF Secretariat also participated in the CPF retreat held on January 22 and 23, 2025, in Washington, DC. This retreat builds on the momentum created by the mid-term review of the IAF and the beginning of a new phase of work planning for the CPF.

119. During the reporting period, the main topics discussed and progress made in collaboration with CPF members were related to the update of the CPF Workplan, the implementation of CPF's response to the CPF-related provisions contained in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2024/15, the CPF policy brief to be presented at UNFF20, the CPF's priority areas of actions including joint initiatives and effective CPF engagement in the Conference of the Parties of the three Rio Conventions (including a plan for the COP30) and the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

120. As is done annually, the GEF Secretariat prepared an update of its engagement and investments to support forests for the UNFF Secretariat. This update is included in the UNFF Secretariat’s note on means of implementation for the next UNFF session.

121. The GEF Secretariat is actively engaged in UNFF20 with its participation in two plenary sessions: 1. Significance of a global hub on data, information, and knowledge on forest financing opportunities and best practices, and the role of the GFFN Clearing House and 2. Dryland Forests.

122. At the margins of UNFCCC COP 29 on November 21, 2025, the GEF Secretariat participated in the High-level Event on “Forests for Climate, Nature and People: Harnessing Climate Finance for Forests” hosted by the COP 29 Presidency in close collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat.

Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS

123. The GEF has closely followed 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 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)

124. The GEF attended the Third Meeting of the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund which took place in Geneva from March 19 to 21, 2025. The meeting considered the first round of applications to the GFC and Executive Board members gave their initial reflections from the first round of applications. In the first round 105 projects were received by the GFC and funding was available for twelve projects from the GFC Fund.

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

125. The GEF Secretariat participated in the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5) in Busan, South Korea from November 25 to December 1, 2024. The INC process has been ongoing to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

126. The GEF is one of the options under consideration by member States to serve as financial mechanism for the new instrument. The Chair’s Text, released at INC 5, 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.]”

127. The resumed session of the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from August 5 to 14, 2025. The GEF will participate in the resumed session to provide information on the potential role of the GEF in a future treaty on Plastics.

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 Responses¹⁶

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 Diversity¹⁷ 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,¹⁸</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,¹⁹ 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>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-15-en.pdf>

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁸ Decision [III/8](#), annex.

¹⁹ Decision [15/15](#), annex III.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>Biodiversity Framework,²⁰ 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 Biosafety²¹ 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,²² 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</p>	

²⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>biodiversity-related conventions and to address multiple environmental challenges in a holistic manner,</p> <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</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
Conference of the Parties, ²³ and takes note of the report on the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism; ²⁴	
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 ²⁵ and the capacity-building action plan ²⁶ for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;	The GEF organized a joint side-event to COP 16 “ <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.
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;	No response needed.
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;	The GEF organized a joint side-event to COP 16 “ <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.
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;	No response needed.
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	Noted. Measures to increase programming in support of the Protocols will be considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process.

²³ [CBD/COP/16/8/Rev.1](#).

²⁴ [CBD/COP/16/7](#). See also [CBD/COP/16/INF/25](#).

²⁵ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

²⁶ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
include related information in the next report of its Council to the Conference of the Parties;	
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 dedicated support to indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;	Noted. Response(s) will be considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process.
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) will be considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process.
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) will be considered as part of the GEF-9 Replenishment process. 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 ca. \$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.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
	<p>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> <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;²⁷</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</p>	<p>No response needed.</p>

²⁷ See the contributions at <https://fifitrustee.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/dfi/fifitrustee/fund-detail/gbff>.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>other stakeholders, to make or increase their contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in order for it to 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-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 will develop a GBFF resource mobilization strategy.</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. Specifically, nominations are being sought 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 conservation finance, including innovative financial instruments, private</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
	sector finance, and domestic, bilateral, and multilateral support.
<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) will be considered as part of the GBFF resource mobilization strategy and the GEF-9 replenishment process.</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 goes beyond the 'do no harm' of safeguards and calls for GEF projects to generate positive impacts for Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Each GBFF project is reviewed on its contribution to the aspirational 20 percent target of GBFF resources to support actions by IPLCs for biodiversity to ensure that underlying projects are designed and implemented in consultation and partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities. The GBFF will develop guidelines to ensure robust, uniform tracking and reporting on this target .</p>
<p>19. <i>Also welcomes</i> the fact that 25 per cent of the resources of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund is to be programmed through international financial</p>	<p>Noted</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
institutions that are agencies of the Global Environment Facility;	
<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.
<p>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;</p>	Future reports will include requested information.
<p>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;</p> <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>	Not directed at the GEF.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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 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;²⁸</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF.</p>

