

64th GEF Council Meeting
June 26 - June 29, 2023
Brasília, Brazil

Agenda Item 15

RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.64/08, *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). Covering the period from November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, the document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

2. Part 2 of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP) 15, the tenth meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 10), and the fourth 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 4) were held in Montreal, Canada, from December 7 to 19, 2022. CBD COP 15 most notably led to the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). It also requested the GEF to establish, in 2023, a special trust fund to support the implementation of the GBF. Accordingly, two separate agenda items of the 64th Council and supporting Council documents are dedicated to the establishment of the GBF Fund and its Programming Directions.^{1, 2}

3. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-5) elaborating an international legally binding instrument 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) resumed its work at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, from February 20 to March 4, 2023. The draft BBNJ agreement³ was finalized on March 4, 2023, bringing to an historic close more than a decade of negotiations. The session was then suspended to proceed with the editing and translation of the draft agreement in the six official languages of the United Nations. It is expected to reconvene to formally adopt the agreement, tentatively on June 19 and 20, 2023. The draft BBNJ agreement identifies the GEF as part of the Financial Mechanism it creates. A separate agenda item of the 64th Council and its supporting Council document⁴ are dedicated to preparing the GEF to serve the BBNJ Agreement.

¹ GEF, 2023, [Establishment of a New Trust Fund: Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Council Document GEF/C.64/10

² GEF, 2023, [Programming Directions for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Council Document GEF/C.64/06.

³ UNGA, 2023, [Draft 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](#)

⁴ GEF, 2023, [Preparing the GEF to serve as part of the Financial Mechanism of the international legally binding instrument 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 \(BBNJ\)](#). Council Document GEF/C.64/13.

4. The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the UNFCCC was convened from November 6 to 20, 2022, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Along with COP 27, the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 4), the 17th COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 17), as well as subsidiary body meetings were convened. Amongst other outcomes, including the annual COP Guidance to the GEF, Parties decided to establish new funding arrangements, as well as a dedicated fund, to assist developing country Parties in responding to loss and damage. A transitional committee has been established to make recommendations on how to operationalize the fund and the funding arrangements, to be agreed at COP 28.

5. The GEF CEO and senior level officials also took part in various engagements, including those organized by COP Presidencies and other partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.

6. The provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued with the initiation of the GEF-8 programming and most notably the roll-out of Integrated Programs.

7. Highlights reported in this document include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 15 and its final preparatory meeting as the Fifth Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG-5).
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 27 and related meetings; ministerial pledging session for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), 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.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on GEF Secretariat's participation in the intergovernmental working group (IWG) for the midterm evaluation of the 2018-2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework, responses to the COP Decision on the collaboration with the GEF, and meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat.
- (d) Stockholm Convention: Updates on the engagement between the Secretariats of the Convention and the GEF as well as new reports submitted by Parties.
- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting.
- (f) Special Programme: Updates of the sixth round of the program and the results of the 8th Governing Board Meeting.

- (g) Summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: the Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the BBNJ negotiation process, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (Plastic INC), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

8. An annex with the full list of GEF's responses to decisions from most recent COPs, including UNFCCC COP 27, UNCBD COP 15, UNCCD COP 15, and Stockholm COP 10, is also included. The Minamata COP 4 did not issue new guidance to the GEF.

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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, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol). The report also provides information on GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report presented to the 63rd GEF Council held in November and December 2022. It covers the period from November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.
3. During the reporting period, the CBD and the UNFCCC held meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP). Convened from December 7 to 19, 2022, in Montreal, Canada, CBD COP 15 adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and requested the GEF to establish, in 2023, a special trust fund to support its implementation. UNFCCC COP 27, which took place from November 6 to 20, 2022, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, adopted guidance to the GEF.
4. Other major Convention-related meetings took place during the reporting period. The first meeting of the intergovernmental working group (IWG) on the midterm evaluation of the 2018-2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework was held from February 13 to 15, 2023. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-5) elaborating an international legally binding instrument 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) resumed its work from February 20 to March 4, 2023. The first meeting of intergovernmental negotiating committee for an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, convened from November 28 to December 2, 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The fourth session of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM), which began in August 2022 in Bucharest, Romania, resumed in Nairobi, Kenya, from February 27 to March 3, 2023.
5. The provision of finance through the GEF 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.
6. The GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground, notably to implement landmark decisions and agreements reached during the reporting period, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

7. The Executive Secretaries of the CBD, Minamata Convention and Stockholm Convention, and the Deputy Executive Secretaries of UNFCCC and UNCCD addressed the 63rd GEF Council in the Relations with Conventions session. They welcomed the record level of pledges achieved in the GEF-8 replenishment, discussed the status of negotiations under the CBD, the anticipated contributions of GEF-8 integrated programs to the implementation of the Conventions, and implications of the recent UNFCCC COP meeting.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

8. Part 2 of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15), the tenth meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 10), and the fourth 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 4) were held in Montreal, Canada, from December 7 to 19, 2022.

9. A delegation of the GEF Secretariat led by the CEO participated in CBD COP 15, which was preceded by the 5th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG). Further details on COP 15 outcomes and GEF engagement therein are provided below.

10. COP 15 considered the GEF Report to the COP and provided guidance to the GEF through decision 15/15.⁵ Annex I provides GEF responses to that guidance. A key aspect of the guidance was the request to the GEF to establish, in 2023, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Fund. Since the COP meeting, the GEF Secretariat has been working to respond to this request and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund is an item on the June Council agenda.

11. The Executive Secretary of the CBD participated in the 63rd GEF Council in December 2022. She provided an update on the preparation of COP 15 and the negotiations of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. She expressed her sincere appreciation for the historic GEF-8 replenishment and for the immense support it will provide to the Convention and its protocols, as well as for the implementation of the GBF after its adoption. She also conveyed her appreciation for the early action grants approved in GEF-7 that were already helping countries to prepare for the implementation of the GBF.

12. The 63rd GEF Council approved the *Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans* with a total GEF grant of \$20.4 million, inclusive of Agency fees. Implemented by UNDP, the Programme aims to enable countries to mobilize resources at scale to implement the GBF by supporting the development of national biodiversity financing plans, including baseline diagnostics, capacity, and institutional arrangements. A global knowledge-sharing and technical-support platform will also be established under the program to share

⁵ CBD/COP/DEC/15/15. [Financial Mechanism](#).

knowledge and experiences across participating countries and with the participation of partner organizations. The platform will offer dedicated expert technical advice to support national processes and address technical financial issues. While support to a first tranche of 26 countries was approved in December 2022, the programme will ultimately support over 90 countries that have not benefited from the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).

COP 15 Outcomes and GEF Engagement

13. Following a four-year consultation and negotiation process, COP 15 adopted the Kunming-Montreal GBF.⁶ The GBF sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework's key elements are four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. COP 15 also adopted a comprehensive package of decisions to guide and support the implementation of the. This package includes a monitoring framework for the GBF, an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing implementation, a strategy for resource mobilization, strategic frameworks for capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation, as well as an agreement on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

14. The GEF Secretariat was highly active at the COP. The GEF delivered its report to the COP, and participated in a number of contact groups on the GBF, resource mobilization, GEF guidance, and other related topics. The GEF CEO and staff took part in various facilitated discussions and questions and answers sessions with Parties, facilitators, Ministers, and other stakeholders as requested, responding to numerous questions as Parties considered the landmark Kunming-Montreal GBF and the GBF Fund establishment decision.

15. Over the two weeks, GEF Secretariat staff led or participated in more than 40 official side events covering a wide range of topics from the GEF biodiversity strategy, numerous Integrated Programs, biodiversity finance, private sector participation, gender, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) participation in the GEF, and GEF and GCF collaboration. Events coverage and news articles related to GEF participation in COP 15 are available on the [GEF website](#).

16. The GEF hosted a Pavilion at the venue to serve as a space for collaboration amongst GEF recipient countries, GEF Secretariat, GEF agencies, and other GEF partners and stakeholders. Twenty-two side events were hosted at the GEF Pavilion.

17. The GEF Communications team led an effort that yielded an unprecedented digital engagement that spanned media mentions, GEF corporate editorial coverage and social media marketing efforts. All the pavilion events were webcasted live and promoted on the GEF Twitter channel. Newsroom content complemented the themes and topics of the main pavilion events and IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin created engaging videos for the GEF's key events. Overall, in

⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

social and through traditional media, close to four billion people received content mentioning the GEF and COP 15 in their feeds.

18. For the first time at a CBD COP, the GEF organized a Ministerial Dialogue and Lunch as part of the high-level segment on December 16, 2022, in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, which was attended by over 200 invitees, including Ministers and Heads of delegations and institutions. The event was held to engage in an informal dialogue with the GEF CEO and Chairperson on how the GEF, as the financial mechanism of CBD, may be helpful to address country priorities and early action for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and catalyze resource mobilization. Ministers and heads of delegation were also encouraged to share their perspectives on how the GEF could further enhance its responsiveness to Parties.

19. The GEF CEO had 39 bilateral meetings throughout the COP, including with many ministers and other important stakeholders.

20. A subset of GEF side events dealt with GEF support to GBF implementation, including:

- GEF-8 programming directions and the GEF's biodiversity focal area strategy.
- Inclusive and Effective Implementation of Draft Target 3: Lessons Learnt from Past Country Experiences.
- GEF Support to the Development and Implementation of Biodiversity Finance Plans.
- GEF-8 GRID Integrated Program and Nature-Positive Infrastructure: Connecting Communities – Safeguarding the Planet.
- The GEF's Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) held a launch and information sharing event.
- The Global Wildlife Program (World Bank and GEF); The Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA); and International Ranger Federation (IRF): The vital role of rangers in achieving global biodiversity and development outcomes.
- The Global Wildlife Program (GEF and World Bank): Delivering action and impact for wildlife, landscapes, and people showcased how governments are strengthening their national efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, demand reduction and behaviour change, bolster wildlife law enforcement capacity, and promote wildlife-based economies.
- GEF/UNDP/UNEP held an inception workshop for the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project Inception Workshop.
- GEF/UNDP GEF Project Case Studies on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing Successful Capital Markets Instruments to Mobilize Private Capital into Conservation. The event discussed the GEF-funded Wildlife Conservation Bond and the Sovereign Debt Conversion Bond of Barbados and Belize as examples of innovative bonds issued recently.

- GEF/FAO/IFAD Introduction to the Food Systems Integrated Program.

21. A subset of GEF events addressed issues related to IPLCs. The side-event “Indigenous peoples, land rights, and the GEF” featured IPAG members.

22. A subset of GEF events addressed issues related to gender responsive implementation of the GBF and included one held by the GEF Gender Partnership: “Contributions to gender-responsive-implementation of the GBF and GEF projects and programs.”

Additional Meetings

23. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the Fifth Meeting of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), which took place from February 3 to 9, 2023, in Vancouver, Canada, and was co-hosted by First Nations and the government of Canada. The focus of the Congress was to build momentum and action to achieve the international goal of protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. The GEF Secretariat held an exhibit space and co-hosted a side-event with the World Resources Institute and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, where people leading, planning, and funding marine protected areas around the world shared ideas about how to achieve the 30x30 goal. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in the round table on Conservation Financing of the Leadership Forum on the final day of the Congress.

24. The GEF CEO and Secretariat personnel participated in the One Forest Summit co-hosted by France and Gabon in Libreville, Gabon, on March 1 and 2, 2023. The Libreville summit brought together 11 Heads of State and Government, as well as leaders of international, Ministers, financial institutions, representatives of the private sector, international NGOs, and Indigenous peoples' and civil society organizations. The GEF CEO presented the report "*Innovative Finance for People and Nature: Opportunities and challenges for Biodiversity-positive Carbon Credits and Nature Certificates*"⁷ during a Ministerial session. The report is the result of a High-Level Working Group that the President of the French Republic invited the GEF CEO to lead during a One Planet event held at UNFCCC COP 27. Kick-off on the margins of CBD COP 15, the Working Group was composed of 21 leading global thinkers and practitioners, supported by an expert panel of more than 50 persons from more than 30 institutions, including the CBD Secretariat.

25. The GEF CEO also participated in the Heads of State and Government segment, as panellist in the session "Can we agree on cash transfers for ecosystem services?". The outcomes of the One Forest Summit are captured in the [Libreville Plan](#), which references the recommendations from the GEF-led Working Group and outlines next steps.

Ratifications and Accessions

26. As of March 31, 2023, there were 196 Parties to the CBD, 173 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 52 Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on

⁷ GEF-IIED, 2023, [Innovative Finance for Nature and People: Opportunities and Challenges for Biodiversity-Positive Carbon Credits and Nature Certificates](#).

Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 139 Parties the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found from [this link](#).

27. Since the last report to the GEF Council, Bangladesh became party to the Nagoya Protocol, while Peru became party to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

National Reporting

28. The Convention Secretariat has received one additional sixth national reports from Bahrain since the last report to Council. The list of 190 national submissions received can be found on [this page](#).

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

29. During the reporting period, efforts continued to support climate change activities with the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

30. UNFCCC COP 27 took place from November 6 to 20, 2022, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Along with COP 27, the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 4), the 17th COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 17), as well as subsidiary bodies meetings were convened.

31. The GEF delegation headed by the GEF CEO participated in the COP 27 meetings. COP 27 considered the GEF Report to COP 27 and provided guidance to the GEF on a number of substantive elements.

32. The GEF COP report was presented, highlighting various tasks carried out to respond to guidance from COP 26 and its continued efforts to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including in relation to the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework (ETF). A Ministerial dialogue and pledging session was organized for the LDCF and SCCF, where eleven countries and one region announced contributions totalling \$70.6 million to the LDCF and \$35 million to the SCCF.⁸ Further details on the GEF participation to COP 27 and the key aspects of the guidance the GEF received at COP 27 are provided below.

⁸ The SCCF received an additional contribution of \$3.1 million in March 2023, from the United Kingdom.

33. The GEF and GCF organized a joint pavilion at the COP, co-hosting a number of high-level events and organizing meetings that address respective priorities. The pavilion also served as a hub for partners to meet and gather.

34. The UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary participated in the 63rd GEF Council remotely. He provided an update on key outcomes of COP 27, highlighting their relevance to the GEF. He congratulated the GEF on the mobilization of pledges to the SCCF and the LDCF.

35. GEF Secretariat staff continued to participate and be observers in events and meetings to advance momentum and action on climate, including the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues and meetings of Constituted Bodies, such as the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC). GEF Secretariat staff also participated as speakers and trainers to several regional working sessions of the “Needs-Based Finance Project.” Run by the UNFCCC Secretariat in response to a mandate from COP 26, the “Needs-Based Finance Project” assists developing countries in identifying their needs and mobilizing support to implement appropriate climate finance mobilization and access strategies.

36. The GEF Adaptation Strategy for 2022-2026, endorsed at the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in June 2022, recognized that many LDCs and SIDS face several capacity constraints. It outlined a Dedicated Program on ‘Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming,’ which responds directly to gaps and needs of the LDCs and SIDS.

37. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat began to roll out the Dedicated Program through sub-regional adaptation workshops. The objective of these workshops is to advance the LDCF and SCCF programming and build participants’ capacity to strengthen their skills and knowledge in the selection, design, and implementation of impactful national climate change adaptation projects.

38. The first Workshop was held on March 23-24, 2023, in Maputo, Mozambique for southern African LDCs. Organized back-to-back with the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop for southern African countries, it was attended by Operational Focal Points from Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, national adaptation experts, civil society organizations, and GEF Agencies. The second Workshop was held on April 24-27, 2023, in Dakar, Senegal for 17 francophone LDCs, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

39. In these sub-regional adaptation workshops, GEF Secretariat staff presented to the participants the Adaptation Strategy for the 2022-2026 period and conducted capacity building sessions on the LDCF funding cycle, developing a sound adaptation rationale, and preparing the results framework. The team also facilitated LDCF brainstorming sessions with participants on project concepts, engaged in bilateral meetings to facilitate adaptation planning, and discussed country experiences with accessing and programming LDCF resources. Post-workshop surveys reported a highly positive assessment from participants on the value of such workshops.

Participants were also polled on topics to be explored in future thematic or sector-focused adaptation workshops.

40. Regarding mobilization of finance for enabling activities under the UNFCCC, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), through the programming of medium-sized and full-sized projects.

41. Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation. To date, the GEF has approved BTR support to 65 countries for 79 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation. The GEF Secretariat continues to prioritize work with countries and GEF agencies to provide timely support, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024.

42. The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. During the reporting period, the GEF approved one national project totalling \$1.3 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and project preparation grant (PPG). As of March 31, 2023, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 88 projects covering 87 countries, 82 national projects, one regional project (covering five countries) and five global projects, totalling \$144.6 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT including a portfolio analysis and outlook is presented to the 64th Council in an information document⁹.

43. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued to advance on the efforts to enhance collaboration and coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GEF and the GCF organized the first Joint Programming Consultation, which took place in Rwanda on December 15, 2023, and was co-hosted with the Taskforce for Access to Climate Finance. Structured at the margin of the two-day GEF Rwanda National Dialogue which took place on 13 and 14 March, 2023, the GEF-GCF Joint Programming Consultation was organized in the context of the “Collaborative and Coordinated Programming” pillar of the GEF-GCF Long Term Vision (LTV), which includes a specific focus on facilitation of national investment planning. A summary of this activity and of the status of implementation of the LTV is provided the section related to the GCF below.

⁹ GEF, 2023, [Progress Report of the Progress Report on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.64/Inf.06.

COP 27 and Outcomes

44. At COP 27, Parties agreed to the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation plan, which has a strong focus on implementation and aims to strengthen action by countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change, as well as to boost the support of finance, technology and capacity building needs in developing countries. The Plan also highlights that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investments of at least \$4-6 trillion a year, highlighting the funding gap that still exist in climate finance.

45. Parties also agreed to “for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, including with a focus on addressing loss and damage by providing and assisting in mobilizing new and additional resources, and that these new arrangements complement and include sources, funds, processes and initiatives under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement.”¹⁰

46. Parties reaffirmed their commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and were requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national climate plans by the end of 2023. Finally, deliberations continued on setting a ‘new collective quantified goal on climate finance’ in 2024, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

47. The GEF CEO and Chairperson led the GEF delegation, and staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process.

48. During the COP, the GEF provided a statement on GEF initiatives and achievements based on its annual report. The GEF delegation also participated in contact groups and other sessions as requested to provide briefings to Parties and to respond to questions on GEF activities, its support to Parties, and its responses to COP guidance. The negotiations topics the GEF Secretariat participated in and/or provided input to included finance and provision of support, loss and damage, transparency and technology transfer.

49. The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan included various elements of relevance to the GEF, the LCDF and the SCCF. The Plan encouraged further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to climate finance; and invited development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative. It also highlights the role of the LDCF and the SCCF in supporting actions by developing countries to address climate change, welcomes the pledges made to the two Funds and invites developed countries to further contribute to the two Funds.

¹⁰ UNFCCC, 2022, Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage, Decision 2/CP.27.

