

50th GEF Council Meeting
June 07 – 09, 2016
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 15

**RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.50/09, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomed the report and requested 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 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international institutions and fora.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the ratification of CBD protocols; on the submission of national reports; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in events; and an annex with GEF's responses to decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on UNFCCC COP 21 held in December 2015; the Paris Agreement and its decisions that are relevant to the GEF; on ratification and progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Report; on GEF reports submitted to the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 21; and an annex with GEF's responses to COP decisions.
- (c) UNCCD: Updates on key decisions of GEF relevance taken at UNCCD COP 12 held in October 2015; on the GEF's reporting; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 12 and other key events; and an annex with GEF's responses to COP decisions.
- (d) Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol: Updates on ratifications, national reporting, and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol; and an annex with GEF's responses to COP decisions.
- (e) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM): Updates on the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) and an annex with GEF's responses to ICCM decisions.
- (f) Minamata Convention: Updates on the seventh Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC 7) held in March 2016 and subjects of GEF relevance; on signatures and ratifications; and GEF Secretariat participation in INC 7, as well as other events related to mercury.
- (g) GEF Secretariat activities to facilitate synergies in implementing MEAs towards sustainable development.
- (h) A summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund and the UN Forum on Forests.

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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 UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The report also provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions. The document covers the period of September 2015 to April 2016.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Update Summary

2. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat submitted its report to the first Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1) and participated in the 19th and the 20th meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). The GEF Secretariat also continued to provide support to the Expert Team for a Full Assessment of the Amount of Funds Needed for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the seventh Replenishment Period of the Trust Fund of the GEF. The GEF Secretariat has commenced planning for the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to be held in December 2016.

Ratifications and Accessions

3. During the reporting period, eleven Parties to the Convention ratified or acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): Liberia, Mauritania, Croatia, Cuba, Philippines, Djibouti, Pakistan, Slovakia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Senegal. By June 1, 2016, there will be 73 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at:

<https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>.

4. As of April 2016, the number of Parties to the CBD reached 196. The detailed information can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

5. For the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, there were no changes since the last reporting. As of April 2016, 170 Parties to the Convention have ratified or acceded to the Protocol. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at:

<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=0>.

6. Since the last report, Togo was added to the list of ratifications of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and in total 34 Parties have deposited their instrument of ratification or accession.

The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at:

<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=1>.

National Reporting

7. As of April 2016, the CBD Secretariat has received 178 fifth national reports and 179 fourth national reports. The COP requested Parties to submit their fifth national report by March 31, 2014. The list of submissions received can be found at:

<https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

Meetings and Events

8. The GEF Secretariat continued to provide support to the CBD GEF-7 needs assessment, as a technical resource for the Expert Team for a Full Assessment of the Amount of Funds Needed for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the seventh Replenishment Period of the Trust Fund of the GEF, and as an observer during the most recent meeting held in New Delhi, India, on February 17-18, 2016. The needs assessment to the first Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1) is being presented in the form of five scenarios, based on: (i) country submissions; (ii) country submissions and applied co-financing ratios at 1:3; (iii) country submissions and applied co-financing ratios at 1.43; (iv) country submissions and applied co-financing ratios of 1:3 with an average increase applied to non-reporting countries based on the average increase from reporting countries; and (v) based on country submissions and applied co-financing ratios at 1.43 with an average increase applied to non-reporting countries, using their GEF-6 allocation as their baseline, based on the average increase from reporting countries.

9. The GEF Secretariat attended the 'Friends of the CBD Workshop on Mechanisms to Support the Review of Implementation of the Convention' in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, on March 21-23, 2016 to share GEF's experience in supporting the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) revision process, national reporting, and portfolio monitoring.

10. The GEF Secretariat submitted its report to SBI 1 in response to the COP request in CBD Decision XII/30, 8(e) and participated in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and SBI meetings from April 25-May 6, 2016, held in Montreal, Canada. Documents of particular interest to the GEF that are being reviewed by the twentieth meeting of the SBSTTA relate, among others, to:

- (a) Aichi Target 11 on protected area management;
- (b) Marine biodiversity;
- (c) Updates on the potential impact of synthetic biology; and
- (d) Biodiversity mainstreaming.

11. Table 1 annexed to this document contains guidance received by the CBD COP 12 along with GEF's responses, as contained in GEF's report to SBI 1.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Update Summary

12. At UNFCCC COP 21 in December 2015, 195 Parties reached an historic agreement to combat climate change, by accelerating and intensifying actions needed for a low-carbon, resilient world. The universal agreement aims to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The agreement also seeks to strengthen the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change, including the provision of finance to the most vulnerable countries.

13. The Paris Agreement and its decisions affirmed GEF's roles and contributions to address climate change. In particular, the GEF, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), along with the Green Climate Fund, were designated to serve the Paris Agreement. Parties also urged and requested the GEF to support the establishment and operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The GEF was further requested to consider, starting in 2016, how to support developing countries in formulating policies, and strategies, and projects to implement activities that advance priorities identified in their intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). In Paris, donors also pledged over \$250 million in additional support to the LDCF.

14. Leading up to, during, and after COP 21, the GEF has taken part in various engagements to foster partnerships and to facilitate integrated, holistic approaches to address climate change challenges. These developments are summarized in the following sections. More information on the agreement may be found at: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/finale-cop21/>.

Ratifications and Accessions

15. During the reporting period, there were no new Parties to the UNFCCC. As of April 2016, there are 196 Parties to the Convention.

16. The Paris Agreement was opened for signature at the High-level Signing Ceremony for the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016 in New York, United States, where 175 countries signed. By May 1, 2016, two additional countries signed, bringing the total number of signatures to 177. The status of signatures can be found at: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&lang=en.

National Reporting and Contributions

17. As an important foundation for COP 21, the GEF has made resources available for countries to prepare their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). The COP welcomed the GEF approval to support the INDC preparations, and encouraged the GEF to continue such support. The GEF has provided support towards INDC preparations for 46 countries.¹ Forty-four countries of the 46 supported by the GEF to prepare their INDCs, or 96 per cent, have submitted their INDCs to the UNFCCC ahead of the Paris climate negotiations. This figure represents 29 per cent of the 153 INDCs that have been submitted by that time. The GEF also provided technical assistance on INDCs through the Global Support Programme to all countries. Details of the GEF support for INDCs are available on the GEF website at: <http://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-support-intended-nationally-determined-contributions>.

18. The following is the total number of national communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of April 2016:

- (a) Initial national communications: **147**
- (b) Second national communications: **121**
- (c) Third national communications: **20**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **1**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

19. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website at: http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/653.php.

20. A total of 31 first Biennial Update Reports (BURs) from non-Annex I countries has been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of April 30, 2016. Full details are available at: http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/reporting_on_climate_change/items/8722.php.

COP 21 and Paris Agreement

21. The GEF received guidance from COP 21, held on November 30 to December 12, 2015 in Paris, France as well as conclusions of relevance from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 43. Table 2 in Annex I of this document reports the relevant decision paragraphs and

¹ These countries are: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Eritrea, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

specific guidance and conclusions provided to the GEF during COP 21 and SBI 43, along with GEF's response. Key decisions and COP outcomes are summarized in the following paragraphs.

22. The Paris Agreement and its decisions affirmed the role of the GEF as part of the Financial Mechanism. Article 9 of the Paris Agreement stated the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, including its operating entities, shall serve as the financial mechanism of this Agreement. Further, Parties decided that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the GEF, as well as the LDCF and SCCF, shall serve the Paris Agreement.

23. As part of the Paris Agreement, Parties also agreed to establish a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The CBIT aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Paris Agreement. Parties requested the GEF to support the establishment and operation of CBIT as a priority-reporting related need, including through voluntary contributions during GEF-6. In response to this request by the COP, the GEF Secretariat has taken a number of steps to establishing the CBIT, including:

- (a) A consultative dialogue on CBIT with entities engaged in various aspects of enabling activities and transparency-related activities was held on April 11, 2016 in Washington DC, United States, to ensure CBIT alignment with relevant work-streams and bodies under the UNFCCC, identify gaps in implementing transparency-related activities in general, and to strengthen the dialogue and assess collaboration potential with existing and emerging initiatives in the area of capacity building;
- (b) An informal consultation meeting to gather feedback from government representatives, including GEF Council Members and GEF focal points, on CBIT was held on April 13, 2016 in Washington, DC; the GEF Secretariat encouraged the GEF Council members and alternates to share the invitation with their respective UNFCCC capacity building negotiators;
- (c) Council documents² to establish a new trust fund and to present Programming Directions have been prepared for presentation to the 50th GEF Council (June 2016);
- (d) A briefing session on the CBIT with Parties and stakeholders was organized during the UNFCCC climate meetings on May 19, 2016 in Bonn, Germany; and
- (e) Consultations with the Trustee and donor countries were held on modalities for contributing to the CBIT Trust Fund.

