



GEF/C.64/Inf.14

June 5, 2023

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

THE SEVENTH GEF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

HEALTHY PLANET HEALTHY PEOPLE

VANCOUVER, AUGUST 22-26, 2023

HOSTED BY CANADA AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

The GEF Assembly

The GEF Assembly is the highest governing body of the GEF and is composed of all 185 member countries. It meets every four years at the ministerial level to: review general policies; review and evaluate GEF's operations based on reports submitted to Council; review the membership of the Facility; and consider, for approval by consensus, amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility on the basis of recommendation by the Council. It is also a great opportunity for all members to exchange political priorities, plan for, and communicate their aspirations for the long-term action of the GEF. Building on the recent momentum from UNFCCC COP27 and CBD COP15, it is an opportunity for Ministers from around the world to exchange with each other and with other stakeholders, on nature and climate priorities, including the establishment of a new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

Canada's vision for the GEF Assembly includes its commitment to inclusive engagement and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, youth, women and girls, CSOs, communities and business leaders engaged in delivering global biodiversity and environmental benefits and building resilience to climate change. In this context, the Assembly presents an opportunity to bring together selected actors and innovators working at the grassroots level on transformative solutions for the planet and for people. Through three decades of GEF successful engagements with countries, it is apparent that, besides the moral imperative to work with non-state actors, these key stakeholders bring critical sustainability elements to GEF investments and actions at the country level. Canada also looks forward to welcoming the world to Vancouver, and showcasing examples of Canadian efforts on environmental priorities, including conservation and biodiversity protection and actions to address climate change.

Program

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 (Day 1)

Registration

8:00 to 18:00 (TBC)

GEF Gender Partnership Forum Strategy and Planning Meeting (by invitation only)

8:30 – 12:30

Youth Leaders Learning Exchange

- 8:30 Welcome (TBC)
- 8:45 Introductory remarks and plan for the Exchange – (TBC)
- 9:15 Three things to save the oceans
Speaker (TBC)
Followed by Youth Panel to discuss both talks
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Conversation with Youth Leaders, Moderated by STAP Senior Adviser, (TBC)
- 11:15 Option to continue with another youth panel, or engage the groups in tabletop exercises (Such as “Game of Floods” where each table gets a sea level rise scenario and must decide how to adapt)
- 12:15 Sum up
- 12:30 Lunch for all participants

Indigenous and Local Knowledge Event

- 14:00 Introduction and welcome - Rosina Bierbaum, STAP chair
How can Indigenous and Local Knowledge help the GEF to deliver greater global environmental benefits?
- 14:10 Keynote address - Eduardo S. Brondízio, Department of Anthropology, and Center for the Analysis of Social Ecological Landscapes (CASEL), Indiana University
- 14:40 Remarks - Robin Wall Kimmerer, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment (enrolled member of the Potawatomi Nation, and author of “Braiding sweetgrass”)
- 14:55 Session 1: Arctic – facilitated by [STAP]
3x10 minutes case study presentations by Indigenous Peoples, with a focus on food and natural systems which the GEF is seeking to transform
Possible projects to highlight include:

-SIKU – the Indigenous Knowledge Social Network is a mobile app and web platform by and for Inuit which provides tools and services for ice safety, weather forecasting, language preservation and knowledge transfer

-ITTAQ – Inuit-led research, land-based programming and multimedia

-Abalone restoration: to understand the effects of a traditional abalone harvest and to design management for restoration of abalone populations and use by Haida fishers

Speakers TBC

15:25 Q&A and moderated discussion

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Session 2: Amazon – facilitated by Aileen Lee, chief of programs for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

3x10 minute case study presentations by Indigenous Peoples

Possible projects to highlight include:

-Gaia Amazonas: documents Indigenous knowledge in the Colombian Amazon to support conservation efforts, and designate co-management regimes

-WCS citizen science program Aguas Amazonicas: gathers data from local communities on river health, e.g. aquatic biodiversity and how different species are used by different peoples

-Field Museum's social and biological inventories: record large bodies of Indigenous knowledge and engages communities in a dialogue between western science and Indigenous knowledge

17:00 Q&A and moderated discussion

17:30 Concluding discussion, Wrap up and thanks -

Parallel Side Events (90 minutes each)

See Annex

Exhibitions and Hubs

All day (9:00 to 18:00)

Wednesday, August 23, 2023 (Day 2)

Partnership Forum: Solutions for the environment through dialogue, inclusion and equity

Jointly organized by the GEF Secretariat, GEF CSO Network, GEF Gender Partnership (GGP), Indigenous People Advisory Group, in collaboration with Canada

9:00 Opening Ceremony

Moderator: (TBC)

Blessing by Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) and indigenous peoples of Canada (TBC).