50. The GEF received guidance from COP 27 and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 4), which, along with GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 1 of Annex I to this document. Key elements of the COP 27 and CMA 4 guidance are listed below:

- (a) On programming, the COP welcomed the work undertaken by the GEF on approval of climate change projects and programs, the continued integration of climate change in its other focal areas, collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, the conclusion of the eighth replenishment cycle, the integrated programming approach of the GEF-8 and increased STAR floors for LDCs and SIDSs.
- (b) On operational efficiency, the COP encouraged the GEF to recommend further streamlining measures aimed at reducing transaction costs and facilitating increased access by multilateral development banks.
- (c) On adaptation, the COP appreciated efforts to scale up adaptation in SIDS through the dedicated SCCF window, encouraged LDCF/SCCF to support implementation of national adaptation plan (NAP) and other national adaptation planning processes and urged developed countries to increase voluntary contributions to LDCF/SCCF.
- (d) On transparency, the CMA appreciated the efforts of the GEF in developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports, and requested the GEF to improve working with its implementing agencies in order to expedite the project preparation and submission processes for biennial transparency reports; and encouraged the GEF, through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, to continue providing capacity-building support to developing country Parties.
- (e) Further on transparency, the CMA also acknowledged the challenges developing country Parties face in implementing the enhanced transparency framework and requested the GEF to consult with developing country Parties on how the support provided to them by the Facility for preparing their biennial transparency reports could best achieve this.

51. In its report to COP 28, the GEF will elaborate on the steps taken to fully implement the guidance received from COP and CMA in Sharm el-Sheikh. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2023, is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2023, upon approval by the GEF Council.

52. Building on the successful experience at COP 25 and COP 26, the GEF and the GCF also hosted a joint pavilion at COP 27. It served as a common space for events and meetings and allowed for enhanced interactions between the staff of the two Secretariats.

53. At the GEF-GCF Pavilion, the GEF organized several high-level events, including on the Great Green Wall initiative, inclusive microfinance for climate adaptation, catalysing climate action with nature-positive cities pathways, CBIT, long-term agriculture resilience. Events

coverage and news articles related to GEF participation in COP 27 are available on the [GEF website](#).

54. The GEF CEO and Chairperson participated in several events, most notably:

- Climate Investment and Finance Forum, November 14, 2022.
- Towards Climate Transparency: national experiences with the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, November 14, 2022.
- Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF, November 15, 2022.
- Climate Crisis Commission – Addressing the Nature and Climate Intertwined Crises, November 15, 2022.
- The Rio Conventions – Restoring balance with nature for a sustainable future, November 15, 2022.
- Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program – Connecting people and institutions to connect landscapes and avoid tipping points, November 16, 2022.
- GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration, November 16, 2022.
- The Nature for the Planet: Building a Net-zero, Nature-positive Future, November 16, 2022.
- Time for Action: Youth initiatives towards climate change, biodiversity conservation, and desertification, November 17, 2022.
- GCF-GEF Synergies: Coherence and Complementarity in Catalysing Private Sector Action, November 17, 2022.

55. On November 7, 2022, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the “One Planet Event on Vital Reserves of Carbon and Biodiversity” organized by France in cooperation with the United States and China. Upon request by the President of the French Republic, the GEF agreed to lead, in partnership with the One Planet Lab, a High-Level Working Group on innovative mechanisms to address the biodiversity financing needs, with a focus on biodiversity-positive carbon credits and on nature certificates. The results of this work were presented by the GEF CEO during the One Forest Summit held in Libreville, Gabon, on March 1 and 2, 2023. The corresponding report is available on the GEF website¹¹. More details on the report and the One Forest Summit are provided in the section dedicated to the CBD.

¹¹ GEF-IIED, 2023, [Innovative Finance for Nature and People: Opportunities and Challenges for Biodiversity-Positive Carbon Credits and Nature Certificates](#).

56. The GEF Secretariat organized an LDCF outreach event with the LDC Group on November 10, 2022, and briefed the delegates on the major initiatives, in particular the new Adaptation Strategy

57. The GEF Secretariat co-organized with Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) an informational event and reception on “GEF SCCF Window A – Adaptation support for SIDS” on November 9, 2022. The purpose of the event was to inform AOSIS members about the dedicated adaptation funding window for SIDS under the GEF Adaptation Strategy for 2022-2026. Each non-LDC SIDS may access \$3 million to \$6.5 million in grant resources through SCCF Window A. Each LDC SIDS will continue to receive \$20 million in grant support through the LDCF for the GEF-8 period.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

58. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the following additional UNFCCC-related meetings and provided updates on the status of GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building, among other topics:

- (a) 43rd meeting of the Least Developed Countries Group (LEG 43) and NAP writing workshop for African LDCs, Moroni, Comoros, from February 20 to 24, 2023 (in person participation).
- (b) Second Meeting of the Nairobi work programme (NWP) Expert Group on Agriculture and Food Security March 6 and 7, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (c) 18th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, from February 28 to March 3, 2023.
- (d) Training workshop on transitioning to the ETF and tracking of progress in implementing and achieving NDCs for Asia Region, from March 8 to 10, 2023 (in person participation).
- (e) UNFCCC Needs-Based Finance Project: Training workshop on climate finance mobilization and access for ASEAN member states, from March 20 to 23, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (f) 26th meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) from March 21 to 24, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (g) First Meeting of the Transitional Committee (TC1), from March 27 to 29, 2023.
- (h) ETF Group of Friends – 12th group meeting, March 27, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (i) 21st meeting of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) Advisory Board from March 27 and 28, 2023 (virtual participation).
- (j) UNFCCC Needs-Based Finance Project: Training workshop on climate finance mobilization and access for Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), from March 27 to 31, 2023 (virtual participation).

59. In response to request from the Executive Secretary, the GEF Secretariat agreed in March 2023 to second two members of the LDCF/SCCF team to help assist the work of the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage.

Ratifications and Accessions

60. As of March 31, 2023, there were 198 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 194 ratified, the Paris Agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at the following [page](#).

National Reporting

61. The following is the total number of NCs submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of March 31, 2023:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **146**
- (c) Third National Communications: **98**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **25**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **4**
- (f) Sixth National Communications: **1**

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

63. The following is the total number of BURs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of March 31, 2023:

- (a) First Biennial Update Reports: **89**
- (b) Second Biennial Update Reports: **39**
- (c) Third Biennial Update Reports: **25**
- (d) Fourth Biennial Update Reports: **12**
- (e) Fifth Biennial Update Reports: **2**

64. Full details are available at the [UNFCCC website](#).

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

65. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued to follow up on the UNCCD COP 15, held from May 9 to 20, 2022, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in particular on the COP decision on

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.¹² Updates to the responses by the GEF Secretariat to these decisions are contained in Annex I, Table 3.

66. COP 15 launched a midterm evaluation process of the 2018-2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework with the aim to consider the progress made so far and potential next steps. The GEF Secretariat has been nominated as an observer to the corresponding intergovernmental working group (IWG). The IWG supervises the independent assessment of the UNCCD conducted by a consultant. It also ensures linkages and synergies with all parallel processes that are relevant to the evaluation. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the first meeting of the IWG in Bonn, Germany from February 13 to 15, 2023. The meeting clarified the terms of reference of the group, agreed on the specific evaluation questions for each criterion, and decided on the overall timeline for the work and next steps.

67. The GEF continues to engage and participate in strategic discussions with key partners of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI). GEF Secretariat staff participated to the regional consultation meeting co-organized by the Government of Mali, the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall and UNEP in Bamako, Mali, from January 30 to February 1, 2023, to advance the development of a long-term vision leading to institutional strengthening of the GGWI, and mobilization of adequate investments for a resilient and sustainable Sahel. At the same time, the engagement in the continued implementation of the GGWI will also position GEF and GCF to play a supportive role in advancing transformative projects and programs within the framework of implementing the conventions. Joint support to the GGW is part of the GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision (LTV) on complementarity as a major initiative with resources from the LDCF and the GEF Trust Fund.

68. The GEF Secretariat is cooperating with the Global Mechanism and other key partners on upstream engagement with the Southern Great Green Wall Initiative, including related discussions with the Southern Africa Development commission (SADC) in collaboration with the UNCCD Global Mechanism, and in cooperation with the GCF. Support to the Southern Great Green Wall Initiative was part of the COP 15 GEF decision. The GEF Secretariat is advocating country ownership, enhanced political commitment, and alignment of the initiative with the goals of objectives of all relevant conventions, in particular the UNFCCC.

Ratifications and Accessions

69. As of March 31, 2023, 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

70. National reporting by Parties under the new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is ongoing, with results to be presented at the next Committee for the Review of the

¹² UNCCD, 2022, <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/cop23add1-advance.pdf>, decision 9/COP.15.

Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 9 to 13, 2023. The UNCCD Secretariat is analysing reports, while countries can still submit their reports through the PRAIS portal.

71. GEF has made \$100,000 available for each GEF eligible country for UNCCD Enabling Activities for national reporting and planning. This amount of \$100,000 is in addition to the respective STAR allocations and includes GEF agency fees. Access to funding was provided through umbrella projects implemented by UNEP to 122 countries approved by the GEF CEO between March to May 2022. The subsequent disbursement of funding to countries was handled by UNEP.

72. The GEF Secretariat has closely monitored the process to ensure timely delivery of funding to countries. As of February 8, 2023, the status of disbursement to country parties was as follows: 73 countries had received their cash advances, 22 countries were in the final stages of processing the disbursement, and 27 countries were yet to submit the required documentation to UNEP.

73. In addition to the direct financial support to eligible parties, the GEF has funded a Global Support Program implemented by UNEP through a \$2 million Medium-Sized Project. The Global Support Program facilitates the reporting process through regional workshops and technical assistance provided by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

74. The UNCCD Executive Secretary and GEF CEO met in-person at the GEF Secretariat on October 27, 2022, to discuss collaboration for a successful implementation of the GEF-8 cycle, and in ongoing initiatives.

75. The GEF CEO co-hosted with the UNCCD Executive Secretary a separate meeting with five key international conservation CSOs: TNC, WWF, CI, WRI, WCS on October 27, 2022, to discuss how to expand the scope and scale of our joint engagement with non-state actors, such as civil society organizations, IPs, youth, and women. The meeting highlighted the importance of having a robust land conservation, management, and restoration regime, and how UNCCD and GEF mandates could contribute to that end. The meeting concluded that stakeholders and beneficiaries of GEF interventions in the context of the UNCCD agenda should strive to further recognize and support their enhanced participation and engagement in decision making and as partners in planning and implementation of projects and programs.

76. The GEF Secretariat staff held bilateral meetings with the UNCCD Global Mechanism team at the margins of the first meeting of the UNCCD mid-term evaluation in Bonn (February 13 to 15, 2023) to discuss their current priorities in terms of LDN implementation, developing LDN transformative projects and programs, support to Enabling Activities, and the Great Green Wall Accelerator.

77. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNCCD participated in the 63rd GEF Council Meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the historical GEF-8 replenishment and stressed that the GEF plays a critical part in bringing about transformative change. She mentioned that the launch of the International Drought Resilience Alliance demonstrates the political engagement around the land degradation agenda, acknowledging and expressing appreciation to Spain and Senegal for their leadership at UNFCCC COP 27 and the 50 countries and agencies that joined the alliance. She further emphasized that GEF investments can really make a difference in this area, the importance of investments in synergies, and the use of data and land use planning.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

78. The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions addressed the 63rd Council remotely, from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution. He stated that the Convention Secretariat was discussing with the GEF, the Agencies and other partners on how to best leverage GEF resources to meet the deadlines for the elimination of PCBs under the Stockholm Convention. Nine countries in the Caribbean had already met their obligations under the Convention for the elimination of PCBs, thanks to resources provided by the GEF. The Executive Secretary explained that the global monitoring plan under the Stockholm Convention had identified positive trends in the elimination of POPs especially pesticides, industrial POPs and PCBs. Strategic partnerships and new and innovative sources of financing needed to be explored. He also expressed appreciation for the Integrated Programs (IPs) related to Chemicals, including the Plastic Pollution IP, which will help addressing some toxic chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention, and the Supply Chains IP.

79. The Secretariat of the BRS Conventions also participated in-person at a consultation in December 2022 to develop the expressions of interest for the Eliminating hazardous chemicals from supply chains Integrated Program. It also participated in a drafting workshop in March 2023 to develop the program framework document for the same integrated program.

80. The GEF Council submitted its report to the eleventh Conference of the Parties for its consideration during the COP scheduled from May 1-12, 2023.

81. Ahead of the COP, the Secretariat of the GEF and the Secretariat of the Convention met to discuss GEF engagement at the COP including participation of the GEF in the PCB fair organised by the Secretariat and discussion of key topics on the financial mechanism including the terms of reference of the sixth review of the financial mechanism, the terms of reference of the assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for the period 2026–2030, the funding needs to meet the phase out deadlines of the phase out of PCB and the retirement and streamlining of guidance to the GEF.

Ratifications and Accessions

82. During the reporting period, there were no new ratifications of the Convention. The current number of ratifications is 185. The status of ratifications is available from [this link](#).

National Reporting

83. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour 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, 2023 the status of submission of NIPs and updates are as follows:

<i>NIP Phase</i>	<i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i>	<i>Change since last report</i>
Initial NIP	176	0
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	108	0
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	98	0
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	65	0
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	44	0
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	28	1
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	14	3

84. The NIPs submitted online can be retrieved from the Stockholm Convention [website](#).

85. The Convention Secretariat online reporting dashboard for Parties to directly upload their data on inventories can be found on [this link](#).

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

86. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention addressed the 63rd Council. She highlighted that Parties have launched the second review of the financial mechanism for consideration at the 5th COP meeting, which will be held from October 30 to November 3, 2023. She noted the high reporting rate by Parties under the Convention, which, with further contribution between the Convention Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies on Knowledge management facilitated compliance with the Convention. She also noted the Minamata convention along with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were cited as having good elements to borrow from by many delegations at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

87. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention participated online in a consultation in December 2022 to develop the expressions of interest for the Eliminating hazardous chemicals from supply chains Integrated Program. It also participated in a drafting workshop in March 2023 to develop the program document for same integrated program.

Ratifications and Accessions

88. During the reporting period, Algeria, Eritrea, and Bangladesh became party to the Convention.

89. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention has 128 signatures and 141 Parties, as of March 31, 2023. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention [website](#).

90. The Minamata Convention has updated its [website](#).

National Reporting

91. 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.

92. There are currently 70 MIAs submitted, 26 NAPs, 3 NIPs and 99 reports submitted under Article 21. MIAs that have been submitted are available at [this link](#).

93. NAPs that have been submitted are available at [this link](#).

94. NIPs that have been submitted are available at [this link](#).

95. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at [this link](#). The deadline for the full reports was December 31, 2021.

SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

96. No meetings of the Specific International Programme were held during the reporting period.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

97. The GEF Secretariat attended the eighth meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which took place in hybrid format in Geneva, Switzerland from February 15 to 17, 2023.

98. The main objective of the meeting was to review the eligible and complete applications submitted for the sixth round of applications for funding from the Special Programme and to consider arrangements for the launch of the seventh round of applications.

99. The Executive Board approved nine projects amounting to \$2,207,875. The approved projects were selected considering the project's merits, regional balance and priority to countries with least capacity, taking into account the special needs of least development countries and small island developing states, as listed below:

- (a) Ecuador: Improvement and sustainability for the management of hazardous and special waste and chemical products for industrial use in Ecuador.
- (b) Gambia: Capacity strengthening and technical assistance for environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes in the Gambia.
- (c) Georgia: Establish of a Poison Control Center (PCC) as an essential infrastructural element of sound chemicals management system and prevention of chemicals exposure and management of poisonings in Georgia.
- (d) Kenya: Sound Chemicals and Waste Management Kenya (Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste).
- (e) Lesotho: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Coordination of Chemicals and Waste Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and Mainstreaming Gender in their Implementation in Lesotho.
- (f) Maldives: Institutional strengthening and capacity building for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the Maldives.
- (g) Mali: Strengthening Mali's National capacity to implement the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions including SAICM.
- (h) Rwanda: Strengthening institutional capacity to reduce environmental and health risks from lead exposures and contamination in Rwanda.
- (i) Togo: Setting up a cost recovery mechanism to support the establishment of a sustainable legal and institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals with a special focus on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

100. In approving the arrangements for the launch of the seventh round of funding, which took place on April 6, 2023, the Executive Board revised the eligibility criteria for funding under the Special Programme. The Board decided that "Countries should refer to paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference for eligibility which states that 'Support from the Special Programme will be available for developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and for countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity'".

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

101. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in official meetings of the Montreal Protocol during the reporting period.

102. The GEF Secretariat and the Multilateral Fund (MLF) Secretariat met on the margins of the CBD COP in December 2022 to discuss coordination between the funds on the achievement of energy efficiency in the context of the phase out of HFC under the Kigali amendment of the Montreal Protocol.

103. In March 2023, the GEF Secretariat and the MLF Secretariat, including the Chief Officer, of the fund met online to elaborate on the discussion that was initiated in December 2022.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Adaptation Fund

104. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. By decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, the Adaptation Fund started serving the Paris Agreement under the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) with respect to all Paris Agreement matters, from January 1, 2019. In accordance with decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, once the share of proceeds becomes available under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the Adaptation Fund will serve the Paris Agreement exclusively and no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol.

105. In December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), at its fifteenth session (CMP 15), decided to adopt the amended and restated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the GEF Council regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB). At its fifty-seventh meeting, the GEF Council decided to approve the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services to the AFB as in December 2019.

106. In line with decision 9/CMA.1 related to guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the Adaptation Fund, along with the GCF, the GEF, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, continued channelling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communications.

107. The GEF Secretariat provided the Adaptation Fund with the continued cross-support services supporting the technical review of project and programme proposals submitted for the fortieth meeting of the AFB, which took place from March 21 to 24, 2023. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. As of March 24, 2023, the

AFB has approved 145 concrete projects amounting to \$1.06 billion in total.¹³ In addition, one large grant for innovation for an amount of \$5,000,000 was approved, together with two small grants for innovation for a total of \$500,000 and one learning grant for an amount of \$150,000. As of December 31, 2022, funds available to support funding decisions were \$290.58 million.

108. The GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. The AFB Secretariat shared with the GEF Secretariat the new developments in the Adaptation Fund's gender work: the update of the Fund's Gender Guidance Document for Implementing Entities on Compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy¹⁴ and its translation into French and Spanish; the first gender webinar targeting the Adaptation Fund's Implementing Entities. Both secretariats have continued to explore opportunities for future collaboration and have collaborated with the gender team of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme, such as the recent meeting "Collective Impact Gathering" hosted by the UNFCCC Secretariat in New York on March 20 and 21, 2023.

109. Since January 2018, the GEF Secretariat and the AFB Secretariat have coordinated closely to review and provide comments on any issues that may arise in connection with the ongoing process of the second phase of the World Bank's Trust Fund reform. The reform process is reviewing issues and opportunities for reform relating to the wide range of Trust Funds at the World Bank, including Financial Intermediary Funds, while respecting the governance and operational requirements for funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF. The secretariats continued exchanging information and prepared for discussions with the World Bank management on the new cost recovery measures for the GEF Vice Presidency including the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, which was released in March 2021.

110. The AFB Secretariat attended the 63rd GEF Council and 33rd LDCF/SCCF Council from November 28 to December 2, 2022, as an observer.

