



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2024

GEF Council Decisions 2024

66th Council Meeting – February 2024	1
Decision 1/2024 The GEF Monitoring Report 2023	1
Decision 2/2024 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund.....	1
Decision 3/2024 Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle	6
Decision 4/2024 UNDP: 2023 Third Party Review of Minimum Fiduciary Standards.....	7
Decision 5/2024 Tracking and Measuring the Socio-economic Co-benefits of GEF Investments.....	7
Decision 6/2024 GEF Risk Appetite.....	7
Decision 7/2024 Management Response to the IEO Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation: GEF Support to Drylands Countries	7
Decision 8/2024 Management Response to: Evaluation of Community-Based Approaches at the GEF	8
Decision 9/2024 Management Response to: Learning from Challenges in GEF Projects.....	8
Decision 10/2024 Management Response to Evaluation of GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems	8
Decision 11/2024 Gap Analysis of GEF-Funded Activity and Engagement in Fragility, Conflict and Violence-Affected States	8
Decision 12/2024 Gap Analysis of GEF Policies and Key Social Inclusion Issues	8
Decision 13/2024 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions	8
Decision 14/2024 Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Projects for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).....	9
Decision 15/2024 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council	9
Decision 16/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Assessment of CEO and Director of IEO	9
Decision 17/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Appointment of Director of IEO	10
Decision 18/2024 Dates for the 69 th and 70 th Council Meetings.....	10
Decision by Mail – April 2024	10
Decision 19/2024 Report to the 4 th Session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to the CBD	10
Decision by Mail –May 2024	10
Decision 20/2024 Appointment of STAP Members	10
Decision 21/2024 Topic for Discussion with Civil Society at the 67 th Council Meeting	11
67th Council Meeting – June 2024	11
Decision 22/2024 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund.....	11

Decision 23/2024	GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY25	14
Decision 24/2024	Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle: Report from the Working Group on the Streamlining Process.....	15
Decision 25/2024	Gap Analysis of GEF Policies and Key Social Inclusion Issues – Timetable for Policy Actions	16
Decision 26/2024	Evaluation of Co-financing in the GEF and Management Response	16
Decision 27/2024	Evaluation of the Global Wildlife Program and Management Response	16
Decision 28/2024	Assessing Portfolio-Level Risk at the GEF and Management Response	16
Decision 29/2024	Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS8) Approach Paper	16
Decision 30/2024	IEO 2025 Work Program and Budget.....	17
Decision 31/2024	Relations with Conventions & Other International Institutions.....	17
Decision 32/2024	Guidelines for the Preparation of the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention.....	17
Decision 33/2024	Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Reappointment of GEF CEO and Chairperson.....	17
Decision 34/2024	Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Performance Review.....	18
Decision 35/2024	Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Calendar of Performance Reviews	18
Decision 36/2024	Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Membership of the Selection and Review Committee	18
Decision 37/2024	Membership of the Ethics Committee.....	19

66th Council Meeting – February 2024

Decision 1/2024 The GEF Monitoring Report 2023

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/03, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2023](#), welcomes the report and continued implementation of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework.

Decision 2/2024 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/04, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 46 projects and programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by March 6, 2024¹.
2. Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$916.1 million, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFDs):

Integrated Programs

- 1) **Global (Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Suriname, Ukraine).** Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development (GEF ID: 11467). Agency: ADB, WWF-US, UNEP; GEF Program Financing: \$23,794,476; Co-financing: \$408,915,662.
- 2) **Regional (Guinea-Bissau, Togo).** Guinean Forests (GEF-8 Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program) Addendum (February 2024). (GEF ID: 11391). Agency: CI, FAO, IUCN. GEF Program Financing: \$10,112,013; Co-financing: \$45,500,000.
- 3) **Global (Grenada, Jordan, Madagascar, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam).** Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO-IP). (GEF ID: 11349) Agency: World Bank, CAF, FAO, IADB, CI, UNEP, UNDP, EBRD, ADB. GEF Program Financing: \$100,338,691. Co-financing: \$748,061,993.