24. Regarding the INDCs, the COP 21 guidance requested the GEF to consider how to support developing country Parties in formulating policies, strategies, programmes and projects

² See document GEF/C.50/05 and GEF/C.50/06.

to implement activities that advance priorities identified in their INDCs, starting in 2016. As part of its response, the GEF is encouraging governments to align the GEF programming for GEF-6 with INDC priorities. The proposed Work Program for the June 2016 GEF Council includes projects that support mitigation actions identified in the INDCs, as summarized in the Work Program cover note.³

25. The COP also requested the GEF to carry out a technical review of the program priorities of the LDCF, focusing on: (i) undertaking pilot concrete climate change activities that are particularly relevant for the least developed countries; and (ii) enhancing longer-term institutional capacity to design and execute activities referred to above. The GEF Secretariat has already taken a number of steps towards carrying out the technical review, including by: (i) consulting informally and formally with relevant stakeholders in least developed countries; and (ii) continuing preparations for a draft document on the technical review to be annexed to the GEF's report to the twenty-second session of the COP to the UNFCCC (COP 22).

26. During COP 21, the LDCF received over \$250 million in new pledges.⁴ This includes the first-ever pledge by a sub-national government to GEF climate funds. The need for continued support for adaptation in the most vulnerable countries was highlighted at a GEF side event at COP 21, where pledges to the LDCF were also announced.

27. The GEF Secretariat participated in COP 21 and supported countries on the way to the Paris Agreement. Highlights of the GEF's activities during the COP include interventions on GEF annual report, national communications and biennial update reports. The GEF delegation also participated in contact groups and other sessions to provide briefings to Parties and to respond to questions on GEF activities, its support to Parties and its responses to COP guidance. Furthermore, the GEF delegation, headed by the CEO, organized and/or took part in the following:

- (a) The GEF delegation actively participated in the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) events on Forest, Resilience, Transport, Buildings, Short-lived Climate Pollutants, and Energy Access and Efficiency, including the launch of the Climate Aggregation Platform to spur strategic and transformative investments and to accelerate energy efficiency;

³ See document GEF/C.50/11.

⁴ Pledges were made by, in alphabetical order: Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Quebec, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

- (b) The GEF Secretariat organized official GEF side events and other side events on 'Investing in resilience – responding to the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable'; 'Commodities leaders dialogue: cooperation – a valuable commodity'; 'Integrated approaches to food security, sustainable cities and commodity supply chains: tackling major drivers of environmental degradation for mitigation and adaptation at scale'; 'Facilitating synergies for sustainable development: multilateral environmental agreements and the GEF'; 'Innovative finance for urban resilience'; 'Beyond grants: innovative blended finance'; 'Sustainable cities integrated approach pilot: a city-based approach'.
- (c) The GEF CEO also held a dialogue with civil society organizations and addressed the Equator Prize award ceremony where five indigenous peoples' organizations supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme were honored.
- (d) The GEF communications team ensured a steady flow of social media postings, web news features and media engagements during the COP; the GEF reached 2,572 specific mentions in different media outlets on November 30, 2015 as a result of the pledges to the LDCF, adding up to a total of 3,191 mentions over the two weeks of the COP.

28. The GEF Secretariat submitted its report to COP 21 to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2015. The document reports on GEF's activities from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 relating to its responses and implementation of guidance by the COP, its initiatives relating to programming directions, integrated approaches, private sector activities, the Climate Summit and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the results of its support for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, the report describes the outcomes of the GEF Accreditation Pilot, updates complementarity in climate finance, and summarizes how GEF financing has contributed to the reduction of the emission gap. The report is available on the GEF website at: <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-21st-session-cop-unfccc>.

29. The GEF will, in its report to COP 22, elaborate on the steps taken to fully implement the guidance provided. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016, is expected to be officially submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, upon approval by the GEF Council, in August 2016.

Other Meetings and Events

30. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat also participated in the following UNFCCC meetings and provided updates on GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building among other topics.

- (a) Eleventh part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) on October 19-23, 2015 in Bonn, Germany;

- (b) Eleventh meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) on October 26-28, 2015 in Bonn, Germany;
- (c) Eleventh meeting of the Board of the GCF on November 2-5, 2015 in Livingstone, Zambia;
- (d) Ninth meeting of the Adaptation Committee on March 1-3, 2016 in Bonn, Germany;
- (e) Twelfth meeting of the Board of the GCF on March 8-10, 2016 in Songdo, Republic of Korea;
- (f) Twenty-ninth meeting of the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) on March 15-19, 2016 in Dili, Timor-Leste;
- (g) Post-Paris meetings of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) on March 29-31, 2016 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- (h) Twelfth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on April 5-8, 2016 in Bonn, Germany;
- (i) Twelfth meeting of the SCF on April 6-7, 2016 in Bonn, Germany; and
- (j) High-level Signing Ceremony for the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016 in New York, United States.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Update Summary

31. The key milestone for UNCCD during this reporting period was its twelfth COP, with the title 'The Road to UNCCD COP12: From the UN General Assembly to the Paris Climate Change Conference,' and decisions taken on land degradation neutrality (LDN). Countries agreed and endorsed one definition of LDN, which is included as target 15.3 of the SDGs. Parties also agreed to aim for LDN through voluntary national targets. The decisions reflect growing recognition that properly managed land can foster food and water security and reverses negative climate change impacts, such as forced migration, by cultivating opportunities for growth and ensuring stability. They also show the recognition of interlinkages between the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and SDGs.

32. The GEF was requested to support the voluntary LDN target setting. Furthermore, Parties acknowledged GEF's role in contributing to the nexus of the SDGs and UNCCD implementation, inviting the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ratifications and Accessions

33. As at May 18, 2014, the UNCCD was ratified or acceded by 195 countries, excluding Canada due to its withdrawal from the UNCCD on March 28, 2013 in accordance with article 38, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

COP 12 Activities

34. The GEF Secretariat presented its report at the twelfth session of the COP to the UNCCD in Ankara, Turkey, October 12-23, 2015. This was the fifth report prepared by the GEF to the COP in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat. It was also the third GEF report since the GEF Instrument was amended to list the UNCCD among the conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.

35. The report provided information on GEF activities in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) as they relate to the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area, specifically desertification and deforestation, for the period of July 2013 to June 2015. Activities in other GEF Focal Areas and funding windows related to SLM were also presented, underscoring the high level of integration and cross-cutting programming opportunities in the GEF portfolio to address land degradation issues. The GEF report to the CCD COP presented an analysis of 74 projects that were approved with funding from the Land Degradation Focal Area, encompassing the final year of GEF-5 and the first year of GEF-6. The total GEF grants for the projects amounted to \$527.7 million, with an additional \$2.45 billion in co-financing.

36. At this occasion, the GEF Secretariat also informed Parties about the successful replenishment of GEF-6, which has made \$431 million available for programming under the Land Degradation Focal Area, increased from \$405 million in GEF-5. The increase in funding in GEF-6 was welcomed by Parties.

37. During the period covered by this report, the GEF Secretariat reflected on decisions taken at the COP 12 on collaboration with the GEF and considered the actions to be taken in response. Key decisions and COP outcomes include a global commitment to LDN to respond to the immediate challenge how to sustainably intensify the production of food, fuel and fiber to meet future demand without the further degradation of the finite land resource base. The GEF CEO and Chairperson addressed the COP via video message to announce a \$3 million contribution towards supporting countries in their voluntary target setting under the LDN concept, to enhance capacity of recipient countries to speed up target setting in line with the SDGs. The Secretariats of the GEF and the UNCCD also held discussions on the MOU revision. Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in Annex I.

Other Meetings and Events

38. The GEF Secretariat participated in follow-up meetings to the COP 12 with UNCCD Secretariat at the margins of other events. Discussions were held on the progress with the Impact Investment Fund for Land Degradation Neutrality and on Enabling Activity support.