111. The AFB Secretariat also attended and presented at the GEF Introduction Seminar 2023 from February 27 to March 2, 2023 on an introduction on how to access the AF, as well as on the AF's new Medium-Term Strategy for the period from 2023 to 2027.

112. As agreed among the multilateral climate funds (AF, GEF, GCF, and CIF) at the fourth annual dialogue in November 2020, and as outlined in the joint statement published in July 2021, the four funds have continued to promote complementarity and synergies that will help

¹³ At the fortieth meeting of the AFB, two projects were placed on the waitlist pursuant to Decisions B.17/19, B.19/5, B.28/1 and B.35.a-35.b/46.

¹⁴ Available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/guidance-document-implementing-entities-compliance-adaptation-fund-gender-policy-2/>.

maximize the impact of their respective programmes in support of developing country recovery efforts with a set of priority actions.

113. In addition, the secretariats of the GEF and AF have engaged on collaborations to discuss several operational matters including fiduciary standards, knowledge management and results tracking as well as joint events at COP 27.

114. The GEF and AFB communications units along with those of CIF and GCF strive to coordinate and collaborate to enhance complementarity where relevant. The GEF and AF communications units periodically shared contacts and information on communications resources and approaches throughout the reporting period. The AF also reposted and commented on social media about GEF news, leadership and areas of synergy when appropriate.

115. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration, including on common events to be held at UNFCCC COP, organizing brown-bag lunches and participating in each other's virtual events.

Green Climate Fund

116. The GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have been working closely together over the past several years to enhance synergies and coordination with regard to climate financing, in line with COP guidance on the importance of complementarity.

117. The Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration of the GEF and GCF was presented to the June 2021 GEF Council.¹⁵ The LTV document identifies specific areas of cooperation where complementarity of action can increase efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the respective strategies and interventions. It was presented to the 29th meeting of the GCF Board, held on June 29 to July 2, 2021, as part of the GCF Secretariat report. As requested by Council, the GEF Secretariat has submitted an information document that presents a summary of the presentation and discussion of the 26th GCF board meeting.¹⁶ The LTV progress was presented in a joint report to the GEF Council and GCF board, submitted to the 62nd GEF Council.¹⁷ A new progress report is submitted to the 64th GEF Council as an information document.¹⁸

¹⁵ GEF, 2021, [*Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility*](#), Council document GEF/C.60/08.

¹⁶ GEF, 2021, [*Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility: Summary of the Presentation and Discussion at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board*](#), Council Document GEF/C.61/Inf.05.

¹⁷ GEF, 2022, [*Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility*](#), Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.14.

¹⁸ GEF, 2023, [*Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility*](#), Council Document GEF/C.64/Inf.07.

118. The GEF and GCF Secretariats continued to discuss concrete measures to enhance complementarity, collaboration and coordinated engagement throughout the reporting period. The GEF CEO, the GCF Executive Director, and the respective Secretariats held several discussions and joint engagements.

119. The LTV and collaboration with the GCF have been integrated and mainstreamed into the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy as well as the GEF Trust Fund Programming Directions. For the GCF replenishment, comparable approaches by the GCF to integrate the LTV and GEF collaboration in GCF strategic documents are anticipated, as stipulated in the LTV. The GEF personnel has been invited to as an observer to the GCF replenishment meetings and have participated in some meetings. The GEF CEO has been briefed about the progress through bilateral discussions with the GCF senior management.

120. One of the key developments of the reporting period is the enhanced collaboration with the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, which aims to address climate vulnerable countries' concerns by delivering concrete, system-wide changes in access to finance for climate action based on countries' own national plans and priorities. In particular, the GEF, GCF, and the Taskforce have committed to align the GEF-GCF joint national investment planning support in five countries under the LTV with the Taskforce's work in five pioneer countries, namely Bangladesh, Fiji, Jamaica, Rwanda, and Uganda.

121. This work was launched at COP 27, with a number of consultations with countries and a high-level meeting. Following the launch, the first Joint Programming Consultation took place in Rwanda on December 15, 2023, co-hosted with the Taskforce for Access to Climate Finance. In addition, structured at the margin of the two-day GEF Rwanda National Dialogue which took place on March 13 and 14, 2023, the GEF-GCF Joint Programming Consultation was organized.

122. The GEF Secretariat also received a request to hold a national dialogue from Uganda. The Secretariat consulted with the GCF Secretariat to develop a schedule of consultations to be organized with the Ugandan counterparts, likely to commence in late summer, 2023.

123. Another major task undertaken during the reporting period is an independent, in-depth comparative analysis of policies and processes of the GEF and GCF to foster complementary and coherence. The GEF Secretariat has selected a consulting company based on a call for proposals. The selected firm has carried out an extensive analysis on support modalities of the two institutions and various funds managed by the GEF and GCF, including operational procedures, policies, and guidelines relative to accessing financial support. The report has been prepared that analyze potential opportunities to enable better coordination and increased efficiency in the project preparation, design, and implementation between the GEF and GCF. The summary and recommendations are included as Annex II to this document. Further information is also included in the progress report of the LTV, submitted to the 64th GEF Council as an information document and the GCF Board.

124. The GCF and GEF have also joined forces on outreach efforts, with a joint Pavilion at COP 27, with several joint GCF-GEF event. The two institutions also collaborated through messaging and joint engagements at the CBD COP 15.

125. The GCF Executive Director and technical staff participated in the High-Level Working Group and Expert Panel convened for the preparation of the GEF report on *"Innovative Finance for People and Nature: Opportunities and challenges for Biodiversity-positive Carbon Credits and Nature Certificates"* which was kicked off at the CBD COP 15 and presented at the One Forest Summit in Libreville, Gabon, on March 1 and 2, 2023.

126. Significant changes to the personnel in both the GCF and GEF Secretariats resulted in vacancies in the LTV Steering Committee. The two secretariats continued to discuss collaboration through consultations held in late October 2022 and at COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh to continue the planning and implementation of agreed activities.

UN Forum on Forests

127. GEF Secretariat staff continued to actively participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), contributing on issues related to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and on the preparation of the 18th UN Forum on Forest (UNFF).

128. At the margins of UNFCCC COP27 on November 17, 2022, GEF Secretariat staff participated in the CPF High-level Dialogue "Turning the Tide on Deforestation".

129. GEF Secretariat staff continued to contribute to the preparations for the Midterm Review in 2024 of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). Staff participated in the Organization-Led Initiative (OLI) of the CPF on the assessment of the CPF on February 22 and 23, 2023, at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. This meeting provided an opportunity for experts from Members of the Forum, CPF and its members, regional and subregional partners, and major groups to review an assessment of the CPF made by consultants and to make proposals to the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Preparations for the IAF Midterm Review. The GEF stands ready to contribute to the review as needed as member of the CPF, which is part of the IAF.

130. The GEF Secretariat has been actively engaged in the preparation of the UNFF 18. The GEF Secretariat will notably participate in the panel discussions of May 9, 2023, item 3 (a) "Thematic priorities for 2023-2024 biennium in support of the implementation of the UNSPF", and item 3 (b) "Interlinkages between the Global Forest Goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2023, the work towards Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other international forest-related developments". The GEF Secretariat also prepared its engagement in two side events: "United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - interlinkages to leverage impact at the national level", to be held on May 8, and "Roadmap towards a more efficient and impactful Collaborative Partnership on Forests", to be held on May 11, 2023.

131. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in one CPF meeting held on February 23, 2023. The meeting took stock of progress made in the implementation of the CPF Workplan and considered new Joint Initiatives. The GEF proposed a new Joint Initiative focussed on primary forests to raise their profile in the global agenda and promote support for their conservation. This Joint Initiative was well received and approved by the CPF members. During the meeting, the CPF members also unanimously approved the application of the GCF to become a CPF member.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

132. GEF Secretariat staff participated in several side events focused on indigenous peoples at the UNCBD COP 15. The GEF hosted an event at its Pavilion titled “Indigenous peoples, land rights and the GEF.”

133. Representatives from subprojects of the GEF-funded Inclusive Conservation Initiative attended and participated in the UNFCCC COP 27 and UNCBD COP 15 as part of the project.

SAMOA Pathway

134. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the SAMOA Pathway during the reporting period but followed closely the lead up to the Fourth International Conference on SIDS to be held in 2024.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

135. The GEF participated in the fourth session of the IP, which began in August 2022 in Bucharest, Romania and, resumed in Nairobi, Kenya, from February 27 to March 3, 2023.

136. The first session of IP 4 in Romania resulted in a co-chair consolidated text that brought together several workstreams conducted online during the 2020 – 2022 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The resumed IP 4 made substantial progress on implementation mechanisms for the new instrument, capacity building, stocktaking, measurability, and modalities for considering new issues of concern.

137. Work was also done to elaborate targets for the instrument and determine what issues should be the subject of draft resolutions to be adopted at the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in Bonn, Germany, in September 2023. These include proposals for a new alliance on pesticides or negotiations on an international code of conduct on chemicals.

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

138. The GEF participated in the INC 1 which was held from November 28 to December 2, 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

139. Delegates in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) have not yet found common ground on the details and contents of the international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

140. There are divergent opinions persist on key substantive themes such as the definition of “lifecycle,” downstream control measures, and mandatory versus voluntary elements in the treaty.

141. The type of treaty that will be adopted is still open for debate, with some preferring a bottom-up approach and others preferring a strong top-down approach.

142. Delegates indicated that the means of implementation must be agreed upon before negotiating the substantive issues.

143. Delegates also indicated that the success of the ILBI will depend on its implementation and adequate means of implementation such as finance, capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer.

Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument 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)

144. In its resolution 72/249 of December 24, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine BBNJ, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. Five sessions of the IGC were convened between 2018 and 2023.

145. The President of the IGC addressed the Council at its 63rd meeting. Providing an update on the negotiations, she recalled that despite considerable progress on all parts of the BBNJ agreement, the two weeks allocated to fifth session of the IGC from August 15 to 26, 2022, did not suffice to finalize the BBNJ negotiations. It had been agreed by consensus to suspend the meeting and to reconvene IGC-5 at a later date. She indicated that the resumed IGC-5 was expected to have a discussion on the financial mechanism and that negotiating Parties had been largely supportive of the inclusion of the GEF Trust Fund in the draft BBNJ agreement.

146. At its 63rd meeting, the Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/10 *Proposed Framework for GEF’s Role in a Financial Mechanism for the International Legally Binding Instrument under Negotiation 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)*, took note of the progress of the IGC and decided that “if requested by the IGC, [the GEF Council] would welcome the GEF becoming the Financial Mechanism or part of the Financial Mechanism of the instrument, within the framework of the GEF” (Council Decision 36/2022).

147. The draft BBNJ agreement¹⁹ was finalized during the resumed fifth session of the IGC (IGC-5), held from February 20 to March 4, 2023, in New York. The IGC subsequently agreed to suspend its work on March 4, 2023, to proceed with the editing and translation of the draft agreement in the six official languages of the United Nations. The IGC also decided to further resume the fifth session on dates to be determined in order to formally adopt the agreement in all official languages, and to consider agenda item 5 “General exchange of views”. IGC-5 is expected to reconvene and conclude its work on June 19 and 20, 2023, with the formal adoption of the agreement (UNGA resolution 77/556).

148. The finalized draft BBNJ agreement identifies the GEF as part of the Financial Mechanism it creates. A separate agenda item of the 64th Council and its supporting Council document²⁰ are thus dedicated to preparing the GEF to serve the BBNJ Agreement.

149. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat staff continued to monitor the BBNJ negotiation process and to make itself available to clarify the GEF’s procedures, relations with Conventions it serves, and its work in areas beyond national jurisdiction to all negotiating Parties.

150. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the resumed IGC-5 from February 20 to March 4, 2023. The GEF, as an observer to the BBNJ process, was called on to provide a briefing and answer questions on issues related to finance.

The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-5)

151. During the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) held in Doha, Qatar from March 5-9, 2023, the GEF Secretariat organized a high-level panel discussion side event titled “Least Developed Countries Fund: [Catalyzing climate adaptation actions in Least Developed Countries](#)”.

152. The side event which was opened by the GEF CEO and Chairperson, maintained political momentum to enhance continued support for the [Least Developed Countries Fund](#) (LDCF) to catalyze climate adaptation action in the LDCs in line with the GEF’s new [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#).

153. Ministers and high-level representatives from Belgium, Bhutan, Malawi, Nepal, Tuvalu, the United States and UNFCCC Executive Secretary participated in the discussions. The high-level participants from both LDC and donors shared their insights on how the GEF is catalyzing adaptation action with concrete positive impacts for their economies, environment, and people in their countries. The delegates stressed the need to strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience

¹⁹ UNGA, 2023, [Draft 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](#)

²⁰ GEF, 2023, [Preparing the GEF to serve as part of the Financial Mechanism of the international legally binding instrument 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 \(BBNJ\)](#). Council Document GEF/C.64/13.

to climate change for sustainable development as well as the involvement of the private sector to build upon the LDCF investments.

ANNEX I: DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES TO THE CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, AND GEF'S RESPONSES

Table 1: Decisions adopted by CBD COP 15, and GEF's Response

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Preambular paragraphs</i></p> <p><i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the full application of provisions of Article 21 and access to the financial mechanism for all eligible Parties for the full implementation of the Convention, and <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>Recalling</i> Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,</p> <p><i>Reaffirming</i> the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8,</p> <p><i>Reaffirming also</i> decision XI/5, paragraph 7, on the quadrennial arrangement for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,</p> <p><i>Recalling</i> decision 14/23, paragraph 13, regarding the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,</p> <p><i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>1. <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>2. <i>Takes note</i> of the importance of realistic assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;²¹</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>3. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols an explanation of how the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility²², through the elements of its programming directions is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework;</p>	<p>Future reports to the COP will explain how GEF-8 Programing Directions have contributed to implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the GBF.</p>
<p>4. <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in their effort to enhance policy coherence as part of biodiversity mainstreaming to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>Elements of the GEF-8 Programming Directions will support policy coherence, and this will also be reported in future COP reports.</p>
<p>5. <i>Adopts</i> the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>6. <i>Welcomes</i> the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and notes that its associated programming directions and strategy, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>7. <i>Urges</i> relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

²¹ The executive summary is available in CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the full report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/44.

²² Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility refers to replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;	
<p>8. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The fast-tracking of the implementation of the GBF, in particular for the intermediate phase (2023-2024) of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and in the reporting of progress of the mobilization of new and additional resources to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting; and (b) The development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions and instruments at national level, and to promote synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, towards the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; 	Support is already being provided to implementation of the GBF and elements of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and this will be reported at the next COP.
<p>9. <i>Adopts</i> the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II A to the present decision, decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism and <i>also adopts</i> additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II B to the present decision;</p>	Noted.
<p>10. <i>Decides</i> to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030);</p>	Noted.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>11. Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><i>12. Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><i>13. Adopts</i> the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, as contained in annex IV to the present decision;</p>	<p>Noted. GEF will participate in the assessment as required.</p>
<p><i>14. Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference as contained in annex IV, in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p><i>15. Invites</i> developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>16. <i>Invites</i> the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30 and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>17. <i>Further adopts</i> the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex III to the present decision, and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be prepared three months in advance in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.</p>	<p>Note: GEF will participate in the review of effectiveness as required.</p>
<p>18. <i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to further reform its operations to ensure adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds by establishing easy and effective access modalities, including by scaling fast-track systems, and by facilitating new contributors.</p>	<p>This is consistent with the GEF-8 policy recommendation on streamlining and plans are underway to address this issue. Future reports to the COP will explain how the GEF has reformed and streamlined its operations, both through the GEF TF and the GBF Fund.</p>
<p>Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBF Fund)</p> <p>19. <i>Recognizes</i> the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance, and to establish a dedicated and accessible GBF Fund in 2023 that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>20. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework ("GBF Fund"), to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds;</p>	<p>Currently under development, with two decisions on the Trust Fund establishment and its Programming Directions to be discussed at the 64th Council. These decision paragraphs are duly considered and reflected in the two documents.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>21. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environmental Facility to prepare a decision to be considered by the Council on the approval of a GBF Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>22. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements, to allow for this GBF Fund to receive, in addition to ODA, financing from all sources;</p> <p>23. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the GBF Fund;</p> <p>24. <i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;</p> <p><i>Calls for</i> immediate substantive contributions from all sources, in line with target 19.1 of the framework;</p> <p>25. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environmental Facility to engage all Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions in the design and operationalization action of the GBF Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>26. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to report to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties on the progress in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund;</p> <p>27. <i>Decides</i> to assess the progress made in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 9 above, on the modalities and operation of the GBF Fund, at its future meetings;</p>	

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>28. <i>Decides</i> to undertake and act upon, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the GBF Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.</p>	
<p>Annex I</p> <p>FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2022-2026) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022-2026, and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the GEF by the Conference of the Parties. It utilizes the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention's Protocols to set priorities for the financial mechanism. In particular, the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provide direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework, bearing in mind that GEF-8 and GEF-9 will together cover the expected eight years to the 2030 deadlines of the targets, while recognizing that the three objectives of the Convention should be considered by the GEF when designing and implementing biodiversity strategy and programming directions.</p> <p>2. In that regard, it is envisaged that following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment under their respective processes, the GEF will include in its report to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how GEF-8, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and to each goal and target</p>	<p>Future reports to the COP will explain how GEF-8 Programing Directions have contributed to implementation of the GBF, including from the GEF Trust Fund and the GBF Fund.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework.</p> <p>3. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is an overarching framework of high relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, and seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies, among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mandate of the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p>4. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2022–2026 consists of the following elements to which effective implementation support is to be provided:</p>	
a) The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including its goals and targets which define the outcomes being sought;	GEF-8 Programming Directions is geared towards providing support to the GBF.
b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);	In GEF-8 resources have been set aside to fund the NBSAP revision, which will build upon the GEF-7 Early Action Grants.
c) National biodiversity finance plans;	A global program of support to fund national biodiversity finance plans was approved in December 2022 Council and all remaining eligible countries will be added to this program in the first quarter of 2023.
d) The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;	The GEF biodiversity focal area strategy, in combination with the 11 integrated programs, provides a comprehensive level of support to the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>e) The implementation support mechanisms adopted under the Convention associated with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to: mobilizing sufficient resources from all sources towards implementing the framework and achieving its goals and targets; mainstreaming; capacity building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. Examples include:</p> <p>(i) The resource mobilization strategy, including the establishment of a global biodiversity framework fund to be established by the GEF;</p> <p>(ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development beyond 2020;</p> <p>(iii) The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity;</p> <p>(iv) The updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, and;</p> <p>(v) The gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.</p>	<p>(i) Biodiversity finance plans are being funded, GBFF is under development</p> <p>(ii) All GEF investments provide significant support to capacity building (CB) and contribute to the long-term CB framework</p> <p>(iii) Mainstreaming of biodiversity remains a significant priority within the biodiversity focal area strategy and 10 of the 11 IPs will make significant contributions to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, very often through mainstreaming actions</p> <p>(iv) the Sustainable Cities IP will contribute to the plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity</p> <p>(v) GEF projects are all required to address gender in their design as part of the GEF safeguards policy and therefore the entire GEF portfolio is contributing to the Gender Plan of Action.</p>
<p>f) The mechanisms for planning, reporting, monitoring, assessment and review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>As part of the biodiversity focal area strategy, resources have been set aside outside of the STAR to support NBSAP revision and national reporting for the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol</p>
<p>g) The enabling conditions outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework required for its implementation;</p>	<p>The section on enabling conditions required for implementation was shortened considerably in the final document. The focus was on</p> <p>“support mechanisms and strategies under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols” and “provision of adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial</p>