¹ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; and (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces; and in light of its policies related to development projects in China; opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11214 in China.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11378 in Turkmenistan.

The United States, in light of its concerns related to project implementation risks, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11349 in Venezuela.

- 4) **Regional (Guyana).** Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3 - Addendum Council Meeting Feb 5, 2024. (GEF ID: 11337) Agency: FAO, World Bank. GEF Program Financing: \$3,519,722. Co-financing: \$20,800,000.
- 5) **Global (Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Türkiye, Uganda).** Food Systems Integrated Program. (GEF ID: 11214) Agency: FAO, World Bank, UNDP, IUCN, IFAD. GEF Program Financing: \$252,162,398. Co-financing: \$2,201,647,507.
- 6) **Global (Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia).** Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program. (GEF ID: 11148). Agency: CI, ADB, IUCN, WWF-US, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank. GEF Program Financing: \$135,002,132. Co-financing: \$892,098,548.

Other Programs

- 7) **Global (Algeria, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa).** Global Clean Hydrogen Programme (GEF ID 11437). Agency: UNIDO. GEF Program Financing: \$13,129,820; Co-financing: \$141,196,891.
- 8) **Regional (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).** Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) for Ecosystem Restoration, Improved Natural Resource Management and Increased Resilience (GEF ID 11378). Agency: FAO. GEF Program Financing: \$26,007,810; Co-financing: \$355,504,935.

Non-Grants Instrument

- 9) **Brazil.** Living Amazon Mechanism (GEF ID: 11327). Agency: Funbio. GEF Project financing: \$6,200,000; Co-financing: \$46,600,000.
- 10) **Global.** IFC/GEF Green Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform (GEF ID: 11326). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project financing: \$14,678,899; Co-financing: \$150,600,000.
- 11) **Regional.** Innovative use of financial instruments for Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEF ID: 11324). Agency: IADB; GEF Project financing: \$40,180,000; Co-financing: \$641,280,000.
- 12) **South Africa.** Private Sector Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 (PSEEP2) (GEF ID: 11064) Agency: DBSA; GEF Project financing: \$14,678,968; Co-financing: \$509,000,000.

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

- 13) **Argentina.** Inclusive Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Priority Ecoregions (GEF ID: 11394). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,279,452; Co-financing: \$39,200,000.
- 14) **Ecuador.** Acción Páramos: conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the páramos in Ecuador (GEF ID: 11386). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,416,210; Co-financing: \$25,190,068.
- 15) **South Africa.** Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature - Mega Living Landscapes Project (GEF ID: 11347). Agency: WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$8,874,312; Co-financing: \$ 55,080,000.

Climate Change

- 16) **Antigua and Barbuda.** Energy resilience and security for the residential and public sector in Antigua and Barbuda (GEF ID: 11474). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$8,393,151; Co-financing: \$20,132,229.

Land Degradation

- 17) **Tunisia.** Adaptive management and restoration of degraded Aleppo pine forest in the Kasserine governorate (Tunisia) to strengthen resilience to climate change, conserve biodiversity, improve productivity and food security (GEF ID: 11389). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$29,300,000.
- 18) **Lebanon.** Restoring Ecosystem Connectivity for Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Litani Watershed Project (ECONNECT) (GEF ID: 11348). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$2,929,935; Co-financing: \$9,024,240.
- 19) **Argentina.** Recovering the Sustainability of Ecosystems Affected by Drought in Northeastern Argentina (GEF ID: 11336). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,913,700; Co-financing: \$20,000,000.

Chemicals and Waste

- 20) **Argentina.** Integrated Management for Sustainable Reduction (IMSRed) of POPs, Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and industrial chemicals in Argentina (GEF ID: 11451). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$9,240,000; Co-financing: \$ 46,400,000.
- 21) **Uruguay.** Towards a more circular Uruguay (Uruguay + Circular) (GEF ID: 11434). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,639,726; Co-financing: \$ 28,300,000.
- 22) **Tajikistan.** Integrated Program for HFC Phasing Down and Sustainable Cooling for Tajikistan (GEF ID: 11430). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,185,900; Co-financing: \$36,550,000.