39. GEF staff also participated in the Expert Meeting on the use of indicators to monitor and report on the status and trends in land degradation and restoration for SDGs, Rio Conventions and other relevant processes.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Update Summary

40. The GEF Secretariat has held consultations with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions to follow up on decisions relevant to the operation of the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention at the margins of key chemicals-related meetings. The GEF Secretariat has been consulted by the BRS Secretariat on the preparation of possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the GEF that also addresses the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions (decision SC-7/21). The BRS Secretariat has presented a progress report of this work at the INC 7 of the Minamata Convention. The report can be found on the INC7 website:

http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/meetings/inc7/English/7_INF8_join_tguidance.pdf.

Ratifications and Accessions

41. During the reporting period, Iraq acceded the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The total number of ratifications, as of April 2016, amounts to 180. The status of ratifications can be retrieved on the Stockholm Convention website:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

National Reporting

42. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavor to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the date on which this Convention enters 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 2016, 162 countries have submitted their initial National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, and 37 countries have transmitted their updated NIPs. The NIPs submitted online can be retrieved on the Stockholm Convention website:

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Overview/tabid/565/Default.aspx>.

Meetings and Events

43. The GEF Secretariat had individual and joint coordination meetings with the BRS Conventions Secretariat, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat on October 5-7, 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meetings were an opportunity to coordinate on Convention-related activities and GEF-6 programming.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Update Summary

44. The Seventh Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 7) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury convened on March 10-15, 2016 in Jordan. The objective of the INC 7 was to finalize a number of decisions that would need to be adopted by the first Conference of the Parties (COP 1)⁵ to give effect to a number of articles of the Convention including Article 13 on the Financial Mechanism.

45. The key INC 7 topics of relevance to the GEF were the draft MOU between the COP and GEF Council, and draft guidance to the GEF. Other issues of interest included the decisions on the scope and terms of reference of the Specific International Program (SIP) which forms the other part of the Financial Mechanism, and mercury monitoring - effectiveness evaluation.

46. The Minamata Convention Secretariat ad interim anticipates that entry into force of the Convention will occur in 2017. In this regard, it is expected that the first COP will be held in the latter half of 2017.

Signatures and Ratifications

47. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was opened for signature and ratification in October 2013. To date the Convention has 128 signatures, and 25 countries have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after deposition of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website:

<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

⁵ 50 parties are needed for entry into force, currently there are 25 ratifications. COP 1 is expected in July or September 2017.

INC 7 Activities

48. From March 10-15, 2016, the GEF Secretariat attended the INC 7 to prepare a globally legally binding instrument on mercury. The objective of the INC was to finalize a number of subjects to be formally adopted by COP 1 to give effect to the articles of the Convention including Article 13 on the Financial Mechanism. The GEF presented the report of its activities to support the Convention. The report was approved by the GEF Council and is available on the GEF website: <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-7th-session-intergovernmental-negotiating-committee-mercury-2016>

49. The key INC 7 decisions of relevance to the GEF included the draft MOU between the COP and draft guidance to the GEF. The final draft MOU between the GEF Council and the COP was cleared by the negotiating committee. The proposed draft MOU will be presented to the GEF Council at the fifty-first meeting in October 2016. The MOU will be presented at the first COP of the Minamata Convention for approval.

50. The draft guidance to the GEF includes overall strategies, policies, programme priorities, and eligibility for access and utilization of financial resources, as well as an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the GEF. The issue of eligibility of non-Parties after entry into force for enabling activities was not resolved at INC 7. The committee agreed to forward the draft guidance as it stands to the GEF, particularly to inform the early negotiation of the seventh GEF replenishment, which will commence prior to the first meeting of the Minamata COP.

51. The GEF Secretariat also held a number of bilateral discussions at the margins of INC 7, including consultations with the BRS Executive Secretary.

Other Meetings and Events

52. The GEF Secretariat attended two of the Regional Consultations to prepare for INC 7 to support countries in the interim period and provide updates on GEF support to the convention. The GEF presented how eligible countries can access GEF funding to support ratification and early implementation in the interim period. The meetings were also an opportunity to discuss GEF-6 programming in the regions. GEF Secretariat attended the following consultations:

- (a) Africa regional consultation on February 2-4, 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia; and
- (b) LAC regional consultation on February 9-12, 2016 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

53. The GEF Secretariat attended the first Executive Board meeting of the Special Program, held on February 2-3, 2016, in Geneva, Switzerland, as an observer. The Special Program was decided at the 2014 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and seeks to support institutional strengthening for the implementation of the BRS Conventions, Minamata Conventions, and SAICM. The Special Program should avoid duplication and proliferation of

funding mechanisms and associated administration, and should fund activities that fall outside the GEF mandate.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

54. The GEF Secretariat participated in the seventy-fifth Executive Committee meeting of the Multilateral Fund (MLF) in Montreal, Canada on February 9-12, 2016. The Executive Committee took a total of 75 decisions and approved investment projects and work program activities for 94 countries with a value of \$112.4 million. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss and coordinate on GEF projects that complement MLF projects to support phase-out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in countries with economies in transition.

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (SAICM)

55. The GEF Secretariat, led by the CEO, participated in the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) on September 28-October 2, 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

56. A number of decisions relevant to the GEF support to SAICM were taken during the meeting, which are listed in Annex I of this document, along with GEF's response.

FACILITATING SYNERGIES IN IMPLEMENTING MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Background

57. The GEF occupies a unique space in the global partnership for sustainable development by delivering global environmental benefits. GEF's contributions are anchored in its role as a/the financial mechanism for a number of MEAs. Many global environmental challenges are interlinked and share common drivers. Biodiversity loss, climate change, ecosystem degradation, and pollution often share common drivers and may demand coordinated responses.

58. For example, unsustainable agricultural production contributes approximately one-quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is also a leading cause of hypoxia in aquatic systems, and it can lead to deforestation and habitat destruction, thus promoting further loss of biodiversity. By targeting key drivers of global environmental challenges, the GEF can magnify the effects of its investments, making them add up to more than the sum of their parts.

59. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, as embodied in the SDGs, countries are also increasingly interested in pursuing integrated, cross-cutting opportunities for sustainable development.

GEF Initiatives to Facilitate Synergies in Implementing MEAs

60. During this reporting period, the GEF Secretariat undertook a number of initiatives to facilitate synergies in the implementation of MEAs and highlight interlinkages with the SDGs.

61. The GEF holds Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) that provide an opportunity for GEF political and operational focal points, national Convention focal points and other partners to share information about GEF's work, and to discuss and plan GEF programming and strategy. At the workshop for the South Asia region, held on March 28-April 1, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, the GEF piloted a half-day interactive dialogue on 'Facilitating synergies in implementing MEAs towards sustainable development', adding a new perspective to the ECW.

62. This initiative was the first time to engage all Convention Secretariats in an ECW, discuss major global agreements and GEF implications, and potential synergy opportunities in programming GEF resources at the country level in the context of sustainable development. The session's aims were to enhance synergies among MEAs and promote GEF program integration, understand milestone global agreements and recent decisions, as well as needs, barriers and priorities to integrated programming.

63. The session was very well-received by the ECW participants. A survey conducted at the end of the session found that over 95% of the participants considered the pilot workshop relevant and useful to their area of work. Over 90% recommended the session to be replicated at future ECWs. The GEF Secretariat is consulting with the MEA Secretariats to explore options to continue the workshop in other regions.

64. The GEF Secretariat also held a 'Synergies – GEF Day' at UNFCCC COP 21. The event was held at the Rio Convention Pavilion, which the GEF also supported to raise awareness about the MEAs. The 'Synergies – GEF Day' included, among others, sessions on 'Facilitating Synergies for Sustainable Development: MEAs and the GEF' and on 'Integrated Approaches to Food Security, Sustainable Cities and Commodity Supply Chains: Tackling Major Drivers of Environmental Degradation for Mitigation and Adaptation at Scale'.

65. The first session highlighted opportunities for promoting collaborative approaches to address the Rio Conventions, with panelists from the Secretariats of the CBD, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, UNFCCC, as well as the office of the UN Secretary General and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority. The event featured interactive discussions with the audience to look at concrete examples of linkages among the MEAs on the ground, the potential of the SDGs as a foundation to facilitate synergy, and how the GEF can facilitate synergy. The second session provided an overview of the Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) from the GEF Secretariat and perspectives from Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, and Uganda on their experience with the IAPs so far.