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	resources from all sources on a needs basis." It further requires cooperation and collaboration in building the necessary "capacity and transfer of technologies to allow Parties, especially developing country Parties, to fully implement the framework." Most of our strategies are supportive of these elements and we will report on this in the GEF COP report.
h) The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030) and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030);	Objective Two of the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy supports capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol
i) The guidance to the Global Environment Facility on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, contained in appendix I;	Objective Two of the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy supports capacity building and priorities for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
<p><i>Additional strategic considerations</i></p> <p>5. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should support the rapid and effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by contributing to resource mobilization from all sources, including through increased GEF funding, which is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible and through allocations dedicated to the biodiversity focal area and co-benefits for biodiversity across other focal areas and global programmes, including integrated programmes, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement of resources.</p>	Resource mobilization will be facilitated through GEF support to the development of national biodiversity finance plans, through the GBFF, and through co-financing leveraged through the 11 IPs and the relevant focal area supported projects and programs. In addition, GEF's blended finance program is designed specifically to attract PS investment and has reached very high co-financing ratios historically with high participation of the private sector.
6. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize the contribution of multi-country, regional, transboundary and global projects, to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including to the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and multi-country,	Regional, transboundary, and global projects are eligible for support in GEF-8 to help implement the GBF.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
regional, transboundary and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.	
7. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	GEF-8 biodiversity and programming directions responded to GEF-eligible guidance suggested through the CBD COP to GEF from the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements. The biodiversity related conventions also provided feedback and comments on the programming directions and BD FA strategy as it was being developed during the GEF-8 replenishment process.
8. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	GEF-8 supported biodiversity-relevant projects and programs must demonstrate how they are supporting country NBSAP priorities.
9. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that projects to be funded by the GEF during its 8th replenishment in recipient Parties are to be developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis, addressing the priority needs of recipient countries.	The development of the GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions was a fully participatory and inclusive process.
10. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote agreed global environmental benefits and development pathways that benefit biodiversity and are also, carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including through coherence and synergies among the GEF integrated programmes and focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change (both mitigation and adaptation), and chemicals and waste, and within the context of country driven programmes and priorities.	GEF-8 programming directions, including the 11 IPs, the BD FA strategy, and other relevant strategies have emphasized synergies across all focal areas and in particular biodiversity benefits with an estimated 60% of total GEF resources advancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. This will be tracked during GEF-8 and duly reported in GEF reports to COPs in the future.
11. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote and implement, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach, and/or nature-based solutions as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.	The ecosystem approach is central to the biodiversity focal area strategy and Nature-based solutions are identified as priority areas of support in numerous integrated programs of the GEF-8 programming directions including Blue and Green

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	Islands, Ecosystem Restoration, Healthy Oceans, Net Zero Nature Based Accelerator, Wildlife Conservation for Development, as well as the biodiversity and international waters focal area strategies.
12. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with those of the other conventions served by GEF, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, recognizing the important contributions that these instruments can make to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and vice versa.	GEF-8 biodiversity and programming directions responded to GEF-eligible guidance suggested through the CBD COP to GEF from the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements. The biodiversity related conventions also provided feedback and comments on the programming directions and BD FA strategy as it was being developed during the GEF-8 replenishment process. The integrated nature of GEF programming in the biodiversity strategy in GEF-8 will also provide co-benefits to other conventions served by GEF.
13. During the GEF-8 period, GEF should further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the contributions of the other biodiversity-related conventions within their activities and report on funding contributing to their implementation.	GEF is proactively working with the MDBs that are GEF agencies to secure their engagement in GEF-8 programming that is consistent with their respective comparative advantage. Each MDB has already made their own commitments to integrate the objectives of the CBD into their own programming, thus, they are best placed to report on their efforts. See https://ukcop26.org/mdb-joint-statement/
14. The GEF-8 outcome and impact indicators and associated monitoring processes should be effectively used to assess the contribution of the GEF-8 to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the Protocols of the Convention, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant GEF activities.	The GEF report to the COP will map GEF investments, along with the GEF core indicators, to the targets of the GBF.
15. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to significantly improve the access to funding for all recipient countries.	The GEF will continue to explore possibilities for improving access to finance through project cycle reforms. Future

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	reports to the COP will explain how the GEF has reformed and streamlined its operations, both through the GEF TF and the GBF Fund.
16. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to improve the access to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities.	GEF-8 biodiversity focal area strategy includes additional funding of \$25 million for the Inclusive Conservation Initiative which provides access to GEF funds for IPLCs. (\$25 million was also allocated to this initiative in GEF-7)
17. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote engagement with recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans.	A global program of support to fund national biodiversity finance plans was approved in December 2022 Council and all remaining eligible countries will be added to this program in the first quarter of 2023.
18. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, programming directions and policy recommendations should reinforce the GEF's efforts to mobilize and engage with different stakeholders including the private sector.	Stakeholder engagement is required of all GEF projects, and a stakeholder participation plan is a requirement for all CEO endorsements. In GEF-8, each of the 11 Integrated Programs its own set of private sector objectives, identifying the major platforms for engagement, key entry points, and expected modalities of engagement that can optimize the contributions of the private sector.
19. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during the GEF 8 replenishment period, the GEF should continue to improve its policies regarding governance and the standards its implementing partners are held to.	An analysis on the strength of the GEF Partnership along several dimensions including efficiency and effectiveness will be conducted for presentation at the 64 th Council meeting. As discussed during the GEF-8 replenishment, a gap analysis of relevant GEF Policies and Guidelines will be undertaken for the 64 th Council meeting to identify areas that GEF may need to strengthen its approach and guidance, and sustainability of results will be further strengthened through project design and implementation through a number of initiatives including the GEF-8 Country Engagement Strategy.

Table 2: Decisions adopted by UNFCCC COP 27 and CMA 4, Conclusion of SBI 57 and SBSTA 57, and GEF's Response

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
COP 27 Decisions (2022)	
Decision 1/CP27: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan	
<p>Paragraph 23: <i>Highlights</i> the role of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in supporting actions by developing countries to address climate change, and <i>welcomed</i> the pledges made to the two Funds and <i>invited</i> developed countries to further contribute to the two Funds;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges of \$105.6 million in total to the LDCF and SCCF²³ made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.</p> <p>Further, the GEF appreciates the new pledge of \$35 million towards SCCF's dedicated focus on Small Island Developing States as a key avenue of climate finance that is otherwise lacking.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 30: <i>Welcomes</i> and reiterates the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change within the next five years and <i>invites</i> development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>The GEF has been supporting activities that help countries to set up and operationalize early warning systems.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support will continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026).</p>
<p>Paragraph 42: <i>Emphasizes</i> the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and encourages</p>	<p>The GEF takes note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continues to work towards streamlining its operational</p>

²³ The GEF Secretariat organized the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF on the margins of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh on November 15, 2022, and generated a pledge of \$70.6 million for the LDCF and \$35 million SCCF from eight donors (Belgian region of Wallonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance;</p>	<p>procedures and increasing efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 replenishment resolution includes commitments to propose concrete actions for consideration by the GEF Council by December 2023 and work is in progress on this.²⁴</p> <p>Furthermore, GEF-8 replenishment negotiations have simplified access to finance under STAR by allowing for full flexibility across focal areas in the use of resources allocated to countries under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).</p> <p>In addition, the GEF revised and streamlined its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of Project Information Form (PIF) for mid- and full-size projects, the Program Framework Document (PFD) for multi country programs, and the template to request Enabling Activity funding for reporting obligations from the GEF Climate Change Set Aside.</p> <p>Additional efforts are ongoing within the GEF Partnership to identify additional adjustments that could further contribute to streamline and simplify the processes for countries, Council and agencies in designing, approving and executing GEF projects, ultimately reducing the overall timeline and effort required for countries to access GEF resources.</p> <p>Additional options are being considered in the context of the design of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the GEF family of funds. A process of active consultation with GEF Agencies is underway on these issues.</p>
<p>Decision 2/CP.27: Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage;</p>	

²⁴ The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/C.62/03).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 7: (d) <i>Invited</i> United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and bilateral, multilateral and international financial institutions to submit inputs on how they might enhance access to and/or the speed, scope and scale of availability of finance for activities relevant to addressing loss and damage, including potential limitations and barriers and options for addressing them;</p>	<p>The GEF is actively following ongoing discussion in relation to this Decision 2/CP.27 and providing necessary inputs. At the first Transitional Committee meeting, GEF presented ongoing support that help countries to address loss and damage within the scope of CCA.</p> <p>In addition, as requested by the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF has seconded two members of the GEF Secretariat as member of technical support unit that supports the work of the Transitional Committee on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements and fund for loss and damage.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invite</i> the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the principals of international financial institutions and other relevant entities with a view to identifying the most effective ways to provide funding to respond to needs related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Also invite</i> international financial institutions to consider, at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the potential for such institutions to contribute to funding arrangements, including new and innovative approaches, responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Reiterate</i> decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, in which developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, are urged to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage</p>	<p>While the GEF has not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it has been supporting activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance, within the scope of its LDCF/SCCF support. A recent initiative with V20 is a good example.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support will continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026).
Decision 3/CP.27: Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the participation of representatives of constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and observer organizations in workshops under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Underscores</i> the importance of constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism taking into account the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies in implementing their actions and workplans, according to their mandates;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the following objectives: (b) Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed</p>	Noted. The GEF stands ready to engage with SBSTA, Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams in the context of the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;</p> <p>(d) Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 15:</p> <p><i>Also requests</i> the secretariat to support the joint work by holding in-session workshops in hybrid format, facilitating both virtual and in-person participation, on agreed topics related to agriculture and food security at the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies each year and inviting representatives of the constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and observers to them.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Decision 10/CP.27: Matters relating to the least developed countries</p>	
<p>Paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Underscore</i> the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions associated with the priorities in the national adaptation plans of the least developed countries and encourage relevant organizations, as well as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to enhance support to the least developed countries in this regard;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 CCA strategy recognizes the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions. Therefore, the strategy introduced three dedicated programs that contribute to project pipelines and proposal. The dedicated program on “<i>Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming</i>” directly responds to the countries need to strengthen the design of LDCF project concepts for greater adaptation impact, and to enhance access to adaptation finance and enable coordinated programming across various funding sources.</p> <p>Further, the GEF Secretariat is collaborating with other operating entities and UNFCCC to support activities to</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	formulate technical guidelines for the implementation of national adaptation plans.
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Note with appreciation</i> the financial pledges, totalling USD 70.6 million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urge additional contributions to the Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the pledges to the LDCF made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Annex Paragraph XIII – 57: <i>Decides</i> that the least developed countries expert group shall invite the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund to its meetings to discuss collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Decision 13/CP.27: Long-term climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the recent pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totalling USD 211.6 million), the Least Developed Countries Fund (totalling USD 70.6 million), the Special Climate Change Fund (totalling USD 35.0 million) and the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (totalling USD 5.3 billion and with a climate-related finance target of no less than 80 per cent of all funding commitments in the eighth replenishment period) and urges developed country Parties to fulfil their pledges on time;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates the pledges made to the GEFTF, the LDCF and the SCCF, and looks forward to additional contributions in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Also reiterates</i> that a significant amount of adaptation finance should flow through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Emphasizes</i> the need for further efforts to enhance access to climate finance, including through harmonized, simplified and direct access procedures;</p>	<p>During the reporting period the GEF has continued to undertake efforts to enhance access to climate finance for Parties, including through the streamlining of its funding request templates for projects, programs and enabling activities.</p> <p>The GEF has also continued its engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the context of their Long-Term Vision (LTV) and with the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, as encouraged by Decision 12/CMA.3, to support an initial group of five pilot countries in carrying out coordinated and joint programming between the GEF and the GCF, and to further coordinate and improve on the on-the-ground delivery of climate finance.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11 <i>Reiterates</i> that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, will continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for TNAs, and for other initiatives such as ECWs, in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.</p>
<p>Decision 17/CP.27: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility</p>	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session and its addendum, including the response of the Global Environment Facility to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Also welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during the reporting period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, including:</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>(a) The approval of 86 climate change projects and programmes under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p> <p>(b) The continued integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and integrated programmes and the expected avoidance or sequestration of 76.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent achieved through such integration;</p> <p>(c) The continued implementation of the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;</p> <p>(d) The creation of a competitive window in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources amounting to 8 per cent of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources allocation for the five top recipient countries under this system;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Further welcomes</i> the conclusion of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility amounting to USD 5.3 billion, while noting that overall resources available for programming for the climate change focal area in the eighth replenishment increased by 6 per cent compared with the resources available in the seventh replenishment;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Welcomes</i> the integrated programming approach of the Global Environment Facility across all five of its focal areas, which should help it to maximize the global environmental benefits of its support;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Notes</i> the adoption of the private sector engagement strategy by the Global Environment Facility Council at its 59th meeting and the renewed non-grant</p>	Noted.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
instrument under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and encourages the Global Environment Facility to enhance its efforts to mobilize and engage with the private sector during the eighth replenishment period;	
<p>Paragraph 6:</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the increased allocation of resources to small island developing States and the least developed countries in the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, including through harmonizing the small island developing State floors with the least developed country floors and raising these floors to USD 8 million;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Appreciates</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility secretariat to scale up adaptation finance for small island developing States through the designation of a dedicated window under the Special Climate Change Fund for supporting the adaptation needs of small island developing States and encourages continued and increased voluntary contributions of financial resources to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in line with the Global Environment Facility's 2022–2026 programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	The GEF takes notes of the appreciation and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to support developing country Parties in implementing national adaptation plans and other national adaptation planning</p>	The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
processes and urges developed country Parties to increase their voluntary contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;	
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to work towards implementing its programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund during the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility so as to effectively assist developing countries;</p>	<p>The GEF will make concerted efforts to effectively implement programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to foster greater diversity of its implementing agencies, building on the comparative advantages of the various agencies and taking into account recipient country priorities;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Replenishment resolution²⁵ included a request for the Secretariat to monitor and report on the achievement of diversification efforts – particularly an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10 percent of the approved amounts during GEF-8, and a notional limit of 30 percent on programming by any one GEF Agency.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Calls</i> on the Global Environment Facility to enhance its support, within its mandate, for implementing the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat implements the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender actions plan with guidance from its Gender Policy and Gender Equality Implementation Strategy. In 2022, 100 percent of projects at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage had detailed gender analysis and all planned to include gender-responsive results framework. These include projects that support the gender-responsive implementation of the UNFCCC, including its gender action plan. The GEF Gender Partnership, convened by the GEF Secretariat, is working with the UNFCCC Secretariat to support the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan. Planned activities under the GEF Gender Partnership with the participation of the UNFCCC Secretariat include, among others: updating the e-course on gender and the environment</p>

²⁵ The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/C.62/03).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	(climate change module), holding a webinar and/or joint capacity-building and awareness-raising session for the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points of the UNFCCC, and co-organizing gender-specific sessions on the sidelines of the UNFCCC SB and COP.
<p>Paragraph 12: Encourages the Global Environment Facility secretariat to recommend further streamlining measures aimed at reducing transaction costs for all implementing agencies, reducing administrative costs and facilitating increased access by multilateral development banks;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat takes note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continues to work towards streamlining its operational procedures and increasing efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 replenishment resolution includes commitments to propose concrete actions for consideration by the GEF Council by December 2023 and work is in progress on this.²⁶</p> <p>During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has revised and streamlined its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of Project Information Form (PIF) for mid- and full-size projects, the Program Framework Document (PFD) for multi country programs, and the template to request Enabling Activity funding for reporting obligations from the GEF Climate Change Set Aside. From the preliminary observations over the first year of GEF8, the use of the new templates has resulted in substantially shorter project submission documents.</p> <p>In addition, efforts are ongoing within the GEF Partnership to identify adjustments that could further contribute to streamline and simplify the process for countries, Council and agencies in designing, approving and executing GEF projects, ultimately reducing the overall timeline and effort required for countries to access GEF resources. Additional options are being considered in the context of the design of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the GEF family of funds. A process of active consultation with GEF Agencies is underway on these issues.</p>

²⁶ The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/C.62/03).

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	<p>In relation to multilateral development banks, the GEF is working toward addressing the following GEF-8 policy commitment: "Participants request the Secretariat to monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10% of the approved amounts during GEF-8."</p> <p>To this end, the GEF has also initiated efforts to further communicate to countries about the importance of considering working with Agencies across the GEF Partnership, including by considering MDBs as an Implementing Agency. This effort is further supported by making available to countries Agency Factsheets, prepared the GEF Secretariat, that presents the experience of an Agency, including the World Bank and Regional Development Banks, within the GEF Partnership in terms of commitments, focal areas focus and regional distribution, among other elements. This tool was piloted in March 2023 at the Country Support Program's Expanded Constituency Workshop held in Maputo, Mozambique, with the participation of countries from Southern Africa.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on its efforts to deliver the increased per-project funding ceiling under its Small Grants Programme agreed on during the eighth replenishment process;</p>	<p>The Small Grant Program funding has increased from \$128 million in GEF-7 to \$155 million in GEF-8. The Small Grant Program Core Funding will be equally distributed to all 144 GEF recipient countries, meaning each country will receive \$937,500 (including fees and non-grant activities). Countries can add additional funding up to 10% of their GEF-8 STAR allocation, to a maximum of \$ 5 million (however it is not a requirement to use STAR resources to access the Small Grant Program core resources). The first tranche of the Small Grant Program is expected to be approved by the GEF Council in June 2023.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Welcomes</i> the Global Environment Facility's commitment to maintain an ambitious level of direct and indirect climate co-benefits in its eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
to developing country Parties for assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;	country driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs, and other initiatives such as ECWs, in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into activities.
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Urges</i> the further enhancement of the support provided by the Global Environment Facility for activities related to technology training, funding for technology development and transfer and capacity-building;</p>	Refer to response under Paragraph 15 above.
<p>Paragraph 17: <i>Encourages</i> the continuing engagement of the Global Environment Facility with the Green Climate Fund, including in implementing the Long-term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;</p>	Noted. The GEF and the GCF have continued their engagement in the reporting period and a Progress Report summarizing the specific activities and achievements from such engagement have been submitted as information document to the GEF Council in June 2023.
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner;</p>	Noted. The GEF duly follows its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.
<p>Paragraph 21: <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>Decision 18/CP.27: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Welcomes</i> the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial</p>	The GEF continues to collaborate with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to access available funding for technology

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
Mechanism and strongly encourages the two bodies to continue such collaboration with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer;	development and transfer. Among others, the National Designated Entities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network have been invited to GEF's National Dialogues. National Dialogues, organized at the request of the GEF's Operational Focal Point, are a strategic tool for convening all relevant national stakeholders in a country to discuss and agree on the prioritization and programming of GEF resources, including on technology development and transfer.
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Acknowledges</i> the work on incubators and accelerators planned by the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network under the joint work programme and invites the two bodies to continue to work with developing country Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and small island developing States, to promote the use of incubators and accelerators and to support the development of funding proposals that incorporate their use for submission to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;</p>	Noted.
Decision 19/CP.27: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022	
<p>Paragraph 2: <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 above²⁷ and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	Noted. The recommendations included in the annual technical progress report of the PCCB referenced in this paragraph are directed to Parties.
Decision 20/CP.27: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures	

²⁷ Paragraph 1 of Decision 19/CO.27 "Welcomes the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 and takes note of the recommendations therein."