- 23) **Morocco.** Eliminating hazardous chemicals from the supply chain of the construction sector in Morocco. (GEF ID: 11428). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$42,000,000.
- 24) **Indonesia.** Polychlorinated Biphenyls-free Indonesia: Financing a shift to more efficient energy systems through the elimination of related waste and contaminated equipment. (GEF ID: 11425). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$7,245,000; Co-financing: \$50,800,000.
- 25) **Cote d'Ivoire.** Sound management of polychlorobiphenyls in Cote d'Ivoire, phase II - objective 2028 of the Stockholm Convention. (GEF ID: 11420). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$4,150,000; Co-financing: \$25,000,000.
- 26) **India.** Accelerating Transition to a Circular Economy in India's Electrical and Electronic Sector through Sustainable Integrated Approaches. (GEF ID: 11405). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$15,000,000; Co-financing: \$105,000,000.

International Waters

- 27) **Regional (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique).** Program for improving sustainable marine fisheries opportunities in SADC – The Case of the Mozambique Channel. (GEF ID: 11452). Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,250,000; Co-financing: \$ 14,200,000.
- 28) **Regional (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania).** Strengthening integrated transboundary source-to-sea management of the Ruvuma River Basin and its coastal zones to ensure ecosystem health and livelihood security (GEF ID: 11410). Agency: IUCN; GEF project financing: \$ 7,122,018; Co-financing: \$ 48,365,000.
- 29) **Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay).** Implementation of the La Plata Basin SAP priorities through regional and national actions. (GEF ID: 11053). Agency: CAF; GEF project financing: \$10,605,000; Co-financing: \$ 221,300,000.

Multi-focal Area Project

- 30) **Timor Leste.** Improving wetlands management for biodiversity and improved human-wildlife coexistence. (GEF ID: 11435). Agency: CI; GEF project financing: \$ 2,689,908; Co-financing: \$12,007,025.
- 31) **Colombia.** BioSouth: The Pacific-Andean-Amazonian Ecological and Cultural Connectivity Corridor (GEF ID: 11432). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$13,736,697; Co-financing: \$69,060,096.
- 32) **Iraq.** Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Province, Iraq. (GEF ID: 11426). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,722,146; Co-financing: \$45,900,000.

- 33) **Indonesia.** Lake Ecosystem Restoration in Indonesia through Integrated Governance, Landscape, and Community-based Approaches. (GEF ID: 11422). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$35,000,000.
- 34) **Tajikistan.** Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture (TERRA) Project (GEF ID 11398). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$8,019,178; Co-financing: \$11,978,050.
- 35) **Viet Nam.** Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach (GEF ID 11395). Agency: WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$9,000,000; Co-financing: \$73,000,000.
- 36) **South Africa.** Restoration and sustainable management of Land for improved livelihoods in the degraded landscapes of Free State and Northwest Provinces of South Africa (GEF ID 11331). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$5,399,954; Co-financing: \$21,790,120.
- 37) **Lesotho.** Sustainable Wool and Mohair Value chain Competitiveness project (WaMCoP) (GEF ID 11210). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$67,444,000.
- 38) **Brazil.** Restoration of Wetlands and other important Amazonian Ecosystems - Capacity-building, innovation, development and technological transfer for ecological restoration and climate change mitigation (GEF ID 11167). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Co-financing: \$40,910,000.
- 39) **Sri Lanka.** Promoting sustainable economic benefits through the conservation of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Eastern Coastal Region of Sri Lanka (GEF ID 11116). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,507,534; Co-financing: \$26,500,000.
- 40) **Mongolia.** Rehabilitating and conserving the mountain landscapes in Khangai region of Mongolia for improved ecosystem services and community livelihoods (GEF ID 11114). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$25,000,000.
- 41) **Regional (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam).** Enhancing transboundary fisheries management in the Lower Mekong Basin (GEF ID 11304). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$10,709,176; Co-financing: \$77,600,000.