Short Video: by UNAC youth council on youth perspectives

9:30 Setting the stage for change

Speakers (TBC)

10:00 Intergenerational Fireside Chat

Moderated interactive dialogue between youth conservation leaders, government minister(s), other leaders

11:30 **Parallel interactive breakout sessions** (including lunch time conversations)

Key constituency-led sessions for focused deliberations on their specific issues, interests, aspirations (engaging broader assembly participation, providing opportunity for sharing good practices and generating key messages for the assembly and longer-term recommendations for future GEF engagement)

Topic 1: Intergenerational Collaboration for our future

Topic 2: Indigenous stewardship of the global environment

Topic 3: Women's Leadership in environmental action

15:30 Plenary

Location: Plenary Room

Moderated conversation on takeaways from the breakout sessions: key messages and recommendations.

16:15 High-level and closing event

Announcing GEF related initiatives and programs, including:

1) Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership Program Fund

2) Inclusive Assembly Challenge Program

16:45 Closing Remarks

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Final remarks and closing blessing by First Nations in Vancouver (TBC)

Official Opening Ceremony of the Assembly

18:00 With First Nations representatives and performers, Government of Canada, GEF CEO

19:00 Reception hosted by Canada

MINE Event on Private Sector Mobilization for Climate and Biodiversity Finance

14:00 – 17:00 (TBC), in Media Room (TBC)

Parallel Side Events (90 minutes each)

See Annex

Exhibitions and Hubs

All day (9:00 to 18:00)

[Thursday, August 24, 2023 \(Day 3\)](#)

GEF Assembly

Location: Plenary Room

9:00 Election of the Chair

Election of the Vice-Chairs

Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

Welcoming Addresses:

- The Honorable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development, Canada

- Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chair of the GEF

11:00 First High-Level Plenary Session: Solutions for a Healthy Planet: Integrated Responses to Global Environmental Degradation.

The ecosystems, biomes, and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system are being stretched to a breaking point. Our future depends on how well we understand and reverse the degradation of the global environment. We must maintain and restore the health of the planet as a necessary condition and basis for sustainable resilient societies. Doing this requires developing integrated responses to address the multiple and inter-linked environmental and development challenges. During this plenary, speakers will talk about their experiences implementing these kinds of responses, identifying successes, failures and trade-offs, and highlighting future directions and approaches the GEF might take and support as it continues to evolve its own programming and investment strategies.

Moderator: Dr. Rosina Bierbaum, Scientist and Chair of STAP

Disruption Speaker: (TBC)

Panel Members: (TBC)

12:30 Lunch

GEF CEO Lunch for Heads of Delegations

Speakers: (TBC)

14:00 GEF business (continued)

Amendments to Instrument for the Establishment of a Restructured Global Environment Facility

Report on the GEF Trust Fund

Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

Parallel High-Level Round Tables

- Roundtable 1: Closing the Nature Funding Gap / Achieving Policy Coherence
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 2: Bridging the Science and Policy Nexus for Healthy Planet, Healthy People
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 3: Pathways to a Net Zero Nature Positive World

Speakers (TBC)

- Roundtable 4: Circular Solutions for Healthy Planet, Healthy People
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 5: Promoting Sustainability and Resilience in Cities
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 6: Conserving and Restoring Nature
Speakers (TBC)

15:30 Second High-Level Plenary Session: Solutions for a Healthy Planet: Partnerships for Financing

New and inclusive strategies that combine conservation action with engagement of development organizations, the private sector, and civil society will be needed if we are to transform the major economic systems that are driving environmental degradation. The development of a new trust fund under the GEF, the GBF Fund, provides one example of how the public and private sectors can come together to leverage funding towards positive environmental outcomes. The cost to implement the Paris Agreement and the recently approved GBF is astronomical, reaching \$100s of billions of dollars per year. Achieving this target cannot depend on official development assistance (ODA) alone but requires collective effort from the public and private sector, including repurposing existing funding. During this plenary session, experts will present their experiences implementing strategies to unlock financing beyond simply more ODA to implement global agreements, including examples of successful re-purposing of subsidies and harmful incentives, structuring of green bonds, PES, and blended finance, highlighting innovations that are ripe for GEF engagement and future investment.