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 25: <i>Encourage</i> relevant agencies, financial institutions and UNFCCC constituted bodies to enhance support for addressing issues related to the assessment and analysis of the impacts of the implementation of mitigation actions, policies and programmes, including nationally determined contributions and long-term low-emission development strategies, with a view to addressing the adverse impacts and maximizing opportunities;</p>	<p>Noted. This decision is for those mentioned in this paragraph, which does not include the GEF.</p>
<p>Decision 23/CP.27: Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment</p>	
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Recall</i> that, under the Glasgow work programme: (b) multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, were invited to provide financial support for Action for Climate Empowerment activities.</p>	<p>The GEF provides support through responding to applications from one of the GEF Implementing Agencies. The GEF Secretariat has not received funding requests related to the ACE activities.</p>
<p>Decision 24/CP.27: Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan</p>	
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Also 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 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>The GEF is committed to successfully implementing its gender action plan. In 2022, 100 percent of GEF projects at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage had very detailed gender analysis and all planned to include gender-responsive results framework. The GEF will continue implementing its gender action plan, guided by the lessons learned and best practices from GEF-7, and the GEF-8 Policy Direction.</p>
<p>CMA 4 decisions (2022)</p>	
<p>Decision 1/CMA.4: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan</p>	

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 49: <i>Welcomes</i> and reiterates the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change within the next five years and <i>invites</i> development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 30, Decision 1/CP.27</p>
<p>Paragraph 66: <i>Emphasizes</i> the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and <i>encourages</i> further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 42, Decision 2/CP.27</p>
<p>Decision 2/CMA.4: Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage</p>	
<p>Paragraph 7: (d) <i>Invite</i> United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and bilateral, multilateral and international financial institutions to submit inputs on how they might enhance access to and/or the speed, scope and scale of availability of finance for activities relevant to addressing loss and damage, including potential limitations and barriers and options for addressing them;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 7, Decision 2/CP.27</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invite</i> the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the principals of international financial institutions and other relevant entities with a view to identifying the most effective ways to provide funding to respond to needs related to addressing loss and damage</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 11, Decision 2/CP.27</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	
<p>Paragraph 12:</p> <p><i>Also invite</i> international financial institutions to consider, at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the potential for such institutions to contribute to funding arrangements, including new and innovative approaches, responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 12, Decision 2/CP.27</p>
<p>Paragraph 13:</p> <p><i>Reiterate</i> decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, in which developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, are urged to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	<p>While the GEF has not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it has been supporting activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance, within the scope of CCA.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support will continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026).</p>
Decision 5/CMA.4: New collective quantified goal on climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 11:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, with a view to significantly advancing substantive progress in 2023, to, inter alia, invite Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit inputs via the submission portal on each technical expert dialogue to be held, on the basis of guiding questions well in advance of each technical</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to respond to an invite from the co-Chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the collective quantified goal on climate finance to engage more actively on this agenda item, including via submission of inputs on the expert dialogue process,</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
expert dialogue to allow for those inputs to be reflected in the organization of the dialogues.	
Decision 8/CMA.4: Matters relating to the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement	
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Requests</i> the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to invite representatives of relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, which may include the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Technology Executive Committee, to a meeting held in conjunction with the fifty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (June 2023) and organized with the assistance of the secretariat, with the aim of enhancing collaboration between the Glasgow Committee and relevant constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, as necessary, taking into account their respective mandates;</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to respond to an invite of the Chair of the SBSTA, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to a meeting convened on the topic of non-market approaches referred to in Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement.</p>
Decision 11/CMA.4: Matters relating to the least developed countries	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Underscore</i> the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions associated with the priorities in the national adaptation plans of the least developed countries and <i>encourage</i></p>	<p>Refer to the response under paragraph 10, Decision 10/CP.27</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
relevant organizations, as well as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to enhance support to the least developed countries in this regard;	
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Note with appreciation</i> the financial pledges, totalling USD 70.6 million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund and <i>urge</i> additional contributions to the Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciates pledges of \$ 70.6 million in total to the LDCF 28 made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.</p> <p>The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Annex – Paragraph XI.53: <i>Decided that</i> the least developed countries expert group shall invite the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund to its meetings to discuss collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat was invited to attend NAP Expo 2023, held from March 27-30, 2023, in Santiago, Chile. Collaboration in supporting the least developed countries with GCF and AF is being discussed at various forums and engagements, such as NAP writing workshop</p>
Decision 17/CMA.4: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomes</i> the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to incorporate innovation and technology development and transfer into the programming directions under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, noting the goals of the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Appreciates</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility in developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports and in combining the multiple processes</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

28 The GEF Secretariat organized the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF on the margins of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, on November 15, 2022, and generated a pledge of \$70.6 million for the LDCF. Eight donors (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium) made these pledges to the LDCF on that occasion.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
for applying for support for preparing biennial transparency reports;	
<p>Paragraph 4:</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further enhance its reporting on whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation for developing and revising technology needs assessments and action plans and implementing them;</p>	<p>Phase V of the Global Technology Needs Assessment is being prepared and expected to be submitted in GEF-8. Under Phase V the GEF expects some of the participating countries to use their STAR resources. Information on countries using their STAR resources for the development of their TNAs will be reported when available, including in the GEF report to COP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5:</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to improve working with its implementing agencies in order to expedite the project preparation and submission processes for biennial transparency reports to increase the efficiency of the project cycle;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to work very closely with the GEF Agencies involved with the provision of support to countries for the preparation of biennial transparency reports (BTR). In an effort to further streamline access, several measures have been taken during the reporting period and from the beginning of the GEF-8 programming cycle, which are contributing to make significant progress towards the goals auspicated by the CMA guidance included in this paragraph.</p> <p>In particular, the GEF has (i) worked to streamline and simplify significantly its templates for enabling activities, resulting in forms that are quicker to prepare and to review, with benefits in terms of timeline of preparation and approval; (ii) the GEF has tested bundling of several BTRs in the same project through the umbrella modality, which allow for faster approval of financing compared to individual applications, and is working with Agencies to continue to use this modality in the near future; (iii) the GEF has clarified the possibility to bundle together in the same one-step mid-size project application several reports, including up to two BTRs and one national communication, resulting also in this case in more expedited approval cycle; the GEF also continues to work with its Agencies to ensure that all Parties that have not yet submitted a request for funding for their first BTR do so at the earliest possible convenience, noting that funds are available and that both Agencies and GEF stands ready to provide any clarification or answer any preliminary question on the process to access the funds.</p> <p>The BTR support modalities were informed by two informal consultations organized by the GEF Secretariat in</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
	<p>June 2020²⁹ and November 2020³⁰, and made available as of February 2021, and communicated to all countries in February 2021 from the GEF CEO. The Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement was submitted as an information document to the 59th GEF Council, which met in December 2020³¹. The early support provision has been made in order to provide sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. This timeline does not apply to Least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which can submit BTRs at their direction.</p> <p>In February 2022, the GEF organized the third BTR informal consultation in response to the CMA 3 guidance to estimate the cost to developing countries of implementing the ETF³². The GEF prepared an Information Note on the Update to the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement, for the 62nd GEF Council meeting, which was held in June 2022³³. The indicative costing for the three modalities for supporting the preparation of BTRs was updated based on the feedback received during the third BTR informal consultation and upon further analysis by the GEF Secretariat.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Welcomes</i> the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to ensure that support will continue to be available for the preparation of biennial transparency reports and <i>underlines</i> the importance of providing support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports, including for establishing and enhancing national reporting systems in</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

²⁹ <https://www.thegef.org/events/informal-consultation-meeting-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports-under-paris>

³⁰ <https://www.thegef.org/events/second-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³¹ <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-59-inf-19>

³² <https://www.thegef.org/events/third-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³³ <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
order to implement the enhanced transparency framework;	
<p>Paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Notes</i> the increased support provided by the Global Environment Facility for developing countries to prepare biennial transparency reports and for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, in particular in the context of implementation of the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility, through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, to continue providing capacity-building support to developing country Parties for enhancing and sustaining adaptation monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning systems, as well as for establishing and enhancing these systems at all levels, with a view to facilitating:</p> <p>(a) The monitoring and reporting of the progress, effectiveness and adequacy of adaptation action and support over time;</p> <p>(b) The sharing of experience globally to contribute to enhancing action, support and international cooperation;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Every CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of March 31, 2023, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 88 projects covering 87 countries, 82 national projects, one regional project (covering five countries) and five global projects, totalling \$144.6 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9</p> <p><i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to provide adequate, predictable and timely financing for biennial transparency reports, including efforts relating to the increased support for biennial transparency reports and national inventory reports of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, the combined application process for multiple biennial transparency reports, and the expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to improve its efforts to help countries access BTR financing. The GEF already provides an expedited approval process for enabling activities up to \$2 million. In addition, in GEF-8 the GEF has released a new streamlined template for enabling activities and is encouraging countries to submit requests to support two subsequent BTRs and a combined BTR and National Communication.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10</p> <p><i>Acknowledges</i> the challenges developing country Parties face in implementing the enhanced transparency framework under</p>	<p>The GEF continues to actively support developing countries in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. As of March 2023, the GEF has</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
<p>the Paris Agreement in a sustainable manner, including in establishing and enhancing reporting systems within their respective national governments, and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consult with developing country Parties on how the support provided to them by the Facility for preparing their biennial transparency reports could best achieve this, in addition to the support provided for capacity-building provided through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.</p>	<p>approved BTR support to 65 countries for 79 BTRs, and nine additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF is organizing a workshop at the Subsidiary Body Meeting 58 in June 2023 intended to respond to this CMA guidance and to provide an update on the status of the GEF support to Parties for the implementation of the ETF. The workshop is also designed to enable sharing of information and early lessons between Parties regarding the initial experiences with BTR support and preparation.</p> <p>In addition, jointly with the UNFCCC and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Global Support Program (CBIT-GSP), the GEF is organizing a webinar series to inform developing countries on the GEF's access modalities and procedures to apply for BTR funding. The first webinar in the series took place on May 2-4, 2023.</p>
Decision 18/CMA.4: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	
<p>Paragraph 2: Notes the actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board as presented in its report to Parties, including:</p> <p>(x) The promotion of linkages of the Adaptation Fund with other UNFCCC bodies, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the Standing Committee on Finance, with the Adaptation Fund Board having progressed in establishing linkages between the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, including through a framework for promoting the scale-up of funded projects and the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities;</p>	<p>The Adaptation Fund continued to draw upon the cross-support services of the GEF Secretariat, supporting the technical review of project and program proposals. The GEF and Adaptation Fund have also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed.</p>
Decision 19/CMA.4: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement	
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Welcomes</i> the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the</p>	<p>Refer to response under paragraph 19 of decision 18/CP.27 above.</p>

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and <i>strongly encourages</i> the two bodies to continue such collaboration with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer;	
Decision 21/CMA.4: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022	
<p>Paragraph 2: <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 the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;</p>	Noted. The GEF will continue to engage with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building through its periodic meetings, including at COP.
Decision 22/CMA.4: Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment	
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Recall</i> that, under the Glasgow work programme: (b) multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, were invited to provide financial support for Action for Climate Empowerment activities.</p>	The GEF provides support through responding to applications from one of the GEF Implementing Agencies. The GEF Secretariat has not received funding requests related to the ACE activities.
Decision 23/CMA.4: Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures	
<p>Paragraph 26: <i>Encourages</i> relevant agencies, financial institutions and UNFCCC constituted bodies to enhance support for addressing issues related to the assessment and</p>	This decision is for those mentioned in this paragraph, which does not include the GEF.

UNFCCC COP 27 Decision ^[1] / CMA 4 Decision ^[2] / SBI 57 Conclusion ^[3] / SBSTA 57 Conclusion ^[4]	GEF's Response
analysis of the impacts of the implementation of mitigation actions, policies and programmes, including nationally determined contributions and long-term low-emission development strategies, with a view to addressing the adverse impacts and maximizing opportunities;	

^[1] COP 26 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-27>

^[2] CMA 3 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-4>

^[3] SBI 57 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-57>

^[4] SBSTA 57 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-57>

Table 3: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 15 and GEF's Response

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
<i>Takes note</i> of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/4;	Noted.
<i>Welcomes</i> a (i) strong eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility; (ii) a robust increase to land degradation focal area resources; and calls for (iii) a continuous focus on land-based actions through Global Environment Facility Impact/Integrated Programs; and (iv) opportunities to enhance synergies among all focal areas bearing in mind the importance of the land degradation focal area as integral to those areas; (v) consideration of individuals and communities in situations of vulnerability across all sectors;	Noted with appreciation with regard to points (i) and (ii). Regarding to points (iii) and (iv), the GEF-8 programming directions have an increased focus on land-based actions implemented through Integrated Programs and continue to provide opportunities for enhanced synergies among all focal areas through multifocal area programming. Regarding point (v), the LDFA strategy considers and specifically targets those who are vulnerable to a range of issues such as food insecurity, drought, poverty, climate change impacts on land, including through emphasis on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth.

³⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/cop23add1-advance.pdf>

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue 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 GEF-8 LDFA programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. Furthermore, the GEF encourages countries to apply the UNCCD LDN guidelines for the design and implementation of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner;	The GEF has supported parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner through its Enabling Activity funding and has collaborate with the UNCCD and Global Mechanism to increase effectiveness of those Enabling Activities through various means, such as a global support project funded with \$2 million. GEF also monitored the timeliness of disbursement processes of its implementing agency UNEP to parties for already approved funding requests. The disbursement status is included in this report.
<i>Recommends</i> the Global Environment Facility to promote, as appropriate, the use of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database into the Global Environment Facility projects and programmes to support knowledge-sharing and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;	Knowledge management is an important topic and is pursued strategically in all GEF projects including those in the LD portfolio, where there is a requirement to build in mechanisms to utilize existing knowledge on best practices in project design and share lessons learned during and after the project implementation. Within this context, GEF encourages project implementing and executing agencies to use the WOCAT database as appropriate, especially in projects applying SLM practices.
<i>Notes with appreciation</i> the Global Environment Facility's engagement to initiate and support the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and requests continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;	Noted with appreciation of recognition. The GEF is committed to engage with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and relevant other development partners on a coordinated approach to ensure greater synergy and economies of scale in supporting the GGWI countries, based on the principle of country ownership. This may include support for policy options to unlock market opportunities and innovative financing for diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists. Both GEF and GCF play a supportive role in advancing the initiative. The joint support of GGW is part of the GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision (LTV) on complementarity.

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative;	GEF Secretariat is cooperating with the Global Mechanism and other key partners on upstream engagement with the Southern Africa Development commission (SADC), and in cooperation with the GCF. GEF Secretariat is advocating enhanced political commitment, and alignment of the initiative with the goals of objectives of other relevant conventions, in particular the UNFCCC. As part of GEF's country support program activities and workshops, GEF is engaging with countries in the region and all stakeholders and partners to explore opportunities for support, based on the principle of country ownership, demand, and regional cooperation.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to further align the land degradation focal area strategy implementation with the Convention goals to enable countries to address their desertification/land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands;	The GEF-8 LDFA strategy continues to be fully aligned with the UNCCD Strategy and goals. Further the GEF-8 strategy has increased its attention to drought mitigation through including it in the goal statement as well as through a dedicated focal area objective LD-3, to provide countries with enhanced opportunities to address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues, particularly in drylands.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, 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;	The GEF-8 LDFA strategy, within its mandate, provides countries with the opportunity to the implementation of their national drought plans and other drought-related policies, specifically through the dedicated objective LD-3 of the strategy. This objective supports countries in dryland geographies to build resilience to mitigate the effects of droughts and to prevent the aggravating effects of land degradation through (i) comprehensive land-use planning taking drought risks into account; (ii) the use of drought databases and tools such as the UNCCD drought toolbox; and (iii) the implementation of drought-smart land management (D-SLM), including croplands, rangelands, dryland forests, and mixed land-uses. GEF investments may also be coordinated with initiatives of other donors supporting climate change adaptation, including the LDCF to address especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building.

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ³⁴	GEF's Response
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to assess the feasibility of establishing a focal area for drought in order to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought;	The GEF will carefully explore and assess feasible options to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought, in consultation with all stakeholders, including the GEF Council as appropriate, and present feasible options at the next COP.
<i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the implementation level, including by encouraging collaboration amongst the national focal points to the Global Environment Facility, as well as the different Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;	Noted. GEF continues to provide these opportunities in particular through the GEF-8 Integrated Programs which encourage countries to meet commitments under multiple conventions. GEF-8 programming also encourages policy coherence within countries, including by encouraging cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration amongst the national focal points.
<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 sixteenth session.	Noted. GEF will report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.

Table 4: GEF's Response to the Guidance Received from the Online Segment of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
1	<p>Decision SC-10/16: Financial mechanism</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the present decision, to consider, in its programming of areas of work for the period 2022–2026, the following priority areas:</p> <p>Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025;</p> <p>Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls ³⁵ as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p> <p>Environmentally sound management and disposal of newly listed persistent organic pollutants, ³⁶ with a focus on brominated flame retardants, fluorinated persistent organic pollutants and chlorinated paraffins;</p> <p>Environmentally sound management and disposal of pesticides containing or consisting of persistent organic pollutants, including obsolete stockpiles;</p> <p>Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable</p>	<p>The priorities identified in this paragraph have been included in objectives 1-3 of the GEF 8 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area in paragraphs 627-633 of the GEF 8 Programming Directions³⁷.</p>

³⁵ Having a polychlorinated biphenyl content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention.

³⁶ Newly listed persistent organic pollutants, as identified in the needs assessment report (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33), include the following: polybromodiphenyl ethers, hexabromocyclododecane, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride.