Multi-Trust Fund

- 42) **Zambia.** Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia (GEF ID 11396); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$2,992,507 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$7,235,114 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$87,200,000.

- 43) **Barbados.** Barbados - Accelerating transition to climate-resilient agrifood systems (BATCRAS) (GEF ID 11270); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$875,742 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$2,627,226 (SCCF); Co-financing: \$19,950,000.
- 44) **Cambodia.** Building climate resilience of communities in Cambodia's protected landscapes: biodiversity-friendly crop-livestock systems for adaptation (GEF ID 11400); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$1,782,040 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$6,237,138 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$21,500,000.
- 45) **Dominican Republic.** Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic (GEF ID 11402); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$1,766,485 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$2,649,727 (SCCF); Co-financing: \$15,156,920.
3. With respect to the following project, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:
- 46) **Paraguay.** Strengthening the System of Protected Areas and Improvement of its Financial Sustainability (GEF ID: 11449). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$5,079,358; Co-financing: \$12,248,000.
4. With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
5. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Decision 3/2024 Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/08/Rev.03, [Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle](#):
- (a) Approves:
- i. An increase in the cap for Medium-Sized Projects from US\$2 million to US\$5 million,
 - ii. Require Mid-Term Review for projects above US\$2 million,

- iii. Amendments to the Project Cycle Policy as outlined in Section II, and
- (b) Requests the Secretariat and an ad hoc working group of interested Council Members and Alternates equally representing donors and recipient countries, to elaborate additional measures for streamlining the GEF project cycle, taking into account ongoing efforts to enhance coordination and harmonization across the climate and environment funds, in consultation with GEF Agencies, GEF Focal Points and others as appropriate, for consideration by Council at its 67th and 68th meetings.

Decision 4/2024 UNDP: 2023 Third Party Review of Minimum Fiduciary Standards

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/11, [UNDP: 2023 Third Party Review of Minimum Fiduciary Standards](#):
 - a. Notes with appreciation the collaboration of UNDP in the self-assessment and review process.
 - b. Notes the findings of the Third-Party Review of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Compliance with the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards Report November 2023 confirming the UNDP self-assessment and full compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards.
 - c. Notes that the additional requirements related to UNDP described in Decision 26/2021, to be discontinued in December 2023, are no longer needed at this time.

Decision 5/2024 Tracking and Measuring the Socio-economic Co-benefits of GEF Investments

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/12, [Tracking and Measuring the Socioeconomic Co-benefits of GEF Investments](#), endorses the outlined approach and requests the GEF Secretariat to proceed on the proposed next steps.

Decision 6/2024 GEF Risk Appetite

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/13, the [GEF Risk Appetite](#), approves the Risk Appetite Statement and Framework, including follow-up actions for implementation.

Decision 7/2024 Management Response to the IEO Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation: GEF Support to Drylands Countries

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.66/01, [Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation: GEF Support to Drylands Countries, Volume 1: Main Report](#), and GEF/C.66/14, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 8/2024 Management Response to: Evaluation of Community-Based Approaches at the GEF

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/E/C.66/02, [the Evaluation of Community based Approaches at the GEF](#), and document GEF/C.66/15, [the Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 9/2024 Management Response to: Learning from Challenges in GEF Projects

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.66/03, [Learning from Challenges in GEF Projects](#), and GEF/C.66/16, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 10/2024 Management Response to Evaluation of GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.66/04, [Evaluation of GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems](#), and GEF/C.66/17, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 11/2024 Gap Analysis of GEF-Funded Activity and Engagement in Fragility, Conflict and Violence-Affected States

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/09, [the Gap Analysis of GEF Funded Activity and Engagement in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence-affected States](#), and taking into account ongoing efforts to enhance coordination and harmonization across the climate and environment funds, requests the GEF Secretariat to proceed with the proposed actions.