²⁸ See the submission from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, available at www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/6717c9819a0ecc27c502d552/GEF%20Financial%20Mechanism.docx.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>29. <i>Recalls</i> paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of its decision <u>XII/30</u> 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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</p> <p>The GEF has in place several policies²⁹ 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 <u>GEF Small Grants Programme</u>, and the more recent <u>Inclusive Conservation Initiative</u> and <u>Fonseca Leadership Program</u> 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 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>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</p>	<p>COP/12/3 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</u></p>

²⁹ 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)

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>Convention, recalling in that regard paragraph 6 of decision <u>14/15</u> of 29 November 2018;</p>	<p><u>Standards</u> policy in 2018, which is now consistent with the voluntary guidelines. As of June 2024, 16 GEF Agencies are assessed to be in compliance and two are making process implementing their actions plans to reach compliance.” Please see more details in the “Progress report on GEF agencies’ compliance with GEF minimum standards (GEF/C.67/Inf.08, June 04, 2024), 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 use 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 (inclusive of fees).</p> <p>The GEF has established dedicated programs such as the longstanding GEF Small Grants Programme, and the more 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>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
	<p>The GBFF has also expanded observer representation, including two seats each for IPLCs, Women, and Youth.</p> <p>Further measures will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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.</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). The GBFF Secretariat has recently hired a Senior resource Mobilization specialist and will develop a GBFF resource mobilization strategy.</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. Specifically, nominations are being sought 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 conservation finance, including innovative financial instruments, private sector finance, and domestic, bilateral, and multilateral support.</p>
<p><i>Also requests</i> that the Global Environment Facility:</p>	<p>Noted. Measures will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. These</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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 20 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 sector, philanthropic and conservation organizations and other major stakeholder groups;</p>	<p>elements have been reflected in the first draft GEF-9 policy directions³⁰ and Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions³¹</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 are presented for consideration by Council at the 69th Council meeting, and further streamlining and efficiency improvement options will be elaborated for consideration 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the GEF started rolling out support to GEF operational focal points in February 2025, starting with Africa through partnerships with the African Wildlife Foundation and the Tropical Biology Association. Support provides OFPs with tools and means to effectively monitor and oversee their portfolio of GEF-funded projects. - 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).

³⁰ GEF, 2025, [Draft Policy Directions for GEF-9](#), GEF/R.9/06.

³¹ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
	<p>- 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,³² particularly for LDCs and SIDS, and to strengthen engagement with civil society organizations, NGOs and the private sector. The Council will consider options at the 69th GEF Council.</p>
<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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</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>
<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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</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</p>	<p>Noted. Response will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</p>

³² GEF, 2024, [Strength of the Partnership: Coverage by Agencies](#), GEF/C.68/10/Rev.01.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>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>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 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>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.</p>	<p>Not directed at the GEF. The GEF will provide information, as requested, to support the study.</p>

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 Diversity³³ 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.³⁴

4. The framework uses the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³⁵ 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

The Four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. The first draft GEF-9 programming directions³⁶ have been designed to reflect it.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>Environment Facility in a balanced manner when designing and implementing its 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>	

³³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³⁴ Decision [III/8](#), annex.

³⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³⁶ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

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;³⁷
 - (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;³⁸
 - (iii) The knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;³⁹
- (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);⁴⁰
 - (ii) The gender plan of action (2023–2030);⁴¹
 - (iii) The global action plan on biodiversity and health;⁴²
- (g) The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴³ and the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review;⁴⁴
- (h) The implementation plan⁴⁵ and the capacity-building action plan⁴⁶ for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;⁴⁷

These elements will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. They are reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵⁰.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>(i) The Capacity-building and Development Action Plan⁴⁸ for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;⁴⁹</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>These elements will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. They are reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵².</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>(a) The GEF-9 replenishment process will be transparent and inclusive⁵³. 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</p>

³⁷ Decision 16/34, annex I.

³⁸ Decision [15/8](#), annex I.

³⁹ Decision [16/9 B](#), annex.

⁴⁰ Decision [15/12](#), annex.

⁴¹ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

⁴² Decision [16/19](#), annex I.

⁴³ Decisions [15/5](#) and 16/31.

⁴⁴ See decision [15/6](#).