³⁷ GEF, 2022, [Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council document GEF/C.62/03

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention; Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;	
2	<i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2022–2026: The review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development; The development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention; The implementation of the activities related to the global monitoring plan and capacity-building to sustain the new monitoring initiatives that provide data and information for the global monitoring report prepared in connection with the continued evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention;	The priorities identified in this paragraph have been included in objectives 1 of the GEF 8 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area in paragraphs 627-628 of the GEF 8 Programming Directions ³⁷³⁷ .
3	<i>Requests</i> the Secretariat: To develop, having updated the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 10 (c) of decision SC-8/16, recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting regarding the possible retirement, streamlining and consolidation of the complete set of guidance; To update after the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the guidance reflecting the outcome of the consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the recommendations mentioned in subparagraph 3 (a) of the present decision;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
4	<i>Also requests</i> the Secretariat to transmit to the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility:	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The complete set of guidance to be developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 10 (c) of decision SC-8/16; b) A summary of the information on financing polychlorinated biphenyls contained in the note by the Secretariat on options to address potential issues with regard to financing polychlorinated biphenyls;³⁸ c) Any new information, as appropriate, compiled by the Secretariat on matters related to the financial mechanism pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision SC-10/3; 	
5	<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider in the implementation of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund the information contained in the needs assessment report submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of decision SC-10/3 and any other information submitted to the Facility pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of the present decision;	<p>The GEF replenishment considered the information contained in the needs assessment report including the financial considerations as well as the urgency of the deadline for the phase out of PCBs. In this regard the replenishment agreed to increase the overall allocation of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area by 30% to 800M which represents 15% of the total GEF 8 replenishment.</p> <p>Regarding PCB, the GEF Secretariat and the BRS Secretariat have begun bilateral discussions on how to accelerate action where needed in GEF 8.</p>
6	<i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its report to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting, how the documents set out in paragraph 5 of the present decision have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on and implementation of the eighth replenishment of the Facility trust fund;	The GEF replenishment considered the information contained in the needs assessment report including the financial considerations as well as the urgency of the deadline for the phase out of PCBs. In this regard the replenishment agreed to increase the overall allocation of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area by 30%

³⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/63.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
		to \$800 million which represents 15% of the total GEF 8 replenishment.
7	<p>Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its tenth meeting;³⁹</p>	Noted
8	<p>Monitoring and evaluation</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism⁴⁰ and notes that the report has been forwarded to the Global Environment Facility pursuant to paragraph 1 of decision SC-10/3;</p>	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
9	<p><i>Requests</i> the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism set out in annex I to decision SC-9/15 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations contained in the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism, draft terms of reference for the sixth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;</p>	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
10	<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its report to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting, how the draft report on the fifth review of the financial mechanism has been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on and</p>	The draft report of the 5 th review of the financial mechanism have been used to design the GEF 8 chemicals and waste strategy which seeks to strengthen the enabling, institutional and legislative environment for management of chemicals and waste and sets out a

³⁹ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex I; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/36/Add.1.

⁴⁰ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex II; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/32.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	implementation of the eighth replenishment of the Facility trust fund;	<p>pathway to eliminate existing stockpiles of chemicals and legacy waste and leapfrog to responsible chemistry which will eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals in the long term. The strategy builds on the over 20 years of implementation of GEF projects supporting the Stockholm Convention and other chemicals conventions and processes to be able to address the recommendations of the assessment. The strategy is defined in objectives 1-3 of the GEF 8 chemicals and waste focal area in paragraphs 627-633 of the GEF 8 programming directions³⁷.</p> <p>In addition to the focal area strategy, in GEF 8, the templates for projects including enabling activities have been further streamlined and the enforcement of the cancellation policy of the GEF has resulted in 100% compliance with the timely submission of projects for CEO endorsement. The GEF 8 policy recommendations also seek to strengthen gender reporting from projects, and this is a key review criterion in the project review and reporting process.</p> <p>With regards to the usage of available resources for enabling activities, the GEF is working with implementing agencies to ensure funds are fully utilised. This process resulted in over 23 requests and approvals of NIP updates in the last year of GEF 7.</p> <p>The report that will be submitted to COP 11 will fully detail how the recommendations of the review were incorporated into the GEF 8 replenishment.</p>
11	Assessment of funding needs	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	<i>Takes note</i> of the report on the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2022-2026 ⁴¹ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to provide assistance to Parties to facilitate their assessment of the funding that they need, including to address the low rate of response that affects the quality of the scenario presented; ⁴²	
12	<i>Invites</i> developed-country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
13	<i>Invites</i> other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
14	<i>Invites</i> other sources, including relevant funding institutions, such as development banks and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2022, with information on ways in which they can provide contributions to the implementation of the	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

⁴¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/33.

⁴² See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/15/Rev.1, annex III; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/56; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/63.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	Convention, including information on access to such contributions;	
15	<i>Requests</i> the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2026–2030, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in annex II to decision SC-9/15 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations contained in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 11 of the present decision for consideration and possible adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required.
16	<p>Assessment of funding needs with regard to polychlorinated biphenyls</p> <p><i>Recognizes</i> that significant financial resources are required to assist recipient country Parties, in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention, in fulfilling their commitments related to, among others, the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p>	Noted
17	<i>Takes note</i> of the projected funding gap, as outlined in the reports referred to in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the present decision, with regard to achieving the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;	Noted

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
18	<i>Urges</i> and requests the Global Environment Facility to explore all feasible options available to provide enhanced support to achieve the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028, recognizing the importance and urgency of these actions within the period of the eighth and ninth replenishment cycles of the Global Environment Facility trust fund;	Regarding PCB, the GEF Secretariat and the BRS Secretariat have begun bilateral discussions on how to accelerate action where needed in GEF 8.
19	<i>Strongly encourages</i> countries and others in a position to do so, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations, other bilateral and multilateral institutions, and non-governmental organizations and private sources to provide complementary support for the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and for the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
20	<i>Emphasizes</i> the need that entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance, including Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, strengthen their efforts to fund the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls as soon as possible and no later than 2028, as appropriate, as part of their respective programmes of work and activities, and requests the Secretariat to engage with the above entities to that effect;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
21	<i>Decides</i> to assess the projected funding needs to support achieving the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent as soon as possible and no later than 2028, in the context of the sixth review of the financial mechanism;	Not directed at the GEF. No GEF response is needed.
22	<i>Requests</i> the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a report on further options for addressing the needs, including funding needs, and challenges met to reach the targets related to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required
23	Cooperation between secretariats and reciprocal representation <i>Takes note</i> of the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention ⁴³ and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter-secretariat cooperation in accordance with- the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF will continue to strengthen its relationship with the Convention Secretariat including routine bilateral, joint missions and events. For example, the Executive Secretary participated alongside the GEF Sec and agencies in regional project meetings in the Caribbean in October 2022. It is anticipated these invitations will continue in the future.
24	<i>Requests</i> the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the	Guidance directed to the Convention Secretariat. No GEF response required, however the GEF will work with the Convention Secretariat on the preparation of this report.

⁴³ See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/64.

Paragraph	COP 10 (in person segment) Guidance	GEF's Response
	Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.	

**ANNEX II: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PROCESSES AND POLICIES OF THE GEF AND THE GCF:
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS TO FOSTER COMPLEMENTARITY AND COHERENCE**

PROCESSES AND POLICIES OF THE GEF AND THE GCF: A Comparative Analysis to Foster Complementarity and Coherence

Summary and Recommendations

Prepared for
GEF & GCF Secretariats

May 30th, 2023



LE GROUPE CONSEIL BAASTEL

Le Groupe-conseil baastel Itée

92, rue Montcalm, Gatineau QC, Canada

Rue de la Loi 28, Brussels, Belgium

P: +1 (819) 595-1421

E: alain.lafontaine@baastel.com

W: www.baastel.com



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ACRONYMS

AE	Accredited Entity
CBIT	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency
CCA	Climate Change Mitigation
CCM	Climate Change Adaptation
CES	Country Engagement Strategy
CN	Concept Note
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSP	Country Support Program
DAE	Direct Access Entity
DP	Delivery Partner
EA	Enabling Activity
ECW	Expanded Constituency Workshop
EE	Executing Entities
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FA	Focal Area
FP	Funding Proposal
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Development Agency (by its German initials)
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office
IEU	Independent Evaluation Unit
IP	Integrated Program
IPAG	Indigenous People Advisory Group
iTAP	independent Technical Advisory Panel
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LTV	Long-Term Vision of Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
OFP	Operational Focal Points
PIF	Project Identification Form
PPF	Project Preparation Facility

PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PSAA	Project Specific Accreditation Approach
RFP	Request for Proposals
RPSP	Readiness and Preparatory Support Program
SAP	Simplified Approval Process
SC	Steering Committee
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SES	Stakeholder Empowerment Serie
SGP	Small Grants Program
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TF	Trust Fund

1. BACKGROUND

The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has, through a number of its decisions, encouraged the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to enhance the complementarity and coherence of their policies and programming as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.

In response to this guidance, since 2018 the GEF and the GCF secretariats have been collaborating on a Pilot Coordinated Engagement Initiative to strengthen collaboration and maximize synergies. Building on such efforts and to further define modalities for shared engagements, the secretariats of the GEF and the GCF developed a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration (LTV) which was welcomed respectively by the GEF Council at its 60th meeting and the GCF Board at its 29th meeting in June 2021, as well as by the UNFCCC COP at its 26th meeting in November 2021.¹ The LTV identifies specific areas of cooperation and complementarity with the intention of increasing efficiency and effectiveness of both funds.

As indicated in the LTV joint paper², a Steering Committee was established by the GEF and GCF Secretariats to support the planning and implementation of initiatives under the LTV, “including a thorough analysis of processes and policies of both funds to identify recommendations to support complementarity and coherence and assist developing countries and partners to generate long-lasting results in climate change adaptation and mitigation.” Accordingly, an update on the analysis, including the development of the terms of reference for the study, was reported in the LTV progress report, which was submitted to the governing bodies of the two funds³.

This study was commissioned by the GEF on behalf of both funds and conducted by Le Groupe-conseil baastel between December 2022 and May 2023 as a third-party input to the management of the funds, especially the LTV Steering Committee (LTV SC), and as information for the governance bodies. The study consisted in an in-depth review of GEF and GCF policies, frameworks, guidelines, and reports, complemented by a series of interviews with GEF and GCF Secretariat staff, GEF Council members and GCF Board members, GEF Focal Points and GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs), GEF Agencies that are also GCF Accredited Entities, and other key GEF and GCF stakeholders.

The report for the in-depth comparative analysis, provided in a separate information document, forms the basis for the present report, which summarizes the main conclusions stemming from this analysis and presents a series of corresponding recommendations to support complementarity and coherence as a way to assist developing countries and partners in simplifying and streamlining the process of accessing funding from the GEF and the GCF. The findings and conclusions of the report aim to help the Secretariats supporting their governing bodies in making informed decisions on how to continue

¹ GEF, 2021, Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, Council Document GEF/C.60/08; Decision 7/CP.26 para 17.

² GCF, 2021, [Towards a Long-Term Vision on Complementarity](#), GEF and GCF Collaboration.

³ GEF, 2022, [Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration Between the GCF and the GEF](#), GEF/C.62/Inf.14.

and further fulfill the respective mandates of the two funds to enhance complementarity and coherence across the climate finance landscape, based on their existing mandates and frameworks.

The recommendations and conclusions presented in the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the GCF and GEF, nor do they imply that they are endorsed and accepted by the GCF and GEF.

2. CONCLUSIONS

2.1. Programming, country support and engagement

Conclusion 1: The GEF and the GCF both respond to the priorities, goals and objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The GCF specifically supports climate change mitigation (CCM), climate change adaptation (CCA), and crosscutting projects. The GEF Trust Fund (TF) has CCM as a focal area (FA), while the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) focus on CCA; CCM and CCA are also supported, directly and indirectly, through other FAs and integrated programs (IPs) of the GEF TF. There are thus fundamental thematic overlaps to be leveraged as synergies to achieve greater impacts. The GCF has a mandate to maintain a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation investments over time in grant equivalent terms. Additionally, the GCF aims to allocate at least half of its adaptation resources to countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including LDCs, SIDS and African States. The focus of the GEF is wider than climate change, as it serves five multilateral environmental agreements, yet, across its portfolio, 80% of its investments are expected to be directly or indirectly related to climate change. The funds' approaches to programming and funding allocation are different, in that, for GEF funding, countries have specific resources allocated and prioritized through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)⁴ and guided by programming directions (with specific thematic and programming priorities),⁵ whereas at the GCF prioritization currently takes place at the portfolio level following targets and allocation parameters set in GCF's strategic plan, and a set of investment criteria is applied in project development, assessment, and approval.⁶ In both cases, key decisions on strategic priorities take place during replenishment periods, which are asynchronous by design. This is a key moment for both funds to be in contact with each other to maximize coherence and complementarity between their strategic agendas. The two-year difference in cycles can allow each fund to build their strategy considering the current priorities of the other fund, and provide more flexibility to target emerging issues, priorities, or opportunities. As described in detail in the analytical report, each of the funds has specific features and modalities that can be leveraged to create synergies, without creating strict divisions between the priorities of the funds.

Conclusion 2: Initial experience in collaborative and coordinated programming highlights the need for clear guidance on such programming from the GCF and the GEF, more systematic lesson sharing, and mechanisms to collaborate with GEF Agencies/GCF Accredited Entities (AEs) and with GEF Focal Points/GCF NDAs. Collaborative and coordinated programming is one of the priorities of the LTV, and joint initiatives have already been funded, such as the Great Green Wall Initiative and the Amazon Forest Biome program. In both cases, funding is channeled separately in a parallel financing modality.⁷ Sequential support has also been explored both by the GEF and GCF

⁴ It should be noted that STAR only applies to some FAs under the GEF TF.

⁵ See "GEF-8 Programming Directions": <https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are/funding/gef-8-replenishment>

⁶ See "Initial Investment Framework (updated), updated by decision B.27/06: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/initial-investment-framework-updated>

⁷ While several GCF projects identify and recognize GEF as co-financiers, notably SAP23, FP146, FP092, FP051, FP050, FP020.

Secretariats and by some GEF Agencies/GCF AEs.⁸ However, to effectively promote collaborative and coordinated programming, further testing of these modalities, along with further mechanisms to identify and develop projects that would be suitable for sequential support through either fund would be required. While there are some examples of lessons sharing, establishing systematic feedback loops across the two funds would also be beneficial for collaborative and coordinated programming, particularly to ensure that lessons and outcomes from previous projects are integrated, especially when sequential support is provided.

GEF Focal Points/ GCF NDAs play a key role in ensuring country ownership and aligning projects with their national priorities, including through the GCF Country Program and No Objection Letters and the GEF STAR allocation programming process. National investment plans can be a valuable tool to build coherence in national planning. There is also a need to keep strengthening the capacity to coordinate investment planning across national stakeholders.

GEF Agencies/GCF AEs are often the operational nexus where synergies can be created between GEF and GCF priorities in most recipient countries. Through their country presence and/or ongoing activities, GEF Agencies/GCF AEs have developed direct, long-term relationships with GEF Focal Points/GCF NDAs and with other in-country stakeholders on climate change programming, such as line ministries and subnational governments, which play a key role in advancing the climate agenda and broader engagement with civil society, indigenous communities, and the private sector. While GEF Agencies/GCF AEs are crucial in terms of piloting of joint initiatives, there are a number of barriers that need to be addressed to fully leverage their potential (see Conclusion 3).

Conclusion 3: Opportunities for collaborative and coordinated programming for countries, GEF Agencies/GCF AEs, and the Secretariats are contingent on a conducive incentive structure. GEF Agencies, and even more so GCF AEs (given their number and diversity), have different business models (including operational cost structures and cost recovery models), and therefore different incentives to work or not with the GEF and the GCF. For instance, only some of the GEF Agencies /GCF AEs currently accredited to both funds are organized in such a way that enables effective collaboration between GEF and GCF units. Collaborative and coordinated programming efforts would also require careful consideration of the existing constraints on the use of non-grant instruments, as half of GEF Agencies are not GCF accredited for non-grant instruments⁹ and there is room to foster greater engagement of the private sector and other financial institutions across both funds.

In parallel, the geographic distribution of GEF and GCF country funding is signalled formally through different pre-set allocation frameworks. At the GEF, this encompasses STAR in the case of most of the GEF Trust Fund, a country project funding cap in the case of LDCF, and a dedicated window for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) within the SCCF; at the GCF, this includes the GCF floor of

⁸ Examples of potential common themes identified in the LTV include: (1) national adaptation plans (NAPs), where the GCF focus maybe on the readiness and NAP preparations, while the GEF LDCF focus may be on the NAP implementation; (2) oceans, where the GEF focus may be on blue economy and marine/fisheries from biodiversity and international waters perspectives, while the GCF focus may be on blue carbon; and (3) GEF focus on grant support to pilot innovative adaptation technologies and facilitating private sector engagement, and GCF emphasis on mobilizing blended finance.

⁹ World Bank, CAF, DBSA, BOAD, ADB, EBRD, AfDB, IDB, IFAD have accreditation for non-grant instruments.

50% for adaptation allocation to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), SIDS, and African countries, and Readiness and Preparatory Support Program (RPSP) allocation caps. This distribution is in addition defined through the two parallel, distinct, and asynchronous replenishment cycles and programming strategy development processes of the GEF and the GCF. Both approaches, in their own way, seek to ensure country led project planning processes. While GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and GCF NDAs are in a key position to identify synergies across funding sources at the national level, in over forty percent of the countries they sit in different national institutions, which poses challenges for coordination across country portfolios.

In this context, the institutional, strategic, and financial incentives are strongly tilted in favor of separate access to resources and early commitment of funding allocations, de facto disincentivizing collaborative and coordinated programming initiatives. Streamlining and simplifying processes and policies to facilitate access, along with other measures, can therefore offer opportunities to make incentives more conducive to collaborative and coordinated programming by harnessing the funds' complementarities.

2.2. Processes

Conclusion 4: Notwithstanding their differences in approaches to accreditation, there is potential for the GEF and the GCF to connect on this issue in order to support more efficient compliance monitoring and help fast-track the GCF re-accreditation process. The approaches for accreditation at the GEF and the GCF are different, including in terms of compliance monitoring processes. However, all GEF Agencies are also accredited to the GCF. Leveraging the overall consistency of GEF and GCF fiduciary standards and Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS), the GCF's fast-track accreditation process was established for equivalent GEF standards, but has yet to produce acceleration up to the expectations for some GEF Agencies, in part as ESS compliance is not fast tracked, neither is the review of GCF policies adopted since the initial accreditation of many re-accreditation candidates; in part due to the fact that GCF re-accreditation review also includes the assessment of the quality of partnership, and is reliant on the AE responsiveness.

Conclusion 5: The analysis of governance arrangements and technical requirements through which projects are developed and approved shows substantial differences, some of which offer opportunities for complementarity in the context of collaborative and coordinated programming, while others can hinder such efforts. From the onset of the project cycle, with the initial project idea or concept and pipeline development, the GEF and the GCF have different modalities to help countries match projects under development with GEF Agencies / GCF AEs. GEF Agency factsheets and support to OFPs are available to understand their comparative advantages, which can complement the support given to NDAs by the GCF Secretariat when helping match them with AEs based on submitted Concept Notes.

Differences also exist in the intervention of the funds' governing bodies in the project cycle. The GEF relies primarily on the STAR funding allocation, which guarantees countries' access to funds for their projects, resulting in a low rejection rate at the approval stage, while GCF's project pipeline is managed

towards a set of broad portfolio targets instead of country allocations, so there is no guarantee that a particular country will have a project approved in a given year.

The timelines for developing and obtaining approval of projects are influenced by these factors. The timelines for post-approval phases are also not comparable. Indeed, as the detailed analysis shows, as key project cycle approval milestones and processes are different between the two funds, it is not currently possible with available data to compare timelines for the project cycle steps, which also adds a challenge in terms of leveraging collaborative and coordinated programming opportunities.