Decision 12/2024 Gap Analysis of GEF Policies and Key Social Inclusion Issues

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/10, the [Gap Analysis of GEF Policies and Key Social Inclusion Issues](#), requests the Secretariat to present to the 67th Council, for decision, a timetable outlining when the policies concerning highlighted areas will be modified. The proposed modifications will take into account ongoing efforts to enhance coordination and harmonization across the climate and environment funds.

Decision 13/2024 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/05, [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.

**Decision 14/2024 Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities and Ratification Support
Projects for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the
Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine
Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)**

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/07, [Initial guidelines for enabling activities and ratification support projects for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction \(BBNJ\)](#), approves the initial guidelines set forth in the document and requests the GEF Secretariat to implement them for the funding of ratification support and implementation readiness activities for the BBNJ Agreement.

Decision 15/2024 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/06/Rev.01, [Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council](#), adopts the updated rules of procedure as included in Annex II. This supersedes all previous versions of the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council.

**Decision 16/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Assessment of CEO and
Director of IEO**

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/18, Report of the Selection and Review Committee:
 - a) Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF CEO's performance for Fiscal Year 23 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) and its recommended performance rating. The World Bank will provide its standard salary increase, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.
 - b) Takes note of the SRC's recommendation to the Council to reappoint Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi for a second term period as GEF CEO.
 - c) Agrees to consult their constituencies and provide their views of Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi's reappointment to the Selection and Review Committee by March 31st, 2024.
 - d) Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF IEO Director's performance for Fiscal Year 23 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) and its recommended performance rating. The World Bank will provide its standard salary increase, in accordance with

the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.

- e) Takes note of the Fiscal Year 24 performance objectives for the GEF CEO and IEO Director and requests the SRC to present the performance evaluations of the GEF CEO and IEO Director at the 68th Council meeting.

Decision 17/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Appointment of Director of IEO

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.66/18, Report of the Selection and Review Committee:
 - a) Agrees with the SRC's recommendation to offer Ms. Geeta Batra the position of Director of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office.
 - b) Requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department to conclude the recruitment process of Ms. Geeta Batra.

Decision 18/2024 Dates for the 69th and 70th Council Meetings

1. The Council decides that it will hold its 69th meeting during the week of June 02, 2025, and the 70th meeting during the week of December 15, 2025. The 69th Council Meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., in a hybrid format, and the 70th Council meeting will be virtual.

Decision by Mail – April 2024

Decision 19/2024 Report to the 4th Session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to the CBD

1. The Council, having reviewed the draft GEF COP 16 report to the fourth session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, approves the report for submission to the fourth session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to the Convention.

Decision by Mail –May 2024

Decision 20/2024 Appointment of STAP Members

1. The Council, having considered the proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP, approves the appointment of Dr. Ermias Betemariam and Dr. Jonathon Barnett as Members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

Decision 21/2024 Topic for Discussion with Civil Society at the 67th Council Meeting

1. The Council, recalling its Decision 14/2017 on the Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF, decides that the topic to be addressed as part of the GEF Consultations with Civil Society prior to the 67th Council meeting will be: “Conversation on GEF initiatives and approaches to Civil Society”.

67th Council Meeting – June 2024

Decision 22/2024 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/03/Rev.01, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 25 projects and programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 18, 2024².
2. Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$495.6 million, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFDs):

Integrated Programs

- 1) **Global (Algeria, Belize, Benin, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe).** Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (GEF ID: 11287); Agency: BOAD/DBSA/FAO/IADB/IUCN/UNDP/UNEP/UNIDO/World Bank. GEF Program Financing: \$151,840,674; Co-financing: \$1,308,381,941.

Other Programs

- 2) **Global.** Global Programme to Support Countries to Upscale Integrated Electric Mobility Systems - Addendum (GEFID – 11516). Countries: Global, Palau, Rwanda. Agencies - UNEP. GEF Program Financing: \$3,120,509. Co-financing: \$8,150,000.