66. The GEF also supported the Rio Convention Pavilion at UNCCD COP 12, which held a number of events highlighting synergy among the Rio Conventions and relevance to the SDGs.

ADAPTATION FUND

67. The Adaptation Fund Board held its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh meetings, respectively, on October 6-9, 2015 and on March 15-18, 2016 in Bonn, Germany. The GEF CEO

was invited to address the Board at the March 2016 meeting and, in her remarks, recognized the significant track record of fruitful collaboration between the GEF and the Adaptation Fund. In particular, areas of ongoing coordination and complementarity on the ground with other financial institutions include a project in Tanzania, where the Adaptation Fund was working with the LDCF; and the Adaptation Fund's involvement in pilot projects such as the glacial lake outburst flood project in Pakistan, for which there have been initial plans towards scaling up by the GCF. The CEO further highlighted the operationalization of direct access as a major achievement by the Adaptation Fund, which paved the way for fast-track accreditation by the GCF, representing a major contribution to the global community.

68. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund are also collaborating on an ad hoc basis on other matters as needed, including for instance by partnering to conduct a shared session at the Adaptation Futures Conference 2016, with the title 'Monitoring, evaluating, and scaling up adaptation: evidence-based learning', to be held on May 12, 2016 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

69. The Adaptation Fund Board has approved 52 projects and programs for funding by March 18, 2016 amounting to \$338 million in total. As of March 18, 2016 funds available to support funding decisions were \$171 million. The GEF Secretariat also continues to provide cross-support to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by co-reviewing project proposals.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Green Climate Fund

70. The GEF has been engaging with the GCF Secretariat and other funds under the Convention to collaborate to further articulate and build on the complementarity of their respective policies and programs. Guidance from COP 21 welcomed the efforts to date of the GEF to engage with the GCF and encouraged both entities to further articulate and build on the complementarity of policies and programs.⁶

71. The GEF and GCF Secretariats frequently communicate on a wide range of topics and activities, from mitigation and adaptation strategies, status of resource allocation, GEF project cycle modalities and lessons, project preparation grant guidelines, private sector engagement, templates, co-financing policy, accreditation of agencies, financial master agreements, trustee arrangements, as well as readiness and preparatory support. The GEF Secretariat also continues to attend GCF Board meetings and responds to questions from Board members, alternates and advisors, as needed, and is sharing information and lessons from its work.

72. The GCF Board approved eight projects totalling \$168 million in October 2015, encompassing climate change adaptation and mitigation, public and private sectors, and various accredited entities. With the full operationalization of the GCF, discussions between the

⁶ Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 14.

GCF Executive Director and the GEF CEO were held in December 2015 to explore further potential cooperation in operations.

73. Each fund may play different, complementary roles that can produce higher impacts and leverage more resources if combined strategically. In this regard, GEF's experiences with other climate funds and multilateral development banks may be useful to help articulate and enhance complementarity between the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism. Collaboration with the multilateral development banks, Climate Investment Funds, Adaptation Fund, private sector entities, and others has highlighted different areas of engagement where the GEF can provide added value based on its unique role, strengths, and experience supporting programs and projects for over two decades. The GEF plays a unique role in several ways:

- (a) Early policy lock-in and regulatory reform to support governments in catalyzing partners to invest in low-emission, climate-resilient technologies;
- (b) Demonstrating innovative technologies and business models, with a view to unlock the market for low-emission, climate-resilient technologies or enable partners to conduct large-scale replication;
- (c) Strengthening institutional capacity and decision-making processes at the sub-national, national and regional level to improve information, participation, and accountability in public and private decisions that enable partners to design and implement low-emission, climate-resilient plans and policies;
- (d) Building multi-stakeholder alliances to develop, harmonize, and implement sustainable practices to pursue integrated approaches that further the global commons through the promotion of synergies amongst sectors and the delivery of multiple benefits; and
- (e) De-risking partner investments by applying guarantees and equity instruments to re-direct private sector investments into low-emission, climate-resilient business models.

74. The GEF stands ready to continue to engage with the GCF to further articulate the complementarity, responding to COP guidance, and to help countries meet their mitigation and adaptation needs in a coordinated way. The matter of GEF's value added in the global finance architecture is further dealt with in the Update on GEF 2020.⁷

UN Forum on Forests

75. The GEF Secretariat met with the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) on February 26, 2016 to brief the UNFFS on the current progress with programming of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) resources in GEF-6. In this context, ideas were discussed

⁷ See document GEF/C.50/Inf.03.

on how the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network can assist countries in their efforts to design SFM projects and access available funding.

76. The GEF Secretariat participated in the UNFF Expert Panel on International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) Strategic Plan, held on March 7–11, 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. More than 30 experts met to discuss the IAF strategic plan 2017 – 2030 to be developed over the course of this year by an Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG). There was broad agreement on the importance of a coherent approach in support of the IAF objectives, particularly through the incorporation of the Global Objectives on Forests and forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account significant developments in other forums, particularly the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Paris Agreement, including the INDCs, joint mitigation and adaptation, and REDD+, as well as the GEF-6 Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, among others.

77. The decisions taken by the Forum of relevance to the GEF are presented in Annex 1 to this document, including GEF's responses to the substantial items.

ANNEX I

GEF Responses to Decisions and Guidance of the Conferences of Parties of the CBD, the UNFCCC, the UNCCD and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Minamata Convention

Table 1: GEF's Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by CBD COP 12⁸

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<i>B. Fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism</i>	
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to take the following action in order to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:</p> <p>(a) Enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals;</p> <p>(b) In collaboration with the Global Environment Facility agencies and Parties, continue to streamline the project cycle as suggested by the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility in the fifth Overall Performance Study;⁹</p> <p>(c) Coordinate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on how to better measure progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by initiatives supported by the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the agreed GEF-6 portfolio-level indicators;</p> <p>(d) Explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;</p> <p>(e) Make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to</p>	<p>(a) GEF continues to enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing resources including the strategic use of multi-focal area investments to leverage resources from other partners. As of March 14, 2016 the usage of the biodiversity focal area country allocation had reached \$310.55 million which leveraged \$1.4 billion of co-financing.</p> <p>(b) Streamlining the project cycle is an ongoing process. At the October 2014 Council Meeting decisions were made to streamline the Programmatic Approach and to implement a project cancellation policy.</p> <p>(c) At a meeting with the CBD Secretariat (CBDSEC) in July 2015, the GEF Secretariat (GEFSEC) proposed that for the COP report, GEF would provide reports on resource programming that is mapped to the programs of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and the Aichi Targets.</p> <p>As GEF-6 is implemented, and projects are submitted for CEO Endorsement with the GEF tracking tools that measure progress against the GEF-6 portfolio level indicators, the GEF Secretariat will communicate with the CBD Secretariat on how the current GEF tracking tools will measure progress and contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p> <p>(d) GEF will streamline reporting for COP XIII, building on the most recent report for COP XII which itself was a streamlined report from previous COPs.</p> <p>(e) GEF has provided the preliminary draft report to</p>

⁸ As contained in the GEF's report to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1), held on May 2-6, 2016 in Montreal, Canada.