The different allocation models and project cycle milestones contribute to highlighting why major differences in terms of templates exist between funds. The GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) is not comparable to the GCF Concept Note in terms of depth of content, level of approval (GEF Council vs GCF Secretariat) and role in the process, nor are the GEF CEO Endorsement and the GCF Funding Proposal. The GEF also has a distinct procedure for programs. In addition, project preparation support is different in terms of access, size, and modalities, and the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) and the GCF independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) intervene at different stages of the process.¹⁰ These differences mean that countries and GEF Agencies/GCF AEs have to comply with two different sets of requirements in a joint programming scenario, which constitutes a barrier for organizations with already stretched resources. Identification of unnecessary differences in the templates that can be harmonized could thus bring efficiencies to existing processes, as the information prepared for one fund could be used, totally or in part as applicable, for the other fund.

Conclusion 6: There are fundamental similarities between the Funds' Environmental and Social Safeguards, stakeholder engagement and indigenous peoples' approaches and policies which can support the efforts to enhance coherence and complementarity, with key differences at the operational level. A comparative analysis of GEF and GCF policies, conducted by the GCF in 2014, found that policies are mostly equivalent, with few exceptions. To date, key policies reviewed have remained largely aligned, and funds have made efforts to ensure continued alignment as policies evolve. In this context, the minimum/basic fiduciary standards and ESS policies of both funds are overall similar in scope. While the GEF and GCF have different policy entry points on stakeholder engagement and indigenous peoples, they also generally share a common priority and approach. For instance, both funds have an ESS standard in relation to indigenous peoples, and while the GCF has a dedicated Indigenous Peoples Policy, both adopt a requirement of Free, Prior and Informed Consent procedures when indigenous peoples are present. There also exist some platforms for capacity-building and knowledge exchange as it relates to the implementation of the different policies, including the GEF Gender Partnership and the GCF Gender Action Plan.

Conclusion 7: Results-based management is an area where a certain level of harmonization has been achieved through active efforts, but further efforts can be undertaken to further facilitate collaboration between Funds and across Funds' stakeholders. There have been ongoing coordination efforts and concrete progress for enhanced coherence and complementarity in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including through the respective strategies of the two funds, the Climate Funds Collaboration Platform on Results, Indicators and Methodologies for measuring impacts and the Technical Working Group of the International Financial Institutions to harmonize

¹⁰ The differences in the mandates and activities of STAP and iTAP are presented in the underlying report.

project-level greenhouse gas emissions accounting, through formal and informal communication channels that have been established over the past years between the GEF and GCF Secretariats and their independent bodies.

On some topics, decisions were already made to ensure a degree of harmonization, such as on the main building blocks for the result frameworks of the funds and on the definitions of what constitutes an output, an outcome or an impact under both funds. Owing to their different models and mandates, the funds present a number of differences on other topics, such as impact measurement, paradigm shift, and the detailed definition, measurement methodologies, and comparability of specific indicators and sub-indicators used by each fund, especially for CCA.

In line with their respective business models, the GEF and the GCF take different approaches to ensuring focus and assessing the additionality of the support provided to CCA and CCM projects. Both funds, however, have faced challenges related with the clarity and coherence of the guidance provided and the complexity of the review process, especially for adaptation, and have undertaken efforts to simplify and streamline their guidance and review considerations. The resulting guidance developed by the GEF and GCF still offers opportunities for further simplification and coherence to facilitate access to finance, in line with one of the priority areas established under the LTV.

2.3. Institutional coordination

Conclusion 8: The GEF and the GCF have made efforts to build synergies between their support programs, but more systematic coordination efforts and mechanisms could enhance effectiveness. While the GEF and the GCF follow different approaches to country support in line with their respective mandates and governance structures, country engagement and ownership are at the core of the business model of both funds, which provide support to countries for strategic planning and pipeline development, in addition to capacity building and knowledge sharing for strengthened programming. The funds also share challenges and opportunities to further strengthen country ownership, stakeholder engagement, and coherence in programming support.

The GEF and the GCF have undertaken multiple efforts to harness synergies in country programming support, including joint programming consultations and back-to-back events, case-by-case synergies between GEF and GCF country support, complementary National Adaptation Plan (NAP) support, and consideration of complementarity and coherence in RPSP and Funding Proposals. While these efforts are going in the right direction, they require time consuming coordination and are not systematic, facing challenges related to the different timeframes and constituencies of each fund, the location of GEF Focal Points/GCF NDAs in different government agencies in some countries, and demands from countries. This points to opportunities to seek complementarity in the support delivered for policy, governance, and national investment planning, sharing the workload based on each fund's value added.

Conclusion 9: Both the GEF and the GCF Secretariats have a knowledge management function, and knowledge exchange and learning are a significant component of their support programs. These can be leveraged to support collaborative and coordinated programming opportunities. Both funds are making progress in implementing processes and systems for knowledge management and organizational learning. While knowledge management teams have been exchanging

experiences, further opportunities for joint work include information sharing and the development of joint knowledge products and events.

Both the GEF and the GCF support programs include a knowledge sharing and learning component. Under the Country Support Program (CSP) and the “Knowledge Exchange and Learning” pillar, the GEF Country Engagement Strategy (CES) offers activities, tools, and knowledge products in support of GEF Focal Points, while the LDCF and the SCCF have a Dedicated Program on organizational learning and coordination that includes knowledge exchange with other funds on adaptation. Likewise, “Knowledge sharing and learning” is a crosscutting objective of the GCF RPSP, which may support the development of knowledge products, learning exchanges, and outreach events to inform countries about GCF policies and procedures, such as regional Structured Dialogues. UNFCCC meetings and other environmental conferences also provide valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing events. This is particularly relevant as countries and GEF Agencies / GCF AEs, while generally aware that complementarity and coherence is a strategic priority for both funds under the LTV, have expressed a need for “how to” guidance from the Secretariats, especially in the form of examples and good practices.

Conclusion 10: Systematic efforts in communication and outreach are key to ensure that countries, GEF Agencies / GCF AEs, and Secretariat staff align their work with the LTV and are aware of existing opportunities, good practices, and incentives for complementarity and coherence between the GEF and the GCF. As already noted above, countries and Agencies / AEs are generally aware of the LTV but have expressed a need for “how to” guidance from the Secretariats. On the other hand, the mainstreaming of the LTV into the daily work of the GEF and GCF Secretariats and independent bodies still appears to be limited, and some staff have expressed interest in deepening their engagement.

While joint pavilions and events at COP25, COP26, COP27, as well as other environmental conferences such as 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress, have been important first steps to disseminate emerging good practices and convey the Funds’ alignment under the UNFCCC, systematic communication and outreach to countries, partners, and Funds’ staff are needed to support broader engagement in the implementation of the LTV in line with the recommendations provided above. However, both Funds’ communication teams are already stretched and have thus limited capacity to take up new responsibilities related to LTV communication and outreach.

Conclusion 11: A fundamental challenge in implementing the LTV is the limited understanding of the functioning of the other fund at the process and policy level by respective staff and limited opportunities to discuss operational improvements for simplification and streamlining towards enhanced access. The GEF and the GCF are two large and complex institutions, and the comparative analysis highlighted that a key barrier to collaboration at all levels was a lack of knowledge of the other fund. Where collaboration mechanisms have been established, several meetings have been required for funds’ staff to get acquainted with each other. It should be noted that the GCF Corporate/Divisional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 2023 already include provisions in relation to working with other funds.

A Steering Committee for the implementation of the LTV (LTV SC) with elected co-chairs and an annual work plan which reports annually to each fund has already been created. This report and its associated detailed comparative study, commissioned by this Steering Committee, are meant to contribute to this understanding with information and comparative analysis on both funds as well as

key recommendations to further increase complementarity and coherence between the GEF and the GCF. However, broader engagement at the strategic, technical, and operational level may be required to identify practical solutions and opportunities across institutions and to make progress in the implementation of various recommendations provided below in this report.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the comprehensive comparative analysis and its main conclusions, seven recommendations to further complementarity and coherence of GEF and GCF processes and policies are presented below. These recommendations are a commissioned third-party input to the management of the funds, especially the LTV SC, and are provided as information for the governance bodies, in light of emerging priorities and further work that may be required under the leadership of the LTV SC to assess their feasibility. The recommendations are grouped according to the main dimensions analyzed, with the understanding that work on any of those dimensions is linked to work done on other dimensions and will therefore require coordinated action as part of the LTV implementation agenda. Their feasibility is recommended for either the short term (upcoming two years), medium term (within three to five years) or long term (five to ten years). This is intended to support complementarity and coherence as a way to assist developing countries and partners in simplifying and streamlining the process of accessing funding from the GEF and the GCF, in the spirit of generating long-lasting results in CCA and CCM.

3.1. Programming, country support and engagement

RECOMMENDATION 1. The GEF and GCF Secretariats, under the guidance of the GEF Council and GCF Board, should continue joint piloting for collaborative and coordinated programming, to identify good practices as well as procedural and practical challenges and bottlenecks to be ironed out. Joint pilots should include sequential or parallel funding across different modalities, including readiness and project preparation support. *Linked with conclusions 1, 2, and 3.*

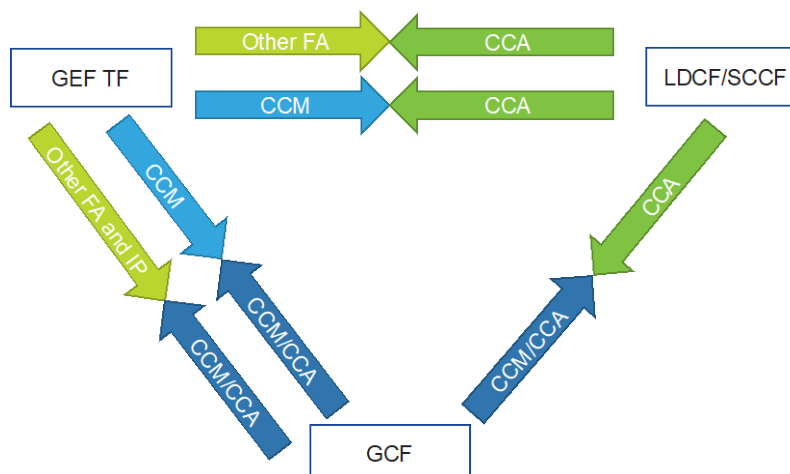
Building on ongoing piloting efforts, a structured pilot initiative should be developed by the LTV SC to systematically explore different opportunities for collaborative and coordinated programming. Good practices and lessons learned from the pilots should be systematically collected. Moving to more systematic piloting will help the Secretariats advance towards a joint approach for collaborative and coordinate programming that streamlines and simplifies country access to both funds (see Recommendation 2). Suggestions to further operationalize the LTV into this pilot program are presented as follows.

Workstream 1.1: Leverage existing opportunities for complementarity in piloting coordinated and collaborative programming.

Taking into account the funds' differences, unique strengths, and shared values, goals, and policies as identified in the LTV, aspects to be considered include the following:

- a) *Thematic differences and complementarities*: The most straightforward paths for complementarity, considering only the current key thematic focus of the funds, are illustrated in Figure 1 below.¹¹

Figure 1. Key opportunities for complementarity at the thematic level¹²



Source: Developed by Baastel

- b) *Geographic priorities*: The fact that both LDCF and the GCF prioritize LDCs provides an opportunity to channel significant resources for adaptation and mitigation to the most vulnerable countries. Likewise, SIDS are a priority for both the SCCF and the GCF. The GEF IP on Blue and Green Islands also constitutes a window that specifically targets SIDS where efforts could be combined. This could also build on existing efforts in LTV Pilot countries.
- c) *Scopes of intervention*: At the project level, there are multiple opportunities to leverage the wider scope of intervention of the GEF TF, including IPs, to finance projects that are more holistic.
- d) *Financial instruments*: While GEF financing is mainly grants, the GCF channels finance by capitalizing on various financial instruments, including loans, guarantees, equity, and grants. . In addition, all GEF Agencies are also GCF AEs, and many of them are DFIs with the ability to manage non-grant investments. Both funds have non-grant instrument and blended finance windows to further crowd in private sector, with the GCF having more flexibility to use a wider variety of non-grant instruments and work directly with private sector entities. As identified in the LTV, there is thus the opportunity for the funds to leverage both grant and non-grant instruments based on each entity's investment policy and risk policy e.g., leveraging GEF grants with GCF concessional financing instruments and longer-term horizon.

¹¹ In response to decisions made at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and ongoing discussions under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, the GEF may be called upon to expand its role in financing actions to address biodiversity loss. The general analysis presented here should still apply regardless of any expanded GEF responsibilities.

¹² Please refer to the underlying assessment for a more detailed depiction of funding windows, thematic priorities, and investment criteria.

- e) *Funding amounts*: The difference in ticket sizes is an important variable when considering collaborative and coordinated programming, as larger project sizes at the GCF can support parallel and sequential financing, including the scaling up of GEF projects.

Workstream 1.2: Prioritize and systematically test different modalities and types of collaboration.

The above opportunities for collaborative and coordinated programming could be leveraged through the following mechanisms, already identified in the context of the LTV: (i) parallel funding (including co-financing); (ii) sequential funding; and (iii) parallel and sequential combination.¹³ The pilot initiative could also consider different types of structures, such as implementation by a single GEF Agency/GCF AE or by a combination of entities. The GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP) and the Request for Proposal (RFP) modalities could be leveraged by both funds for this pilot initiative. Opportunities that can be tested include the following:

- Streamlining project preparation and the related baseline documentation: In developing joint initiatives, the baseline studies, technical assessments and other studies prepared at that stage could support project preparation for both Funds, limiting duplication of efforts. The GEF and the GCF could explore ways to leverage the GCF Project Preparation Facility (PPF) and the GEF Project Preparation Grant (PPG) to help design complementary elements of joint initiatives.
- The RPSP and the CES can be used to build national capacities to enable investments in full projects.
- By engaging with the GEF as Executing Entities (EEs), national entities also interested in GCF accreditation can build their capacities in project execution and may also benefit from support addressing some capacity gaps through the CSP (which is currently piloting capacity building for EEs) and the SGP, with co-benefits for their accreditation to the GCF as Direct Access Entities (DAEs) through institutional accreditation or the Project-Specific Assessment Approach (PSAA). In the longer term, this could result in sequential funding opportunities where the national entity takes the lead in a second phase funded by the GCF, including through institutional accreditation or via the PSAA as relevant, thus strengthening direct access and country ownership.

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **short to medium term**. The leadership and oversight over the pilot program could be ensured by the LTV SC; specific responsibilities could be delegated to the corresponding teams within each Secretariat. Key challenges in implementing this recommendation would include: (i) the need for actively engaging and collaborating with entities on project origination; (ii) finding the appropriate mechanisms to facilitate the pilots; and (iii) ensuring an appropriate consideration of country ownership throughout the process. On this third item, it is important to recall that, from the GEF side, countries may be limited by the remaining availability of their STAR allocations when it comes to supporting new projects. On the GCF side, countries do not have a specific allocation, and prioritization is based on the overall composition of the portfolio. Identifying specific approaches to address these issues will be crucial to the achievement of collaborative and coordinated programming. Another critical challenge is the one pertaining to the differences in the timelines for project development and approval, and the lack of

¹³ For more detail on these options, see: CIF and GCF, 2020. Synergies between climate finance mechanisms: Synthesis report.

predictability of some of these processes. This would need to be considered in the design of the pilot initiative. As it may essentially be a process of “trial and error” to identify promising pathways for collaborative and coordinated programming and (procedural, incentives, or other) challenges to address, interested countries and GEF Agencies /GCF AEs should be made aware of the transaction costs and time commitment required to engage in these activities and willing to take them on.

RECOMMENDATION 2. The GEF and the GCF should develop a joint approach for collaborative and coordinated programming. *Linked with conclusions 1, 2, and 3.*

Building on the lessons from the pilot initiative (see Recommendation 1), the joint approach should set out mechanisms for further collaboration and coordination from the strategic to the operational level, including to remove existing barriers, ultimately leading to more streamlined access to funding for countries and greater synergies in GEF and GCF funding at the country level. Such mechanisms might include the following:

- Guidance to operationalize and/or update the priority areas for collaborative and coordinated programming identified in the LTV in the context of replenishment processes, based on country needs and each Fund’s comparative advantages and strategic niches to address those needs. This includes articulating more formalized mechanisms to work together on programming, as per Recommendation 7. It also involves ensuring mechanisms are in place to take advantage of the asynchronous replenishment cycle for the GEF and the GCF to strengthen coordination and complementarity, building on the other fund’s current priorities and on emerging global issues.
- Good practice guidance for countries and GEF Agencies / GCF AEs interested in pursuing collaborative and coordinated programming, providing examples of opportunities and promising mechanisms emerging from the pilots.
- Guidance for the use of existing or new funding modalities for collaborative and coordinated programming. At the GCF, these might include the use of SAP to provide fast-tracking incentives for sequential, parallel, or complementary projects and RFPs to target common areas of interest. At the GEF, there is the opportunity to leverage existing and future GEF IPs, which already have established operational structures, as well as room for integrating climate change considerations into specific projects, in line with GCF priorities.
- Propose adjustments to the institutional incentive structure for the GEF and GCF Secretariats, GEF Agencies/GCF AEs, and within countries to foster collaborative and coordinated programming and increase the attractiveness of complementary GEF – GCF funding as a mechanism for scaling up and leveraging impacts. These should address, among other aspects, recovery of costs of engagement for countries and GEF Agencies /GCF AEs.
- Capacity development support to GEF Focal Points/GCF NDAs for engaging in collaborative and coordinated programming processes.

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **medium term**, building on the pilot program discussed in Recommendation 1. The LTV SC could coordinate and oversee the design and implementation of the joint approach, involving as relevant the GEF Council, GEF Board and other replenishment stakeholders. Clear responsibilities, coordination mechanisms, and budgets should be identified for implementation. Potential challenges to develop and implement the suggested joint approach include: (i) the mismatched timing of the Funds’ replenishment cycles, and (ii) any changes

in internal processes and policies required for collaborative and coordinated programming to take place at a larger scale.

RECOMMENDATION 3. The GEF and GCF should continue joint country support and engagement for joint or coordinated programming in pilot countries and, building on lessons and good practices from these experiences, in other interested countries. [Linked with conclusions 2, 4, and 10.](#)

Country support and engagement, carried out primarily through the GEF CES and the GCF RPSP, are instrumental to kickstart and sustain joint or coordinated programming efforts at the country level by providing targeted information, advice, and capacity building, as illustrated by ongoing efforts in Rwanda under the LTV and the UNFCCC Task Force on Access to Climate Finance. In this context, it is recommended that the GEF and GCF Secretariats take the following actions:

Workstream 3.1: Harness country support and engagement strategies and programs to support interested countries in undertaking collaborative and coordinated programming.