² The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism; in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces; and in light of its policies related to development projects in China, Cuba, and Zimbabwe, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11287 in China, Cuba, and Zimbabwe.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, and in light of its policies for development projects in Nicaragua, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support project 11520 in Nicaragua.

The United States, in light of its policies for development projects in Zimbabwe, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support project 11572 in Zimbabwe.

- 3) **Global.** Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme to support implementation of Stockholm and Minamata Conventions (GCMP) (GEF ID 11534). Agency: UNEP; GEF Program financing: \$23,500,000; Co-financing \$65,475,500.

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

- 4) **Argentina.** Ecosystem restoration in seven national protected areas of Argentina (GEF ID 11490) Agency: CAF, GEF Financing: \$ 6,268,011; Co-financing \$: 43,876,075.
- 5) **India.** Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to meet India's commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets by 2030 (GEF ID 11423). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$ 6,649,315; Co-financing: \$ 56,000,000.
- 6) **India.** CoHABITAT – Conservation and sustainable management of wetlands, forest and grasslands to secure the population of Migratory species along Central Asian Flyway in India (GEF ID 11478). Agency: UNDP, GEF project financing: \$ 10,709,174, Co-financing: \$ 73,100,000.
- 7) **Namibia.** Safeguarding the future of Namibia's Protected Area Network through Financing4Future (GEF ID 11523). Agency: WWF-US; GEF project financing: \$6,140,422; Co-financing: \$37,830,161.
- 8) **South Africa.** Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature (GEF ID 11448). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$4,835,449; Co-financing: \$35, 265, 699.

Chemicals and Waste

- 9) **Indonesia.** Strengthening Indonesia's Reduction and Elimination in the Distribution and Supply Chain of Mercury from National Health (SIRENE) (GEFID 11546). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,590,000; Co-financing: \$32,950,000.

International Waters

- 10) **Regional: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.** Strengthening Zambezi River Basin Management towards Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Health (GEF ID: 11572). Agency: AfDB. GEF Project Financing: \$9,450,000; Co-financing: \$ 320,150,001.
- 11) **Regional: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.** Improving the Source to Sea Governance to Reduce the Impacts on the Transboundary Large Marine Ecosystems in the SICA Region (GEF ID 11520). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$18,048,624; Co-financing: \$148,332,855.

Land Degradation

- 12) **Regional, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.** CSIDS SOILCARE Phase 2 - Caribbean Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) multi-country soil management initiative for integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems (GEF ID 11390). Agency: FAO; GEF Project financing: \$ 17,968,099; Co-financing: \$26,500,000.00.
- 13) **Mauritania:** Rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems in the Gum Arabic belt and sustainable use of forest resources in Mauritania (GEF ID 11551). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$9,300,000.

Multi-focal Area Project

- 14) **Yemen** Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development in Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands (GEF ID 11408) Agency: UNEP, GEF Financing: \$ 4,416,211, Co-financing \$: 5,000,000.
- 15) **Bolivia.** Support to the Productive Development Bank for the deployment of the Eco-efficiency Credit Programme in Bolivia (GEF ID 11450). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$6,208,382; Co-financing: \$65,123,963.
- 16) **Bosnia and Herzegovina.** Introducing Nature Based Solutions to Ensure Resilient Ecosystems, Green Recovery and Sustainable Livelihoods (GEF ID 11335). Agencies: UNDP, FAO; GEF Project financing: \$ 4,834,530; Co-financing: \$40,150,000.
- 17) **Algeria:** Restoration and forest management of the Algerian pine forest with an integrated participatory approach promoting the Aleppo pine, NWFPs and ecosystem-based adaptation solutions to climate change (GEF ID 11179). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 3,502,968; Co-financing: \$ 24,000,000.
- 18) **Ecuador:** Integrated landscape management in the Napo River Basin for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation (GEF ID 11333). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,982,420; Co-financing: \$51,641,021.
- 19) **Somalia:** Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia (GEF ID 11414). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$12,448,395; Co-financing: \$6,500,000.