⁹ See <http://www.thegef.org/documents/fifth-overall-performance-study-ops5-gef>.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report;	SBI-1.
<i>Encourages</i> the Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility to continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies;	<p>The GEF CEO welcomes this guidance and will continue to strengthen cooperation with the CBD Secretariat.</p> <p>The first result of this cooperation has been the joint workshop delivery by CBDSEC and GEFSEC prior in 13 Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs) presented during 2015 that covered all regions and countries that are eligible for GEF support to implement the CBD. During these workshops, GEFSEC reviewed Programming Opportunities to Implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 through the GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy and other Programming Windows during GEF-6. The GEFSEC objective of these meetings was to help participants, (CBD and GEF Focal Points) understand the full breadth of opportunities available within the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, as well as through other GEF program areas, that will allow countries to implement their obligations under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020 and other recent COP decisions. CBDSEC reviewed financial reporting requirements, and progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020.</p> <p>In 2016, building on the relationship established in the collaboration in the 2015 ECWs, the CBD Secretariat, took the initiative to propose that a joint session on synergies and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation be presented in 10 ECWs this year. On the basis of this initiative GEFSEC has brought in the other Convention Secretariats so that these sessions will not only include the participation of the CBD but also UNFCCC, UNCCD and Stockholm Convention marking the first time that all four Secretariats are participating together within the ECW program.</p>
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to indicate in its report to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the first determination of funding requirements, noted in decision XI/5, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding;	GEF will comply with this request for COP XIII.
<i>Welcomes</i> the creation of programmes 5 and 8 in the	Noted. See references below to programming in these

COP Decision	GEF's Response
GEF-6 biodiversity focal area strategy, reflecting the importance of the Cartagena and the Nagoya Protocols, and <i>invites</i> Parties to prioritize projects accordingly;	areas to date.
<p>C. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p> <p><i>Taking note of</i> decision BS-VII/5, <i>invites</i> the financial mechanism to implement the following guidance¹⁰ considered and adjusted by the Conference of the Parties for consistency with Article 21 of the Convention:</p> <p>(a) To support, in view of the experience gained during the second national reporting process, the following activities within the Biodiversity Focal Area Set Aside for eligible Parties, in particular those that have reported to the Compliance Committee difficulties in complying with the Protocol, with a view to fulfilling their national reporting obligation under the Protocol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Preparation of the third national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with paragraph 2 (g) of decision BS-VI/5; (ii) Preparation, by Parties that have not yet done so, of their first national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with decision BS-V/14; <p>(b) To support the following activities of eligible Parties within Programme 5 on Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety under the Biodiversity Focal Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in accordance with paragraph 2 (h) of decision BS-VI/5; (ii) Supporting capacity-building activities in the thematic work related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account the capacity-building needs of eligible Parties; 	<p>Program 5 of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, "Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", provides ample latitude for countries to seek support for these activities (a-b, d-g) using resources from their country allocation.</p> <p>To date, only one project (Malaysia: Institutional Capacity to Enhance Biosafety Practices in Malaysia) totalling \$995,000 has been submitted for support in biosafety in GEF-6 as of March 14, 2016.</p> <p>GEF provided expedited support in May-June 2015 to three regional projects for all GEF-eligible parties totalling \$3.964 million of GEF resources for the preparation of the third national reports using funds from the biodiversity focal area set aside.</p> <p>During the course of the jointly-delivered CBDSEC and GEFSEC workshops that were part of the ECWs for 2015, the GEF SEC emphasized the biosafety programming opportunities for countries under Program 5.</p>

¹⁰ Guidance received from the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is contained in section II of appendix I of the decision.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p>(iii) Supporting the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, including, inter alia, capacity-building, information sharing and awareness-raising activities;</p> <p>(c) To consider mechanisms for:</p> <p>(i) Supporting the updating and finalization of national biosafety frameworks;</p> <p>(ii) Facilitating access to Global Environment Facility funding for projects supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;</p> <p>(iii) Increasing the level of utilization of Global Environment Facility funding for biosafety;</p> <p>and report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;</p> <p>(d) To promptly address the need for capacity-building for the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House of all eligible Parties not yet supported;</p> <p>(e) To support Parties in the collection of national data and conducting consultations on the third national reports;</p> <p>(f) To provide support to implement the capacity-building activities referred to in paragraph 13 of decision BS-VII/12 on risk assessment and risk management;</p> <p>(g) To support capacity-building activities on socioeconomic considerations as specified in paragraphs 2 (n) and (o) of decision BS-VI/5 (appendix II to decision XI/5 of the Conference of the Parties);</p>	
<p>D. Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit</p>	<p>Program 8, “Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on ABS”, provides ample opportunity for countries to</p>

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p><i>sharing</i></p> <p><i>Taking note</i> of decision NP-1/6, <i>invites</i> the financial mechanism to implement the following guidance¹¹ considered by the Conference of the Parties:</p> <p><i>Policy and strategy</i></p> <p><i>Takes note</i> of the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism related to policy and strategy adopted in decision X/24, and <i>invites</i> the Conference of the Parties to review, and as appropriate, revise this guidance to take into account new developments such as the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol;</p> <p><i>Programme priorities</i></p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility:</p> <p>(a) To support activities contained in the guidance that the Conference of the Parties provided to the Global Environment Facility in its decision XI/5, annex, appendix 1;</p> <p>(b) To make financial resources available with a view to assisting eligible Parties in preparing their national reports;</p> <p>(c) To support activities related to implementing the awareness-raising strategy for early action on Article 21 of the Protocol;</p> <p><i>Sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 6)</i></p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to give due consideration to multi-focal area projects under the “integrated approach pilots” and other biodiversity focal area programmes that include access and benefit-sharing related activities;</p>	<p>seek support for these activities using resources from their country allocation.</p> <p>To date, a total of \$9.8 million of GEF resources has been programmed from the biodiversity focal area to implement the Nagoya Protocol through 3 projects in 3 countries: Nepal, Peru, and South Africa. These three projects leveraged \$33.95 million in co-financing.</p> <p>In addition, the Non-Grant Instrument (NGI) pilot provided \$10 million for a regional project in Latin America “Impact Investment in Support of the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing”. This project leveraged \$48.3 million in co-financing resulting in an overall investment of \$58.3 million.</p> <p>Therefore, to date, a total of \$19.8 million leveraging \$92.25 for a total of \$112.05 million has been invested to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>At such time when a national report is required GEF will provide expedited support for the preparation of the first national report using funds from the biodiversity focal area set aside.</p> <p>GEF duly considers any multi-focal area projects that incorporate access and benefit-sharing related activities; however, to date in GEF-6 requests to GEF have focused on targeted investments to implement the Nagoya Protocol.</p>

¹¹ The guidance received from the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing is contained in appendix II of that decision.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
<p>E. Other guidance to the financial mechanism</p> <p>Customary sustainable use</p> <p><i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments, international organizations, programmes and funds, including the Global Environment Facility, to provide funds and technical support to developing country Parties and indigenous and local communities for implementation of programmes and projects that promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity;</p> <p>Marine and coastal biological diversity</p> <p><i>Recalling</i> paragraph 20 of decision X/29 and taking into account paragraph 7 of Article 20 of the Convention, as appropriate, <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to extend support for capacity-building to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas;</p> <p>Biodiversity and tourism development</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and other donors, as appropriate, to continue to provide funding to support sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention;</p>	<p>GEF will provide funds for said activities when incorporated into and relevant for achieving objectives of projects aligned with the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>GEF-6 biodiversity strategy programs one, two, six and nine aim to support efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas for all GEF-eligible countries. Please see Tables 3, 6 and 8 of this report for the status of programming of resources to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.</p> <p>The Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) (GEF: \$33.7 million, co-finance: \$201.5 million) that was approved during the June 2015 Work Program has been developed to demonstrate and promote more holistic processes and integrated approaches leading to sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries complementing the GEF multi-country Large-Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach. Participating countries include Cape Verde (SIDS), Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Peru, Senegal (LDC). The CFI will make a significant contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets No 6 on sustainable fisheries, Target 10 on coral reefs, and Target 11 on protected areas. The CFI was supported with \$26.69 million from the International Waters Focal Area, and the remaining amount came from country STAR allocations in biodiversity focal area.</p> <p>In addition, the International Waters Focal Area, through its Program 7 on Sustainable Fisheries, has provided \$7.53 million to projects focused on fostering sustainable fisheries which leveraged \$64.80 million in co-finance in GEF-6 as of March 14, 2016.</p> <p>GEF-6 biodiversity program nine on biodiversity mainstreaming provides the window for countries to mainstream biodiversity considerations into tourism operations impacting globally significant biodiversity. As of March 14, 2016 only a few projects of this kind</p>

COP Decision	GEF's Response
	<p>have been formally presented, but upstream consultations have occurred with some countries on comprehensive national level projects on sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Projects approved in GEF-6 with significant tourism components include:</p> <p>1) Integrating biodiversity safeguards and conservation into development in Palau, GEF grant: Project total – \$4.38 million, Co-finance – 17.58 million.</p>

Table 2: GEF's Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 21 and Conclusions by SBI 43

Note: the GEF will prepare its Annual Report to UNFCCC COP during the third quarter 2016. The report will include further information on how the GEF is responding to COP guidance and SBI conclusions.