Opportunities include the following:

- Help interested countries strengthen climate investment coordination platforms (e.g., national climate change committees and national sustainable development planning committees) to ensure proper representation and effective capacity to identify and act on potential synergies between GEF and GCF funding at the country level, in coherence with national climate commitments and policies. The funds could also showcase the experience of countries and respective GEF Focal Points/GCF NDAs that enhanced the coherence of their portfolios. This can be done through the GEF CES (in particular, Direct Support to Focal Points, Introductory Seminars, and Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs)) and through activities supported under Objective 1 of the RPSP (capacity building for climate finance coordination) and under Objective 5 (knowledge sharing and learning), particularly through Structured Dialogues. While some of these activities are supported at the request of countries, the GEF and GCF Secretariats could (a) develop shared frameworks for identifying countries support needs, progress made, and remaining gaps; (b) inform OFPs/NDAs of the possibility of requesting this type of support (e.g., through ECWs and Structured Dialogues); (c) suggest the possibility of requesting this type of support to OFPs/NDAs that have expressed needs in this direction in formal and informal exchanges; and (d) in the case of the GCF, engage with RPSP Delivery Partners (DPs) to ensure that opportunities to work on climate investment coordination platforms are harnessed as part of ongoing and future support.
- Support countries that so request, especially LDCs, in planning their access to climate finance for Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and NAP implementation (including, but not limited to, GEF and GCF funding), in a coherent and complementary manner that strengthens country ownership and stakeholder engagement. To this end, and in line with the LTV, the GEF and GCF Secretariats should engage in discussions on the format, modality, and joint financing of National Investment Plans, considering the pros and cons of piggybacking on multi-donor initiatives such as the NDC Partnership. GEF National Dialogues and GCF Country Program support can also continue hosting discussions on complementary priorities and comparative advantages with the participation of both funds, the respective GEF OFP/GCF NDA, and relevant GEF Agencies/GCF AEs.

- As part of ongoing and future support for pipeline / portfolio development, help countries harness complementarities between the two funds and build coherence across portfolios. Under the GEF CES, this could be done as part of the upstream programming support (namely, Project Review and Support) provided by the Secretariat at the request of countries. Under the RPSP, the Secretariat should encourage NDAs and DPs to include this type of support in readiness proposals under Objective 4. Pipeline development.
- Leverage opportunities for complementarity between the LDCF / SCCF Dedicated Programs that focus on enhancing national planning capacity present with the RPSP.
- Continue providing NAP support with the GCF focusing on supporting NAP preparation, and the GEF and GCF supporting NAP implementation, in a sequential manner building on their mutual complementarities, while remaining flexible to efficiently address country's needs.
- Provide guidance and advice to countries and DPs to identify opportunities for parallel or sequential support under the CBIT and the RPSP for climate policy M&E, MRV, and transparency under the UNFCCC, in close coordination with relevant GEF Agencies/GCF DPs and GEF OFPs /GCF NDAs and UNFCCC national focal points (see Recommendation 2).
- Formalize and support mechanisms like the DAE Community of Practice (currently supported by the GCF, the Adaptation Fund and the German Development Agency GIZ). This would benefit the GCF with its ambitious objectives regarding DAEs, and also help the GEF support its three national level Implementing Agencies in increasing their capacity to access its funds.

Workstream 3.2: Enhance communication on the LTV to GEF OFPs/GCF NDAs and GEF Agency /GCF AE country offices to increase awareness of opportunities to receive support.

Possible actions include the following:

- Building on emerging good practices and relevant knowledge products, craft a communication message on the advantages of collaborative and coordinated programming for countries and options to pursue it. Explore opportunities to leverage the CES (e.g., Stakeholder Empowerment Series (SEs) and ECWs) and the RPSP to disseminate key messages and related knowledge materials, in addition to making them available on the funds' websites.
- In countries where the GEF OFP and the GCF NDA are different persons and / or institutions, systematically engage them during country missions, e.g., by holding joint meetings to enhance knowledge sharing and discussing opportunities for synergy between GEF and GCF portfolios at the country level.
- During country missions, engage GEF Agencies/GCF AEs and EEs/DPs as relevant and appropriate to showcase opportunities for synergies between GEF and GCF projects at the country level, both within entities accredited to both funds, and with additional entities accredited to the GCF, including DAEs.

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **short term**, in parallel with Recommendation 1 above. The **feasibility** of this recommendation is largely dependent on country demand for this type of support under the CES and the RPSP, in line with the principle of country ownership. If implemented in synergy with workstream 3.1, however, workstream 3.2 can stimulate demand. Another factor to be considered is the capacity of the GEF and GCF Secretariats to respond to a possible increased demand for country support and engagement activities, which should be carefully assessed.

3.2. Processes

RECOMMENDATION 4. The GEF and GCF should seek to enhance coherence between project templates and support GEF Agencies/GCF AEs to help ease compliance in the context of collaborative and coordinated programming. *Linked with conclusions 5 and 6.*

To enhance opportunities related to collaborative and coordinated programming, the two funds could seek to enhance coherence between project templates and simplify requirements for compliance with policies when possible. This would increase time and resource efficiencies for countries and GEF Agencies /GCF AEs when pursuing collaborative and coordinated programming, thus contributing to expedite access to finance. A key enabling factor is that, to date, key policies and compliance requirements related to minimum/basic fiduciary standards, ESS, gender, stakeholder engagement, and indigenous peoples have remained largely aligned, and funds have made efforts to ensure continued alignment as policies evolve.

Efforts in this direction could be organized around the following elements:

- The GEF and GCF, with the support of STAP in the case of the GEF, should develop, pilot test, refine, and adopt more coherent project templates. This could be done by identifying where common policy compliance requirements can be used for simplification, complemented by both funds based on their specific requirements, and adjust project templates accordingly. Revisions to templates should also be considered as an opportunity to explain and demonstrate complementarity between proposals that seek to benefit from the advantages and incentives related to collaborative and coordinated programming.
- The GEF STAP and the GCF knowledge management team could support efforts to increase coherence in the guidance provided by the funds on the application of key concepts, such as innovation, transformation, climate adaptation rationale, and Theory of Change, which is a pre-requisite to enhancing the complementarity and coherence between the information requested and provided in the respective funds' templates.
- Over time, the GEF and GCF could examine how underlying policy requirements might be better streamlined and simplified. For example, when either Fund undertakes a review of its policies, it could deliberately examine and advise its governing body on the policy settings of the other Fund and potential opportunities to improve coherence in policy compliance requirements. Adoption of relevant policy changes would remain within the discretion of each Fund's governing body.

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **medium term**, building on the high level of alignment across standards (including minimum/basic fiduciary standards and ESS-related policies and compliance requirements). Potential barriers to implement the suggested approach may include the potential differences in GEF Agencies/GCF AEs own policies and requirements in these areas.

RECOMMENDATION 5. The GEF and the GCF should design streamlined procedures for joint project design and funding to increase time and resource efficiencies for countries and GEF Agencies /GCF AEs when pursuing collaborative and coordinated programming. *Linked with conclusions 5 and 6.*

In line with the LTV, the GEF and GCF Secretariats, under the guidance of the GEF Council and the GCF Board (and STAP in the case of the GEF), should endeavor to design a simple procedure for sequential, parallel, or complementary project design and funding at both the GEF and the GCF with clear eligibility criteria. Such a procedure would provide clarity for all stakeholders about opportunities to develop such initiatives, thus contributing to projects that leverage complementarity and coherence between the GEF and the GCF. Alternatively, or concurrently, the funds could harmonize and simplify funding proposal and approval procedures to reduce transaction costs when collaborative and coordinated programming is at stake.

A **key challenge** to do this is the predictability and transparency of the project cycles and overall timelines for project approvals and first disbursements. Furthermore, use of the GCF PPF has been limited and the PSAA is not yet fully operational. Achieving this requires strategic guidance supported by a detailed understanding of specific processes and their bottlenecks. While both funds strive to accelerate and streamline their own project cycles, specific efforts in this sense could include:

- **Prioritizing approval of joint initiatives for collaborative and coordinated programming:** At the GCF, even when an AE is ready to submit a funding proposal to the Secretariat, it may or may not be prioritized by the Secretariat due to limited commitment authority and review capacity or to maintain alignment with the portfolio targets. Providing joint initiatives with predictability on that end would be highly beneficial. This could be addressed by (i) targeting specific types of initiatives (e.g., through an RFP or through the strategic plan) or (ii) creating a process to ensure that joint initiatives get prioritized. In the case of the GCF, prioritizing joint initiatives would require the portfolio targets to be adjusted accordingly, otherwise funding proposals would still be prioritized based on the available commitment authority, alignment with portfolio targets, and the review capacity of the Secretariat.
- **Mapping out a pathway for coordinating approval:** With significantly different approval processes, options are limited on this side. If not addressed, this could present a significant barrier for developing parallel projects or programs. Synchronizing the submission of PIFs and Funding Proposals constitutes a window of opportunity to be considered, given that these are the most similar stages in the project approval cycle as they are steps that lead to a governing body intervention, and those that require the largest amount of information. This would entail: (a) not submitting a GCF Concept Note, or submitting it long before starting working on the GEF project¹⁴ (only relevant if project preparation support is sought); (b) submitting the PIF and the Funding Proposals more or less at the same time; and (c) following approval, developing the CEO Endorsement document in parallel to the GCF legal arrangements, to aim for a relatively timed beginning of the project. Considering existing processes and current timelines, this is the most likely option to consider for the development of a pathway for coordinated approval that could be used by GEF Agencies/GCF AEs to achieve parallel initiatives. However, there are significant uncertainties related to this tentative pathway, which other recommendations and continued joint efforts would aim at progressively addressing. Opportunities for improved design coherence through greater GEF PPG and GCF PPF harmonization should also be explored.

¹⁴ It should be noted that although concept notes are not required by the GCF, they are encouraged to avoid situations where AEs invest lots of time and resources into project ideas that are not suitable for GCF. Therefore, there could be advantages to submit a concept note for projects where there is a need to align GCF and GEF requirements.

- **Taking advantage of prior analyses:** Where projects are parallel or sequential, explore the potential to reuse/draw on/update prior analyses (e.g., gender analysis; stakeholder mappings; analyses associated with Free Prior and Informed Consent), including on the basis of the existing process of identification of baseline investments in respective project templates, as well as broader outcomes and lessons. This would also be possible for policy compliance requirements in project templates beyond ESS, and should be explicitly encouraged by the respective Secretariats. As this may generate difficulties in accessing respective analyses/studies when they are not systematically made publicly available, especially where different GEF Agencies/GCF AEs are involved in sequential project designs, this would require the signing of information sharing agreements to allow the sharing of information across funds (always within the scope of existing disclosure regulations).

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **medium to long term**, building on the pilot initiatives discussed in Recommendation 1. The significant differences between the processes for investment decision-making and the project cycle are the main challenges to the feasibility of this recommendation. While it is not realistic to expect these to become aligned, continued efforts to increase predictability, along with efforts from the other recommendations of this report could allow for such a pathway to be identified and fully leveraged to increase access to climate finance. As noted above, securing access to relevant analyses/studies between GEF Agencies/GCF AEs will also be crucial to ensure the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 6. The GEF and GCF Secretariats should build on efforts to enhance complementarity and coherence with respect to the application of investment criteria, and the corresponding reporting requirements at the project and portfolio levels, including guidance and considerations for climate impacts with climate rationale, and eventually UNFCCC reporting. *Linked with conclusion 7.*

This would help facilitate planning and improve access to funding for GEF Agencies/GCF AEs for impactful initiatives with partner countries by creating efficiencies in project design and monitoring, while also facilitating collaborative and coordinated programming, in line with Objective 6 of the LTV. To achieve this, the LTV SC should leverage existing mechanisms, and consider the establishment of joint task forces where no mechanism currently exists, to implement the following measures:

Workstream 6.1. Harmonize guidance on the application of investment criteria, and the corresponding reporting requirements, at the project level:

- In line with the LTV, harmonize guidance, methodologies, and, to the extent possible, requirements for project design to maximize climate adaptation impacts in particular (similar work has already been in large part done for mitigation), using elements of climate rationale. This would eventually be reflected in project design templates (c.f. Recommendation 4).
- Continue efforts to harmonize core indicators and identify where common reporting requirements, as simplified as possible, can be used, complemented by both funds based on their specific requirements, and adjust project templates accordingly. Whenever possible, the use of common or complementary results frameworks could also be promoted. This could be done in the context of the pilot initiative (see Recommendation 1), where harmonization needs and opportunities could be identified and tested.

- Promote and support joint project evaluations for collaborative and coordinated programming initiatives.

Workstream 6.2. Harmonize guidance on the application of investment criteria, and the corresponding reporting requirements, at the portfolio level:

- Continue the harmonization efforts on indicators and sub-indicators, focusing on identifying unnecessary differences. This could include a review of definitions on indicators that are already harmonized to validate their comparability. This may also include indicators on operational performance of both institutions. While this information is partly available on the Funds' websites, sharing it in a systematized and easy-to-consult format could support the efforts of both Funds to avoid duplications, build on each other's work, and identify candidates for collaborative and coordinated programming (see Recommendations 1 and 2).
- Continue to exchange knowledge on impact assessment, on the tracking of co-benefits and of the effects of changes in the enabling environment on climate change benefits.
- Explore the possibility for the GCF to use the Rio Markers similarly to the GEF.
- Explore opportunities to share knowledge on UNFCCC reporting and to harmonize the type of information and format of reporting to the UNFCCC to facilitate comparability and aggregation. As the GCF projects start delivering on achievements, a section on this topic could be added, ensuring coherence and comparability with that of the GEF.

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **short to medium term**, in parallel with Recommendation 4 above. The task force could be led by staff from respective results and operations teams; aspects relating to UNFCCC reporting would require support from the Council/Board. Given existing achievements, the feasibility of the above appears high. Some of the challenges may lie in (i) mobilizing GEF and GCF staff from different teams to discuss these topics and (ii) ensuring that harmonization efforts do not generate additional reporting burdens, but rather support increased efficiency.

3.3. Institutional coordination

RECOMMENDATION 7. The GEF and the GCF Secretariats should establish institutional incentives and collaborative structures for information and knowledge exchange and for enabling collaborative and coordinated programming at the operational level. *Linked with conclusions 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11.*

Drawing on progress made by the GCF in this direction, mechanisms and staff performance assessment criteria should be established to ensure that departments, units, and independent bodies in each fund effectively engage with their respective counterparts in the other fund through regular meetings (e.g., twice a year) as well as through their day-to-day operations as required. This would be furthered by reciprocal invitations for representatives of the funds to attend meetings of each other's governance body meetings – including, in the case of GEF, its Assembly. Contact points could also be established on additional topics of interest like accreditation, gender, or SIDS, in cases where responsibilities do not lie with a specific department. The Funds could also explore mechanisms to

share information about country profiles, needs, current and past activities in country, across the different teams managing this information, and in line with their respective disclosure regulations. Further engagement of Secretariat staff at the operational level would enhance their understanding of the other fund and would better position them to identify and leverage opportunities for collaborative and coordinated programming with their counterparts in a decentralized manner.

The first step in this engagement would consist in getting to know each other, when this is not already the case. Then, specific responsibilities and objectives could be assigned to these groups to contribute to the LTV implementation. They would then report to the LTV SC, and ultimately to the GCF Board, the GEF Council, and the UNFCCC COP on progress. Examples of points of engagement include:

- **Support programs:** The RPSP (GCF Division of Country Programming) and the CES (GEF Front Office, Programs Unit and Policy, Partnerships, and Operations Unit) could collaborate on opportunities for joint support to country programming and knowledge exchange; the LDCF / SCCF should also continue coordination efforts with the GCF on adaptation planning (see Recommendation 3).
- **Regional coordinators for both funds:** Exchanges between regional coordinators could focus on more operational aspects, such as ensuring participation of both funds during regional and national events, including in support of national investment planning. They could also support gathering information on coordination and coherence within countries.
- **Programming and sectoral teams:** They are the main channel through which collaborative and coordinated programming opportunities have been entering the pipeline so far, including with respect to leading the five pilot country engagements under the Taskforce (in addition to supervising this study).
- **Communication:** The GEF and GCF communication teams should maintain regular contact to plan for joint communications (including in social media), events (including at COPs and other environmental conferences, as in previous years), and outreach products to disseminate progress in collaboration efforts under the LTV and beyond. Efforts should also be made to (a) enhance the communication on the LTV to the staff of the Secretariats and independent bodies, including through events to showcase incentives, opportunities, and emerging good practices, and to discuss any questions or challenges; and (b) leverage GEF Agency Retreats and the GCF annual meetings with AEs to disseminate key messages around the LTV and any related materials.
- **Accreditation:** The GCF Accreditation Panel and the GCF Division of Country Programming (accreditation staff) would benefit from exchanges with the GEF on accreditation strategies and relevant policies to gain an understanding, among other things, of how the GEF monitors compliance with standards that the GCF wants to fast-track, and to identify potential areas to streamline.
- **Compliance requirements:** The GEF Agency/GCF AEs staff responsible for ensuring adherence to different policies (including fiduciary standards, ESS, gender, stakeholder engagement and indigenous people policies, results management), as well as national level stakeholders, would benefit from a space to discuss how to address key entry points for complementarity and coherence and from knowledge exchange opportunities (see Recommendation 3).
- **Evaluation:** The GEF and GCF should continue their efforts to share knowledge, and further pursue discussions on opportunities for coordinated and joint evaluations at the thematic,

geographic (specific regions or countries), or institutional (specific GEF Agencies/GCF AEs) levels, as well as to generate and share knowledge from evaluations.

- **Observers and advisory groups:** The underlying assessment suggests that the GEF-IPAG and the GCF-IPAG, as well as the GEF Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network and the GCF CSO Observers, would benefit from a space to discuss their experiences engaging with both funds as well as lessons from specific initiatives, as a means to strengthen country level engagement and role in strong project design in the context of collaborative and coordinated programming.
- **Technical advisory:** STAP and iTAP could benefit from learning from each other's practices in reviewing and strengthening the quality of proposals.
- **Knowledge management:** Further information sharing, knowledge management, and learning mechanisms between relevant staff of the two funds would be beneficial, in particular between thematic specialists. Additionally, the GEF and the GCF should develop joint learning and knowledge sharing activities on themes of common interest, with a focus on GEF Agencies/GCF AEs, and provide windows for national stakeholders to share experience and good practices on implementation issues. Possible themes include good practices and lessons in policy implementation (e.g., on gender, ESS) and around readiness. Another opportunity is to develop shared knowledge platforms or piggyback on existing ones, including the GEF thematic platforms, the GEF Community of Practice & Knowledge Collaboration Platform, the GCF Direct Climate Action Platform, and online courses offered by both funds. Priority areas for exchange may include national planning, project design, policy implementation, as well as monitoring, evaluation, and learning. It should also leverage the achievements and existing knowledge materials from both funds.

Feasibility: This recommendation is intended to be implemented in the **short to medium term**. As this type of engagement implies additional time requests to already stretched teams, further discussions and analysis should be conducted by the LTV SC in close coordination with the GEF and GCF Secretariats, following any guidance provided by the GEF Council and GCF Board, to prioritize the points of engagement based on interest of the respective teams, feasibility, and potential positive impacts on the funds' operations.



Baastel

30 Years Promoting
Sustainable Development

North American Office

Le Groupe-conseil Baastel ltée
92, rue Montcalm
Gatineau (Québec)
Canada, J8X2L7

P: +1 819 595 1421
F: +1 819 595 8586

European Office

Le Groupe-conseil Baastel srl
Rue de la Loi 28
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

P: +32 (0)2 355 4111

Representation France

Olivier Beucher & Gaetan Quesne
T: +33 7 82 92 44 98
E: olivier.beucher@baastel.com
gaetan.quesne@baastel.com

Representation Jamaica

Curline Beckford
P : +1 876 298 6545
E: curline.beckford@baastel.com