Moderator: (TBC)

Disruption Speaker:

17:00 Assembly business (continued)

Ratification of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

18:00 Press Conference (tbc)

18:00 Knowledge and Collaboration Platform (KCP) Launch Reception

Exhibitions and Hubs

All day (8:00 to 18:00 TBC)

Friday August 25, 2023 (Day 4)

GEF Assembly

Location: Plenary Room

9:00 Assembly business (continued)

9:00 – 11:00 Parallel High Level Round Tables

- Roundtable 7: Transforming Food Systems
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 8: Youth, Women, and Indigenous Peoples as Stewards of the Environment
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 9: Learning for Results and Impact
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 10: GEF's Future with New Agreements and Emerging Themes
speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 11: Building Climate Resilience and Adapting to New Realities
Speakers (TBC)
- Roundtable 12: Cultivating sustainable and resilient landscapes and livelihoods
Speakers (TBC)

11:00 Third High-Level Plenary Session: Solutions for a Healthy Planet: Responsible, Inclusive and Transformative Governance

Reversing the global environmental degradation trend will require a concerted effort to include many of the stakeholders that have been historically neglected and negatively affected by development. Without strong and inclusive governance, sophisticated integrated solutions and robust financing will not result in the outcomes we seek as a community. In advancing development goals and aspirations, governments must increasingly strive to promote coherence and consistency in policy options that underpin environmental sustainability. At the same time, providing a voice and engaging a broad

set of actors in the future stewardship of the environment will allow for a different and more sustainable pathway to a healthy planet. In this plenary, Governments and IPLCs will present examples of successful environmental governance systems and identify how GEF can best support governance reforms in the pursuit of achieving a Healthy Planet and Healthy People.

Moderator: (TBC)

Disruption Speaker: (TBC)

Panel Members: (TBC)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Assembly business (continued) – Closing Plenary

Statement by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office

Statement by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

Statement by a Representative of Civil Society Organizations

Report on GEF Participants

Report on Credentials

Summary of High-Level Round Table Discussions

Presentation of Chair's Summary

Closing of the Assembly

Speakers:

The Honorable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development, Canada; Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chair of the GEF

19:00 Closing Reception hosted by the GEF

Exhibitions and Hubs

All day (8:00 to 18:00 TBC)

[Saturday August 26, 2023 \(Day 5\)](#)

Field Visits. Details to follow

Day 1 - Tuesday, 22 August 2023									
09:00 to 10:30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	Room 9
	Forwarding a movement of peace building and nature conservation through an indigenous lens (IUCN / CSO)	Reindeer Herding and Resilience: Enhancing Pastoral Ecosystems and Nomadic Societies (UNEP)	An innovative investment model for gender-responsive mitigation and adaptation using the W+ Standard (WOCAN)	Placeholder - Canada event	A new generation of national biodiversity finance plans (UNDP)	National planning towards an inclusive, equitable, and effective Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3: Launching a guide and showcasing experiences from six countries (WWF, CSF, IUCN-WCPA)	Bluer, Greener and Better for SIDS: Scaling Action for Sustainable Blue Economy (UNDP)	ECCC Event Placeholder	CBD Secretariat room for all 4 days
10:30 to 11:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
11:00 to 12:30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	Accelerating progress on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework / Opportunities to advance implementation of the Nagoya Protocol under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (UNDP)	Multistakeholder Panel on Science and Plastic Pollution – Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis (ECCC/Canada)	Networks for Action: Strategies for Strengthening Woman and Youth Capacities for Local Endeavor (CAF)	Blended finance, catalyzing investment in nature and climate (WBG)	Use and Influence of Evaluations (GEF IEO)	Human-Wildlife Coexistence: Managing human-wildlife interactions for conservation and development (GEF, WWF)	Innovative Knowledge-Based Solutions: Enhancing Monitoring, Transparency, and Decision-Making in the Era of Big Data and Earth Observation (FAO)	La culture du maïs face au changement climatique: stratégies d’adaptation (EID)	
12:30 to 13:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
13:00 to 14:30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	How to foster youth engagement in GEF projects / Empowering the Next Generation: Financing for Youth-led Climate and Nature Based Solutions (IFAD)	Conservation of Freshwater Connectivity corridors in the Amazon basin for people and nature (CI - TNC)	Advancing gender equality makes for better environmental outcomes: sharing data, knowledge and evidence (GEF Sec)	Scaling Nature Based Solutions with Blended Finance (CI)	Agroecology’s Multifunctionality for Achieving a Healthy Planet and Resilient Livelihoods (SOCLA) CSO	Greening Infrastructure Development (WWF, ADB, AfDB, EBRD, IDB, UNEP)	Environmental human rights defenders: opportunities from international instruments to protect peoples and the environment (FARN)	Indigenous Peoples’ Engagement in Conservation (WB & GEF)	
14:30 to 15:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
15:00 to 16:30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	Options and advances for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to directly access international climate and nature finance for renewed global ambition / Approaches to financing and upscaling locally led innovative development solutions (UNDP)	Primary Forests for biodiversity, climate mitigation and health: opportunities and challenges (IUCN)	Best practices in empowering women and gender mainstreaming in GEF projects - Conversation among beneficiary voices, implementing agencies, governments (GGP)	Driving a Just Hydrogen Transition in Developing Countries and Transition Economies: Clean Hydrogen Financing and Key Enablers for De-risking Investments (UNIDO & WB)	Strategic Planning for the Future Investment in the Great Green Wall – Use of remote sensing data and mapping for decision making (UNEP)	Innovative solutions for nature in cities (UNEP, WRI, C40, ICLEI, GEF)	International Looking ahead: Finance opportunities for jurisdictional REDD+ (CI)	Scaling nature-based rice solutions through public-private investment (WBCSD)	
16:30 to 17:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
17:00 to 18:30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	Nutrition sensitivity in environmental programming for a Healthy Planet, Healthy People / Agro-Environmental Allies: Working together to nourish the planet / Food Systems Transformation Pathways / Shifting the paradigm towards climate-resilient and nature-positive food and agriculture systems (FAO / UNDP)	ENACT – a global partnership to achieve biodiversity and climate goals through Nature-based Solutions (IUCN)	How to integrate gender and human rights and climate in commentary systems in the climate component (AVOCHACLISD)	Scaling Up Finance for Renewable Energy Minigrids in Africa (UNDP)	Evidence-based decision-making for synergies between biodiversity and Land Degradation Neutrality (FAO)	Harnessing the power of cleantech ecosystems to tackle the complex challenge of climate change (UNIDO)	Long-term conservation financing for people and our planet: the Project Finance for Permanence model (WWF, TNC, The Pew, ZOMALAB)	MEAs - Convention Executive Secretaries (more information to come)	
18:30 to 19:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
19:00 to 20:30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	Chemical in Fashion (UNEP, GEF SEC) Fashion Show	Small Grants Program (GEF)	GEF-7 Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) REQUIRES INTERPRETATION						