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
Decision 1/CP.21, COP 21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf	
<p>Paris Agreement, Article 9, paragraph 8:</p> <p>The Financial Mechanism of the Convention, including its operating entities, shall serve as the financial mechanism of the Agreement.</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 58:</p> <p><i>Decided</i> that the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, administered by the Global Environment Facility, shall serve the Agreement.</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF is taking steps to serving as part of the financial mechanism of the Paris Agreement.</p>
<p>Paris Agreement, Article 9, paragraph 9:</p> <p>The institutions serving this Agreement, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, shall aim to ensure efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans.</p>	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, aims to ensure efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans.</p> <p>The GEF will continue to report on steps taken to fully implement the guidance provided by the COP), in the course of its annual reports to the COP.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 15:</p> <p><i>Reiterated</i> its call to developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so to provide support for the preparation and communication of the intended nationally determined contributions of Parties that may need such support.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to make resources available for the preparation of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), and its Global Support Program continues to be operational.</p> <p>Leading up to COP 21, the GEF has made resources available for countries to prepare their INDCs, and has participated in various meetings and workshops to encourage countries to utilize available GEF resources for this purpose. A component has been added to the Global Support Program for National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to provide technical assistance</p>

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
	<p>to countries to prepare their INDCs.</p> <p>The GEF has provided support towards INDC preparations for 46 countries: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Eritrea, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Forty-four countries of the 46 supported by the GEF to prepare their INDCs, or 96 per cent, have submitted their INDCs to the UNFCCC ahead of the Paris climate negotiations. Details of the GEF support for INDCs are available on the GEF website at: http://www.thegef.org/news/gefs-support-nationally-determined-contributions</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 54:</p> <p><i>Recognized</i> the importance of adequate and predictable financial resources, including for results-based payments, as appropriate, for the implementation of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks; as well as alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests; while reaffirming the importance of non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches; encouraging the coordination of support from, inter alia, public and private, bilateral and multilateral sources, such as the Green Climate Fund, and alternative sources in accordance with relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 64:</p> <p><i>Urged</i> the institutions serving the Agreement to enhance the coordination and delivery of resources to support country-driven strategies through simplified and efficient application and approval procedures, and through continued readiness support to developing country Parties, including the least developed countries and small island</p>	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, continues to work to enhance the coordination and delivery of resources to support country-driven strategies through simplified and efficient application and approval procedures, and through continued readiness support to developing country Parties, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, as appropriate. The GEF will continue to report on steps taken to fully implement the guidance provided by the COP to the UNFCCC, in the course of its report to the twenty-second session of</p>

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
developing States, as appropriate.	the COP to the UNFCCC.
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84:</p> <p><i>Decided</i> to establish a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in order to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020; this initiative will support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement in a timely manner.</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86:</p> <p><i>Urged and requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to make arrangements to support the establishment and operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency as a priority reporting-related need, including through voluntary contributions to support developing country Parties in the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and future replenishment cycles, to complement existing support under the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 88:</p> <p>Requested that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties the progress of work in the design, development and implementation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency referred to in paragraph 84 above starting in 2016.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat has taken a number of steps to support the establishment of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A consultative dialogue on CBIT with entities engaged in various aspects of enabling activities and transparency-related activities was held on April 11, 2016 in Washington DC, United States, to ensure CBIT alignment with relevant work-streams and bodies under the UNFCCC, identify gaps in implementing transparency-related activities in general, and to strengthen the dialogue and assess collaboration potential with existing and emerging initiatives in the area of capacity building; (b) An informal consultation meeting to gather feedback from government representatives, including GEF Council Members and GEF focal points, on CBIT was held on April 13, 2016 in Washington, DC; the GEF Secretariat encouraged the GEF Council members and alternates to share the invitation with their respective UNFCCC capacity building negotiators; (c) Council documents¹² to establish a new trust fund and to present Programming Directions have been prepared for presentation to the 50th GEF Council (June 2016); (d) A briefing session on the CBIT with Parties and stakeholders was organized during the UNFCCC climate meetings on May 19, 2016 in Bonn, Germany; and (e) Consultations with the Trustee and donor countries were held on modalities for contributing to the CBIT Trust Fund. <p>The GEF will fully report on steps taken to design, develop and implement the CBIT in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 109:</p> <p><i>Resolved</i> to strengthen, in the period 2016-2020, the existing technical examination process on mitigation [...].</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat will actively participate in the technical expert meeting during the forty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 44) to be held in May 2016 in Bonn, Germany.</p> <p>The GEF will report on its participation in the technical expert</p>

¹² See document GEF/C.50/05 and GEF/C.50/06.

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 110:</p> <p><i>Encouraged</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention to engage in the technical expert meetings and to inform participants of their contribution to facilitating progress in the implementation of policies, practices and actions identified during the technical examination process.</p>	<p>meetings during SBI 44, in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, COP 21, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a02.pdf</p>	
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Invited</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide finance to the activities referred to in paragraph 2 above [on sustainable forest management and activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70], also taking into account decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 8, and decision 16/CP.21, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support activities referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 8/CP.21, on sustainable forest management and activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, also taking into account decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 8, and decision 16/CP.21, as appropriate.</p> <p>Through an intersessional work program in April 2016, recipient countries have utilized \$123.1 million of the sustainable forest management incentive available under GEF-6. Total GEF financing under GEF-6 for sustainable forest management therefore amounts to \$369.3 million by April 2016. The GEF has further invested \$35 million into sustainable forest management through its Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) and the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot, bringing the total GEF financing towards sustainable forest management under GEF-6 to \$400 million as at April 2016.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 7:</p> <p><i>Encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to include the conclusions of the review referred to in paragraph 6 above in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-second session (November 2016).</p>	<p>The GEF will fully report the conclusions of the review of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 8:</p> <p><i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to carry out a technical review of the programme priorities of the Least Developed Countries Fund, taking into account the independent review referred to in paragraph 6 above, and to focus the technical review on, inter alia:</p> <p>(a) Undertaking pilot concrete climate change activities that are particularly relevant for the least developed countries;</p> <p>(b) Enhancing longer-term</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat has taken a number of steps towards carrying out the technical review, including by: (i) consulting informally and formally with relevant stakeholders in least developed countries; and (ii) continuing preparations for a draft document on the technical review to be annexed to the GEF's report to COP 22.</p>

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
institutional capacity to design and execute the activities referred to in paragraph 8(a) above.	
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 9:</p> <p><i>Urged</i> the Global Environment Facility to work with all its agencies and recipient countries to ensure that these countries can take full advantage of the expanded network of agencies.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat continues to work with all its agencies and recipient countries to ensure that these countries can take full advantage of the expanded network of agencies. For instance, the GEF on a regular basis holds Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) that provide an opportunity for GEF political and operational focal points and other key partners, to discuss and plan GEF programming and strategy at the national and regional level. The GEF invites all its agencies, including the expanded network of agencies, to participate in these ECWs.</p> <p>The GEF will fully report on steps taken to ensure that recipient countries can take full advantage of the expanded network of agencies, in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 10:</p> <p><i>Welcomed</i> the exploration of innovative non-grant instruments by the Global Environment Facility, and <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to work with its agencies, recipient countries and the private sector to submit proposals.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat continues to work with its agencies, recipient countries and the private sector to facilitate the submission of proposals that utilize innovative non-grant instruments.</p> <p>A second and third window for submissions and re-submissions of proposals under the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot were opened for the October 2015 work program and an intersessional work program in April 2016. By the formal deadline of July 31, 2015, nine submissions from 7 GEF Partner Agencies were received, requesting a total of \$113 million in non-grant funding from the GEF Trust Fund.</p> <p>From the beginning of GEF-6 until April 2016, the GEF Secretariat received formal requests for non-grant projects exceeding \$188 million in GEF financing and numerous informal requests that were well in excess of the resources available under the GEF-6 Non-Grant Pilot. Project proposals have been innovative in their design and frequently address multiple GEF focal areas. Based on the diversity and high-quality of the submissions, it has become clear that recipient countries in partnership with GEF Agencies find it viable and worthwhile to develop creative and innovative approaches that make use of non-grant financial instruments.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 11:</p> <p><i>Also welcomed</i> the approval of projects by the Global Environment Facility to support 46 developing country Parties in preparing their intended nationally determined contributions,¹³ and <i>encouraged</i> the Global</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation. The GEF continues to provide support to countries to prepare and update their INDCs. The Global Support Program is ongoing.</p>

¹³ As at 16 September 2015.