⁴⁵ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

⁴⁶ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

⁴⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁵⁰ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

⁴⁸ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

⁴⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁵² GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

⁵³ GEF, 2024, [GEF-9 Replenishment: Participation, Workplan, and Proposed Timetable](#), GEF/R.09/01.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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, 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</p>	<p>how they contribute to national biodiversity strategies and action plans and support the implementation of the Framework</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>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 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.⁵¹</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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. 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>Noted. Response will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process.</p>

⁵¹ As defined in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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 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>(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 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 are presented for consideration by Council at the 69th Council meeting, and further streamlining and efficiency improvement options will be elaborated for consideration 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</p>	<p>Noted. Future reports will include the requested information.</p>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework. ⁵⁴	

⁵⁴ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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,⁵⁵ 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 plan⁵⁶ and its capacity-building action plan;⁵⁷ (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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. They are reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁵⁸.</p>

⁵⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁵⁶ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

⁵⁷ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

⁵⁸ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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,⁵⁹ 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;⁶⁰ (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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. They are reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁶¹.</p>

⁵⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁶⁰ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

⁶¹ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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;⁶²</p>	<p>Support to the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. It is reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁶³. 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.

⁶² Decision [16/19](#), annex I.

⁶³ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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 of 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 ca. \$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 repeatedly 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>

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<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 Policy⁶⁴. The GEF will continue to support knowledge management as a crosscutting 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;⁶⁵</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>

⁶⁴ GEF, 2020, Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy

⁶⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

COP 16 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i></p> <p>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>Support to national biodiversity monitoring systems will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. It is reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁶⁶.</p> <p>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>

⁶⁶ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

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:⁶⁷</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;⁶⁸</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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. It is reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁶⁹.</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>

⁶⁷ 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.

⁶⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁶⁹ GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

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>⁷⁰</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;⁷¹</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 will be considered as part of the GEF-9 replenishment process. It is reflected in the first draft GEF-9 programming directions⁷².</p>

Table 2: Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 29 and CMA 6, Conclusion of SBI 61 and GEF's Response

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
COP 29 Decisions (2024)	
Decision 2/CP.29: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
Paragraph 20:	Noted.

⁷⁰ 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.

⁷¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁷² GEF, 2025, [Draft GEF-9 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions](#), GEF/R.9/05.

⁷³ COP 28 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-29>

⁷⁴ CMA 6 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-6>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p><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>Decision 3/CP.29: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund</p>	
<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>While this guidance is for the GCF Borad, the reference to the ongoing collaborative efforts between the multilateral climate funds, as well as the invite to ensure that access of developing countries to resources is not restricted, is noted.</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>Decision 4/CP.29: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility</p>	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Notes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session,⁷⁵ 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.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <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>The invitation to consider the elements listed in this paragraph is noted. The initial draft of the climate change programming strategy, which is being considered by the participants of the GEF 9 replenishment negotiations in advance of its final approval in 2026, addresses the COP guidance as follows:</p>

⁷⁵ FCCC/CP/2024/8 and Add.1.

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<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>(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>(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>a) Support for just transition elements and their incorporation into national climate plans and programs is configured as eligible.</p> <p>b) Support for the design, establishment or implementation of nationally determined coordination mechanisms, such as country platforms, is 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.</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 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.</p> <p>The LDCF/SCCF is making concerted effort 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 global program is specifically designed to support this process, and to support developing countries in strengthening their institutional capacity and arrangements for climate and environmental action.</p> <p>f) As part of the UNFCCC, the TEC and the CTCN can provide official inputs in the replenishment process, with regards to technology-related</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	<p>elements of GEF programming. 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 GEF-9 programming directions. 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 it is included in the draft programming directions as part of the climate change focal area set aside.</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 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>This invite is noted. The ongoing efforts of the multilateral climate funds to enhance their collaboration and coherence are indeed aimed at increasing and simplifying access of developing countries to climate finance resources from the climate funds.</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 a part of the development of the GEF's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for LDCF/SCCF for GEF-9 Period, a representative from the Funding Arrangement for responding to the Loss and Damage is invited to participate in the strategy development process. In addition, the two Secretariats are liaising closely to ensure coherence and coordination between the two funds</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>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<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 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>Under the broader streamlining exercise, the GEF Secretariat is implementing a variety of measures to engage all implementing agencies and enhance MDBs and IFIs programming, encourage active participation by agencies in project preparation, implementation and supervision with close collaboration and coordination with countries' Operational Focal Points. These measures are reflected in changes and revisions to the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy.</p> <p>Under the GEF-9 negotiation process, replenishment Participants are expected to consider policy adjustments to strengthen accessibility to its funding and enable countries to mobilize further financing, including 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.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Further urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways of strengthening local capacities and country ownership in its provision of support;</p>	<p>Enhancing OFP capacity and supporting engagement in projects — Building on GEF-8 progress, the GEF is enhancing the capacity of OFPs by providing dedicated capacity-building and technical 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.</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,</p>	<p>Appreciate the acknowledgment of the largest ever programming in a fiscal year.</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p>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>Paragraph 9: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to further streamline the processes of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to simplify access for eligible countries, as appropriate;</p>	<p>The GEF-9 LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements discussions will explore different options. 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. 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 3 calls for projects. One of</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	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 SCF Forum. on Finance on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance. The GEF continues to implement its policy on Gender Equity, and 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 implementation reports, mid-term evaluation and terminal evaluations, which include updated on gender related elements and monitoring on progress with the gender related project indicators. More information on the GEF approach to gender issues is available in the 2024 GEF publication</p>

⁷⁶ FCCC/CP/2024/6/Add.5–FCCC/PA/CMA/2024/8/Add.5.