Non-Grants Instrument

- 20) **Indonesia.** Indonesia Coral Bond (GEF ID 11323). Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$13,761,468; Co-financing: \$156,100,000.
3. With respect to the following 5 projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:

- 21) **Brazil.** Control and reduction of mercury emissions from the cement industry in Brazil (GEF ID 11574). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$12,000,000; Co-financing: \$72,000,000.
- 22) **Regional: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan.** Blueing the Caspian Sea (GEF ID 11429). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$11,743,120; Co-financing: \$ 53,000,000.
- 23) **Regional (Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal).** Transformation Approach to Large Scale Investment in Support of the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative- TALSISI-GGW (GEF ID: 11455); GEF Agency: UNEP, BOAD; GEF Program Financing: \$77,888,167 (LDCF- \$38,707,662; GEF TF- \$39,180,505); Co-financing: \$2,998,018,615.
- 24) **Kazakhstan:** Integrated Management of Seascapes of the Kazakhstani part of the Caspian Sea and Land Resources of Adjacent Territories (GEF ID 11524). Agency: UNDP; GEF Financing: \$ 7,270,000; Co-financing: \$ 50,989,000.
- 25) **Global: Botswana, Cambodia, Colombia, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Philippines, Somalia, South Africa, Türkiye, Viet Nam.** Global Electronics *Management (GEM) Program* (GEF ID: 11553). Agency: UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, AfDB. GEF Program Financing: \$60,000,000; Co-financing: \$364,225,000.
4. With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
5. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Decision 23/2024 GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY25

1. The Council, The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/04, [GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY25](#), takes note of the business plan, and approves an FY25 corporate budget from the GEF Trust Fund of US\$42.994 million, comprised of:

- (b) US\$35.932 million for the GEF Secretariat, of which US\$2 million will be paid from GEF-7 administrative budget underruns;
 - (c) US\$3.138 million for STAP; and
 - (d) US\$3.924 million for the Trustee.
- 2. The Council also approves a total FY25 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) of \$22,200, comprised of the following allocations from the NPIF to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for NPIF administration and implementation:
 - (a) US\$17,500 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$4,700 for the Trustee.
- 3. The Council also approves a total FY25 administrative budget for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) from the CBIT Trust Fund of US\$0.434 million, comprised of:
 - (a) US\$0.412 million for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$0.022 million for the Trustee.
- 4. The Council decides that, in the context of the Secretariat's analysis, the level of 11% indirect charge as set out in this document is the upper limit for the GEF, provided sufficient justification is given by the World Bank for this indirect charge. It is noted that the indirect charge for the GEF is expected to exclude the cost of certain administrative services to be provided directly by the GEF.
- 5. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with STAP and the Trustee, to present a combined FY26 corporate budget and business plan for discussion at its June 2025 meeting.

Decision 24/2024 Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle: Report from the Working Group on the Streamlining Process

- 1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/05, [Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle: Report from the Working Group on the Streamlining Process](#):
 - a. Appreciates the work of the Council Working Group and supports its continued work up to the next Council meeting in December 2024;
 - b. Endorses continued work by the Secretariat as outlined in this report, with support from Agencies and others as appropriate;

- c. Encourages Agencies to also identify areas for further streamlining and efficiencies within their own processes and communicate these to the Secretariat and Working Group;
- d. Endorses further development of proposals for decision in December 2024, considering advance consultation requirements for any proposals requiring changes to policy and guidelines.

Decision 25/2024 Gap Analysis of GEF Policies and Key Social Inclusion Issues – Timetable for Policy Actions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/06, [Gap Analysis of GEF Policies and Key Social Inclusion Issues – Timetable for Policy Actions](#), takes note of the timetable presented and requests the Secretariat to proceed in accordance with the timetable and approach presented.