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
Environment Facility to continue providing such support.	
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 12:</p> <p><i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider how to support developing country Parties in formulating policies, strategies, programmes and projects to implement activities that advance priorities identified in their respective intended nationally determined contributions in a manner consistent with the operational policies and guidelines of the Global Environment Facility, starting in 2016.</p>	<p>The following elements are considered to support the implementation of activities that advance priorities identified in the INDCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Aligning national GEF programming with INDCs: The GEF is encouraging governments to consider aligning the GEF programming for GEF-6 with INDC priorities, through more explicit linkage between INDC/planning/reporting work and how GEF resources are programmed. The GEF is working with national governments towards this consideration, through national dialogues, bilateral discussions, expanded constituency workshops, as well as through project reviews; (2) Helping to enhance the quality of NDCs: The ongoing global support program provides capacity building, tools and methodologies for the refinement of INDCs. The GEF Secretariat will continue its efforts to assist countries in improving the quality of their reports, including NDCs; (3) Aligning with CBIT: The NDCs and Transparency are two key, interlinked elements of the Paris Agreement. The GEF's efforts on the NDC support will be aligned with the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Many developing countries still lack the capacity to effectively monitor and report their progress in national greenhouse gas emission reduction, and track progress made in implementation of NDCs. The CBIT will address such capacity needs to enhance transparency. <p>The GEF will further consider and elaborate on this guidance, and will report on steps taken in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 14:</p> <p><i>Welcomed</i> the efforts to date of the Global Environment Facility to engage with the Green Climate Fund and <i>encouraged</i> both entities to further articulate and build on the complementarity of their policies and programmes within the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.</p>	<p>The GEF will report on the steps taken to implement the guidance received by the COP in its report to COP 22. Please refer to the section on 'Relations with Other International Organizations' (para. 70ff), on ongoing collaboration activities with the Green Climate Fund and other climate funds.</p>
<p>Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 16:</p> <p><i>Requested</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</p>	<p>The GEF will report on steps taken to implement the guidance provided in decision 8/CP.21 and other relevant decisions of the COP, in its report to COP 22.</p>

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
guidance provided in this decision and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.	
Decision 13/CP.21, COP 21, Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a02.pdf	
Decision 13/CP.21, paragraph 8: <i>Requested</i> the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to continue to consult on and further elaborate, including through an in-session workshop at the forty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (May 2016), the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism.	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, continues to consult on the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism. To this effect, the GEF Secretariat participated in the twelfth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on April 5-8, 2016 in Bonn, Germany and consulted with TEC on the draft agenda of the in-session workshop to be held during SBI 44 in May 2016. The GEF will participate in the in-session workshop.</p> <p>The GEF will report on the in-session workshop in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
Decision 14/CP.21, COP 21, Capacity-building under the Convention http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a03.pdf	
Decision 14/CP.21, paragraph 8: <i>Invited</i> representatives of the relevant bodies established under the Convention, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and relevant experts and practitioners to integrate into their work programmes and activities the lessons learned at, and the main outcomes of, the meetings of the Durban Forum.	<p>The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, is working to integrate lessons learned at, and the main outcomes of, the meeting of the Durban Forum, into GEF's work programs and activities. The GEF will report on steps taken to this effect in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC.</p>
Decision 14/CP.21, paragraph 10: <i>Invited</i> United Nations agencies and multilateral organizations to provide information to the secretariat for the capacity-building portal. ¹⁴	<p>The GEF Secretariat continues to provide information to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the capacity-building portal. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat information on activities which the GEF has financed in calendar year 2015 to build and/or enhance capacity of developing countries to implement the UNFCCC, in accordance with the 15 priority areas identified in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (decision 2/CP.7).</p>
Decision 15/CP.21, COP 21, Terms of reference for the intermediate review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a03.pdf	

¹⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/capacitybuilding/core/activities.html>>

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
<p>Decision 15/CP.21, paragraph 3:</p> <p><i>Requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on the progress made in providing financial support and implementing activities to contribute to the implementation of the Doha work programme.</p>	<p>The GEF has taken significant steps toward implementing the Doha work programme, including by providing financial resources to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in particular African countries, LDCs and SIDS, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1, 6/CP.7, 4/CP.9, 7/CP.10, 3/CP.12, 7/CP.13, 3/CP.16 and 11/CP.17. The GEF Secretariat has reported on its support towards implementing the Doha work programme to the UNFCCC Secretariat ahead of SBI 44.</p> <p>In the period 2012-2015, at least \$67.7 million have been provided by the GEF in support of the Doha work programme towards education, training and public awareness.</p>
<p>Decision 16/CP.21, COP 21, Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests;</p> <p>http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a03.pdf</p>	
<p>Decision 16/CP.21, paragraph 6:</p> <p><i>Noted</i> that the financing entities referred to in decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 5, are encouraged to continue to provide financial resources, including through the wide variety of sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 65, for alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 43)</p> <p>Agenda Item 4(c): Provision of financial and technical support</p> <p>http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbi/eng/22.pdf</p>	
<p><i>Invited</i> the GEF to continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, including the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.</p> <p>[...] <i>invited</i> the GEF to continue to provide an approximate date for completion of draft national communications and an approximate date for submission of final national communications to the secretariat, for consideration at SBI 45 (November 2016).</p> <p>[...] <i>further invited</i> the GEF to continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for National Communications (NCs), and all requests to support NCs have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set-aside resources, separate from the country resource allocations (STAR), so that each country can access up to \$500,000 for NCs. In addition, through the Global Support Program, implemented in conjunction by UNDP and UNEP, the GEF is supporting technical backstopping, capacity building, and information sharing and knowledge management activities for NCs, BURs, and INDCs.</p> <p>Information on an approximate date of completion of the draft NCs and an approximate date for submission to the secretariat of the NCs will be provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat for consideration at SBI 45 (November 2016) in due course.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat has provided information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including the dates of requests for funding, approvals of funding and disbursement of funds, and an approximate date for submission of BURs to the UNFCCC</p>

COP Decision/SBI Conclusion	GEF's Response
the dates of requests for funding, approvals of funding and disbursement of funds, and an approximate date for submission of BURs to the secretariat, for consideration at SBI 44.	Secretariat, for consideration at SBI 44.
Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 43) Agenda Item 10(b): Development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism; Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbi/eng/22.pdf	
<p><i>[...] invited</i> Parties, the CTCN and other relevant entities working on technology development and transfer to act upon the recommendations contained in the report referred to in paragraph 75 above and <i>encouraged</i> the GEF and other relevant financial entities to consider them.</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support technology transfer and innovation, encompassing mitigation and adaptation, as well as Technical Needs Assessments.</p> <p>In the April 2016 intersessional work program, the GEF presented 3 climate change mitigation projects for Council approval, with total GEF financing under Objective 1 of GEF's Programming Directions amounting to \$35.5 million. These projects will promote transfer and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in African countries, India and Tonga.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat continues to support the dialogue and coordination among CTCN and the regional centres, by organizing regular consultative meetings among the partners and CTCN at the margin of GEF Council meetings. The GEF Secretariat is also looking for an opportunity to organize a session on experiences and lessons learned from the Poznan strategic program together with the technology transfer and finance centres.</p> <p>The GEF will further refine the technology transfer section in its future reporting to the COP, to be reflected in its report to COP 22 to the UNFCCC and in the annual reports thereafter.</p>
<p><i>[...] encouraged</i> the GEF to share the midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and pilot projects of the fourth replenishment of the GEF with the TEC and the CTCN as soon as available.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat will share the midterm evaluations with the TEC and CTCN as they become available.</p>

Table 3: GEF's Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 12

COP 12 Decisions	GEF's Response
Invites the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-6 in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3.	The GEF is responding to this guidance, particularly through support to the voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality target setting initiative. Work is also in progress as part of regular programming in GEF-6.
Also invites the donors to the GEF to consider providing increased support to address country priorities relating to the implementation of the Convention, in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3, during the planning process for GEF-7.	To be considered by countries for the GEF-7 replenishment discussions.
Encourages Parties to engage in South–South cooperation under GEF-6 and invites the GEF to continue its support to Parties in this regard.	In progress as part of regular programming in GEF-6, which gives due consideration to South-South cooperation.
Also invites the GEF to consider enhancing its support to the GEF Small Grants Programme under GEF-7.	To be considered for the GEF-7 replenishment discussions.
Further invites donors to the GEF to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the GEF and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions.	To be considered by countries for the GEF-7 replenishment discussions
Also invites the GEF to continue its GEF Country Support Programme, including GEF workshops aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parties to utilize GEF resources for the effective implementation of the Convention.	In progress as part of the regular work of the country support program. UNCCD focal points are supported to attend the ECWs, providing opportunity for enhanced synergy with other convention focal points. The GEF Secretariat also organized a pilot MEA synergy session with the engagement of UNCCD Secretariat in March 2016, with a view to consider its replication in the future ECWs.
Invites the GEF, in the context of enabling activities under GEF-6, to consider technical and financial support for voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting.	GEF has allocated \$3 million of the available \$15 million budgeted for enabling activity support to specifically support land degradation neutrality target setting through a global enabling activity project. The project was approved by Council as a non-expedited enabling activity as part of the Intersessional Work Program April 2016.