⁷⁷ Global Environment Facility document SD/PL/02.

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	"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 IPLC leaders to advise the GEF on policy, strategy, and program implementation. IPAG promotes knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and ensures IPLC 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 to instruments like the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights and ILO Convention 169, the Convention on Biological Diversity and implementing the Free Prior and Informed Consent in all the projects affecting Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the Project Identification Form, CEO endorsement, mid/annual term reports and finalization. The GEF, also in 2012 created Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and in 2025, it is working to update these principles and guidelines.</p> <p>(iii) Direct finance to Indigenous-Led Initiatives: although targeting the GEF biodiversity portfolio, the below also have relevance to climate change through co-benefits. Portfolio target of 20% 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 \$22.5M budget and the call for proposals will be</p>

⁷⁸ <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20Guidance%20on%20Gender.pdf>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	launched in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April, 2025.
<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>	Well noted on the request. The LDCF/SCCF programming strategy for the GEF-9 period will propose support measures to help ensure smooth transition for recently graduated LDCs, in response to this COP guidance.
<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>	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 Country Engagement Strategy continued to provide upstream support for country focal points and government institutions to ensure timely programming of GEF-8 resources. These meetings are important opportunities for countries to interact directly with GEF secretariat staff, receive training on GEF policies and operational modalities and benefit from South-South exchanges with other countries within the region. In addition, in the reporting period the first GEF Knowledge Exchange for Policymakers was launched in Costa Rica. Ministers and representatives from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, and Zimbabwe had the opportunity to gain valuable lessons on how Costa Rica has effectively leveraged GEF resources, partnerships, and policies to reduce emissions from the country's land-use sectors and enhance carbon sinks, while improving lives of local communities. ⁷⁹ Finally, in April 2025, the GEF rolled out the first regional training

79 <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/news/costa-rica-hosts-gef-knowledge-exchange-five-african-countries>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	workshop to enhance the operational effectiveness of GEF OFPs. This series of workshops aims to equip GEF OFPs with the necessary tools and knowledge to oversee and monitor their respective GEF portfolios more effectively. The initiative, initially focusing on the African region, will run from January 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026. ⁸⁰
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Decides</i> to modify the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Global Environment Facility,⁸¹ 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>	The 69 th GEF Council will consider a draft amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding.
<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>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility via the submission portal no later than 16 weeks prior to the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 19:</p>	Noted.

⁸⁰ <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/news/gef-and-awf-roll-out-regional-training-focal-points-23-african-countries>

⁸¹ Contained in decision 12/CP.2, annex.

⁸² FCCC/CP/1996/2.

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p><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>	
<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>	Noted.
<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; (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.</p>	Noted. The modifications to Paragraph 3 of the memorandum of understanding between the COP and the GEF have been included in a Council document for consideration and approval by the GEF Council at its 69 th meeting, in June 2025.
Decision 7/CP.29: Gender and climate change	
<p>Paragraph 20:</p>	While this guidance is directed to Parties, it is nonetheless noted.

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.

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p><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>	
<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>	<p>While this guidance is directed to Parties, it is nonetheless noted.</p>
<p>Decision 9/CP.29: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer</p>	
<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>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<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>	<p>Noted.</p>
<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 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</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
determined contributions, national adaptation plans, technology needs assessments, technology action plans and long-term strategies, and informing the technology implementation programme, ⁸⁵	
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></p> <p>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>	Noted.
Decision 13/CP.29: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2024	
<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 resource for capacity building, in taking action across the areas covered by the recommendations included in the “Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building” (FCCC/SBI/2024/19).
CMA 6 Decisions	
Decision 1/CMA.6: New collective quantified goal on climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Reiterates</i> the importance of reforming the multilateral financial architecture⁸⁶ and underscores the need to</p>	Noted.

⁸⁵ As referred to in decision 1/CMA.5, paragraph 110.