Day 2 - Wednesday, 23 August 2023									
	Large room	Nature	Gender	Finance	Knowledge	Science	Pol-Gov	Other	
09:00 to 10:30									
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	Room 9
	WHO-UNDP Side Event on Climate and Health / Science, Industry, and Society Climate Collaborative – Driving Positive Behaviour Change for People & Planet (UNDP & WHO)	Forest and Farm Producer Organizations as agents of change for the environment (FAO)	Gender Mainstreaming in Protected Areas Management in Congo Basin: Case studies from Cameroon (UNEP)	Transforming finance for big cats' conservation (UNDP)	Knowledge management (IUCN)	Engagement of industry in the Global Biodiversity Framework (UNIDO)	Launching the " Beyond 30x30: Securing resilience in the Eastern Tropical Pacific through enhanced transboundary cooperation" (CI)	Nature Crime Alliance. Hosted by WRI	CBD Secretariat room for all 4 days
10:30 to 11:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
11:00 to 12:30									
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	30 by 30, Target 3 (IUCN - WCPA & TNC)	Transitioning to A Circular Economy and Zero Waste Society through Integrated Chemical and Waste Management (UNDP)	Financing and monitoring the gender-biodiversity-climate nexus (UNCBD Women's Caucus)	Leveraging science, data and knowledge to accelerate innovation and the role of private investment in climate change adaptation (UNIDO)	Leveraging Geospatial Analysis for Country Environment Planning (GEF)	Nature Positive Food Systems (TNC, FAO, IFAD, WBCSD)	Mercury contamination from ASGM: Impacts and Solutions (TNC)	Sustainable Consumption and Production (ADB)	
12:30 to 13:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
13:00 to 14:30									
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	TBD - For IP (Canada)	Ocean Conservation at Scale - the Blue Nature Alliance (CI)	Gender-responsive MEAs: Interactive session with governments, MEA gender focal points, implementing Agencies and the GEF (GGP)	Placeholder - Canada event	A WWWin-Win for Gender and Biodiversity: Transforming women's rights and gender equality at CBD COP15 (Women4Biodiversity)	Science for Conservation (IUCN)	Transparency for raising NDC ambitions and transforming the agri-food systems (FAO, YOUNGO & UNFCCC)	The journey of plastic action across GEF cycles and its contribution to the global 2024 Plastic Treaty (UNEP, UNIDO, ADB, UNDP, WWF)	
14:30 to 15:00	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
15:00 to 16:30									
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	
	The role of partnerships in advancing marine conservation targets. (DFO)	SADC Great Green Wall Initiative (UNCCD)	FunBio- Placeholder	TENTATIVE GAC Ministerial Event (may run longer than 1600)	Critical Forest Biome (IUCN)	Elevating awareness, investment and regional integration towards protecting the Mesoamerican biological and cultural diversity of primary forest (IUCN)	GEF-UNDP-IMO innovative partnerships / GEF-UNDP-UNESCP innovative partnerships (UNDP)	The contribution of Indigenous peoples to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programs (AIDB, CSO)	