Decision 26/2024 Evaluation of Co-financing in the GEF and Management Response

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.67/01, [Evaluation of Co-financing in the GEF](#), and GEF/C.67/10, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 27/2024 Evaluation of the Global Wildlife Program and Management Response

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.67/02/Rev.01, [Evaluation of the Global Wildlife Program](#), and GEF/C.67/08, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 28/2024 Assessing Portfolio-Level Risk at the GEF and Management Response

1. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.67/03, [Assessing portfolio-level risk at the GEF](#), and GEF/C.67/09, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 29/2024 Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS8) Approach Paper

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/E/C.67/04, [Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF \(OPS8\): Approach Paper](#), approves this approach paper. The Council requests the Independent Evaluation Office to conduct the Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation (OPS8) and to provide the evaluation report to the replenishment process and to the Council according to the schedule presented.

Decision 30/2024 IEO 2025 Work Program and Budget

1. The Council, having considered the [FY2025 Work Program and Budget of the Independent Evaluation Office](#), acknowledges the progress made by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in the reporting period. The Council approves the annual IEO budget for FY25 for a total of \$8.967 million, which includes the 11% Indirect overhead charge in accordance with the decision made by the GEF Council at its 64th Session in June 2023.

Decision 31/2024 Relations with Conventions & Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/07/Rev.01, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomes the report and the Multilateral Climate Funds Action Plan on Complementarity and Coherence contained in its Annex II, 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.

Decision 32/2024 Guidelines for the Preparation of the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/11/Rev.01, [Guidelines for the Preparation of Reviews of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention](#), approves the inclusion of an enabling activity under the Minamata Convention on Mercury to support the preparation of Reviews of the Implementation of Article 7 (RIA); and requests the Secretariat to make provisions for such support to be accessed by eligible GEF recipient countries.

Decision 33/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Reappointment of GEF CEO and Chairperson

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/12, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee*, decides to appoint Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez as GEF CEO and Chairperson for a second and final four-year term beginning September 1, 2024.
2. The Council requests the Chairperson of the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resources Department to conclude the administrative reappointment process of Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez.

Decision 34/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Performance Review

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/12, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee*, takes note of the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) mid-term objective review for the GEF CEO and Chairperson.
2. The Council further notes the performance objectives agreed with the IEO Director for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), given that Ms. Geeta Batra's appointment as Director began in April 2024.

Decision 35/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Calendar of Performance Reviews

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/12, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee*, decides to align the calendar of performance objectives reviews with the World Bank's performance system based on fiscal years starting on July 1 and ending on June 30 of the following year, consistent with the GEF's administrative calendar.
2. The Council requests that, at its 68th Meeting, the SRC reports on the annual performance review of the CEO and Chairperson for FY24 and his mid-term review for FY25. As from the 69th meeting, the performance reviews will follow the updated calendar.

Decision 36/2024 Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Membership of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/12, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee*, and in line with relevant Council decisions, endorses Ms. Qongqong Hoohlo, Council Member representing Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as a member of the SRC until her term as Council Member ends.
2. The Council further endorses the continuation of the current members of the SRC for the remainder of their terms as Council Members, while noting the importance of rotation and inclusion of multiple constituencies and geographies. These are Ben Green, representing the United Kingdom; Annette Windmeisser, representing Germany; Gabriela Blatter, representing Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; Ms. Hongxia Li, representing China and Ms. Laura Aguirre representing Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela.

Decision 37/2024 Membership of the Ethics Committee

1. The Council, recalling its decision 35/2021 and as provided in the [GEF Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest](#), approves the following members, for a term of two years (June 2026) or until the expiration of their term on the Council, whichever comes first:
 - a) Mr. Dawda Badgie, Council Member for Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Gambia, as Chair of the GEF Ethics Committee.
 - b) Ms. Laura Rajaniemi, Council Member for Estonia, Finland and Netherlands, as Member of the Ethics Committee.
 - c) Mr. Filipino Tarakinikini, Council Member for Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu as Member of the Ethics Committee.