⁸⁶ Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 95

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p>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 with all Parties to ensure it is able to continue to provide financing to support developing country Parties meet the objectives of the Convention and its 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>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<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, and to at least triple 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;</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 two Council meetings, in June and December 2024. Additional elements are being considered as part of the Policy Directions presented as part of the negotiation package for the upcoming first and subsequent</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p>(b) Simplifying and harmonizing application pre-approval and post-approval requirements and disbursement processes;</p> <p>(c) Establishing flexible information requirements;</p> <p>(d) Promoting programmatic approaches;</p> <p>(e) Streamlining reporting requirements;</p>	<p>meetings of the replenishment negotiations for the ninth GEF cycle.</p>
<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:</p> <p>(a) Ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity when addressing climate change;</p> <p>(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 large 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 for to maximize synergies between climate and nature action, engage and support</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	indigenous people and local communities as environmental stewards, and promote traditional knowledge and local solutions for addressing climate change.
<p>Paragraph 22: Reiterates its invitation⁸⁷ 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;⁸⁸</p>	Noted.
<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>	The GEF provides support through the CBIT, which is aimed at building capacity in developing countries 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 from 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. 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

⁸⁷ Decision 8/CMA.4, para. 8.

⁸⁸ In accordance with decision 1/CP.21, para. 61.

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	<p>provide continuity and predictability of the GEF support.</p> <p>Indeed, four countries have already received support for their second CBIT project, while three additional countries have CBIT2 proposals under review by GEF Secretariat.</p> <p>Countries are encouraged by the GEF Secretariat and its agencies to start conceptualizing their CBIT2 project as they near the completion of their CBIT1 project to avoid gaps. The CBIT2 project can be submitted to the GEF for consideration together or just after the terminal evaluation of CBIT1. This ensures complementarity across cycles and facilitates adequate consideration of lessons learned and barriers identified in the terminal evaluation of the CBIT1.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2025, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 100 projects covering 96 countries, 87 national projects, two regional project (covering nine countries), and seven global projects. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 69th GEF Council as an information document.</p> <p>Regarding BTRs, the GEF has flexibly supported their preparation. Several countries with unused resources from previous enabling activity projects, mainly BURs, requested to redirect such funding to support the preparation of a BTR instead. The GEF approved this change as a minor amendment, as it didn't include a change in the GEF project financing or significant changes in the project scope or objectives. Minor amendments are processed without formality by the GEF Agency, who just informs the GEF Secretariat of the change. This enabled immediate access to resources. For instance, Brazil replaced BUR5 with BTR3, Congo BUR1 with BTR1, Indonesia BUR4 with BTR1, Kuwait BUR2 with BTR1, and Mauritius combined NC4 with BTR2.</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
	<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 more recently some of 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, 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.</p>
<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.</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:</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
<p><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, 2 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>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 referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	<p>This invitation is noted. The GEF stands ready to support Parties, including through the provision of financial resource for building and maintaining capacity, in taking action across the areas covered by the recommendations included in the “Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building” (FCCC/SBI/2024/19).</p>
<p>Decision 21/CMA.6: Provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for reporting and capacity-building</p>	
<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>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<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 addendum⁸⁹ on financial support requested, approved</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

⁸⁹ FCCC/CP/2024/8 and Add.1.

COP 29 Decision ⁷³ / CMA 6 Decision ⁷⁴	GEF's Response
and provided for the preparation of biennial transparency reports by developing country Parties;	
<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 who are active in the provision of support to transparency have been invited to participate in a “Workshop to Facilitate the Sharing of Experiences of Developing Country Parties in Preparing their First Biennial Transparency Reports” during the 62 nd Subsidiary Body Meetings in Bonn, Germany in June 2025. The event is in its early stage of planning by the UNFCCC Secretariat.

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>	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><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>	Noted with appreciation.

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
<i>Notes with appreciation</i> the implementation of Multi-Trust Fund projects to achieve a higher impact and co-benefits;	Noted.
<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;	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.
<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;	The current GEF-8 LDFA 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, 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 USD 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, 119 letters of endorsement from GEF Operational Focal Points have so far been received through 4 umbrella projects, of which 1 umbrella project including 39 parties

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
	has been approved for funding in this reporting period. GEF will provide regular updates on how many parties requested funding, were approved, and on the progress of implementing agencies in disbursing the funding to parties.
<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.
<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;	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.
<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;	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.

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
<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</i> of (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 will provide 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</i> that 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 <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;</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 NDPs. Continued support is envisaged in the future, based on countries' demands.</p>
<p><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;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><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</p>	<p>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</p>

UNCCD COP 16 Decision 9	GEF's Response
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;	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 dedicated to desertification, land degradation and drought;	Noted.
<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.