COP 12 Decisions	GEF's Response
Invites the GEF to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties.	Noted. The GEF will report as part of the regular reporting in line with the MOU between the GEF Council and the COP.
Requests the UNCCD and GEF secretariats to continue consultations on the arrangements for the delivery of funding enabling activities for the sixth GEF replenishment phase (GEF-6) with a view to securing technical and financial support for the next reporting exercise, including in the area of progress reporting and national target-setting towards achieving LDN.	With official communication dated March 18, 2015, the GEF Secretariat proposed to the UNCCD Secretariat GEF-6 arrangements for support to eligible Country Parties on Enabling Activities during GEF-6. With official communication dated July 8, 2015, the UNCCD Secretariat welcomed the proposed arrangements. Based on this mutual agreement, consultations with Parties were made during COP12. In several follow-up meetings with UNCCD and Global Mechanism staff, no changes to proposed arrangements were deemed necessary.
Invites the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to continue working with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to revise the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in light of the text of the Convention, including its objective, as well as decisions of COP 12, in particular ICCD/COP(12)/L.1 paragraph 4, ICCD/COP(12)/L.2, and ICCD/COP(12)/L.4	In collaboration between the two secretariats, the MOU has been revised and updated as a draft to take into account decisions of the COP. The draft is under final review internally and has been forwarded to the COP Bureau for information.

Table 4: GEF's Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted at COP 7 to the Stockholm Convention

COP 7 Guidance	GEF Response
<i>Stresses</i> that the sound management of chemicals and wastes has a global environmental benefit and emphasizes that the sound management of chemicals and wastes is an essential element of sustainable development;	Noted.
<i>Reaffirms</i> the guidance to the financial mechanism that it adopted in previous decisions, as reflected in the note by the Secretariat;	Noted. The GEF will update its response to previous guidance, if any, in the Report of the GEF to the 8 th COP of the Stockholm Convention.
<i>Recalls</i> decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention, in which the conferences of the parties encourage parties to all three conventions to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages to the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions and instruments on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the implementation of the conventions;	Noted.
<i>Recalls</i> that the Global Environment Facility is the principal financial mechanism on an interim basis to the Stockholm Convention;	Noted.
<i>Welcomes</i> the establishment of the Global Environment Facility chemicals and waste focal area, its strategy and the increased funds allocated for chemicals and waste and encourages the Facility to continue to enhance synergies in its activities, taking into account the co benefits for the Basel and Rotterdam conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, while first addressing the needs of the Stockholm Convention	Noted. Projects that have co-benefits for Basel and Rotterdam are being compiled by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention with the assistance of the GEF Secretariat.
<i>Notes</i> with concern that there is no increase in funding for the Stockholm Convention under the sixth replenishment of the trust fund of the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF has already allocated over \$900 million for the Stockholm Convention and has made significant progress on addressing the initial 12 POPs. The allocation for the Stockholm Convention in GEF-6 is to begin the response to the newly listed chemicals. The

COP 7 Guidance	GEF Response
	GEF has funded over 100 National Implementation Plan Reviews and Updates, however, countries are still in the process of developing their NIP updates and have not yet submitted their reports to the COP. These reports are necessary to help understand the needs of countries as well as their priorities.
<i>Notes</i> the evolving funding needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention and the chemicals and waste agenda and reaffirms the request to the Global Environment Facility to respond in that regard;	The GEF has funded every request from countries for preparation of their National Implementation Plan Updates.
<i>Requests</i> the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to identify possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its eighth meeting;	Noted. The GEF Secretariat has been consulted by the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions on the preparation of possible elements of guidance.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its regular reports to the Conference of the Parties information on the implementation of the guidance set forth in the present decision.	Noted. The GEF will include this in the report to COP 8.

Table 5: GEF's Response to Decisions taken by ICCM4

ICCM4 Decisions	GEF Response
<p>Omnibus resolution IV/2 on emerging policy issues:</p> <p>Invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the Conference resolutions of all emerging policy issues and to continue that support in its 7th replenishment.</p>	<p>The GEF is currently working with the SAICM Secretariat on determining what specific activities can be funded within the GEF's mandate and the emerging policy issues would be considered in the development of the GEF 7 programming.</p>
<p>Resolution IV/1 on implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal:</p> <p>Welcoming also the resources for Strategic Approach implementation made available in its sixth replenishment by the Global Environment Facility, as one of the elements of dedicated external financing under the integrated approach, for Strategic Approach implementation;</p> <p>Acknowledging with concern that the scale of resources available from all sources, including through the Quick Start Programme and the Global Environment Facility, are insufficient to achieve the goal of sound management of chemicals in developing countries;</p> <p>Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue to support projects that implement the Strategic Approach, taking into account the areas identified in the overall orientation and guidance, and to consider enhancing funding for the Strategic Approach in the process of the seventh replenishment of its trust fund.</p>	<p>The GEF is currently working with the SAICM Secretariat and the GEF implementing agencies on determining what specific activities of the overall orientation and guidance can be funded within the GEF's mandate and SAICM issues would be considered in the development of the GEF 7 programming.</p>
<p>ICCM4 also agreed to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration at ICCM5 in 2020. The intersessional process will be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and will review progress through an independent evaluation.</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF Secretariat has been invited to participate in the intersessional process.</p>

Table 6: GEF's Response to Decisions within the Draft Resolution submitted to Economic and Social Council by 11th UNFF Chair

UNFF Decision	GEF Response
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UNFF Decision	GEF Response
IV. Catalysing financing for implementation	
<i>13. Decides, in order to strengthen and make the facilitative process more effective:</i>	
(c) That it should promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, to facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, consistent with their mandates, in order to implement sustainable forest management;	The GEF welcomes the strengthening of the facilitative process through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and has opened dialogue with the UNFF Secretariat to explore ways the GEF and the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network can cooperate. GEF will continue to enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing resources for forests including the strategic use of multi-focal area investments to leverage resources from other partners.
<i>14. Also decides, with the aim of strengthening the facilitative process, to:</i>	
(a) Request the secretariat, in consultation with the members of the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to make recommendations on ways to further increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation of the strengthened facilitative process and submit them for consideration by the Forum at its session in 2018;	The GEF is in a unique position within CPF with its role as financial mechanism for three CPF members (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD) and has four other CPF members as Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, FAO, World Bank). The GEF Partnership is therefore already a strong element of the CPF. GEF will work with new and existing platforms where GEF has comparative advantage to strengthen CPF.
(b) Welcome the report of the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to the Forum on the mobilization of financial resources through the sustainable forest management/REDD-plus incentive programme under the fifth replenishment of the Facility, and invite the secretariat of the Facility to periodically provide information on the mobilization of financial resources and funds that are dedicated to sustainable forest management;	The GEF welcomes the opportunity to provide information on the programming of resources for sustainable forest management as GEF-6 is implemented. GEF and the UNFF Secretariat have opened dialogue on how this information can be best communicated to the Forum.
(d) Encourage eligible member States, taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of sustainable forest management, to make full use of the existing potential of the sustainable forest management strategy under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to harness synergies across the focal areas of the Facility in order to further reinforce the importance of sustainable forest management for integrating environmental and developmental aspirations;	The GEF-6 SFM Strategy includes a range of opportunities for forest related programming by countries. The GEF-6 Sustainable Forest Management Strategy – Strengthened Support for Forests guide booklet has been published as a “primer” on SFM financing and gives a description of the SFM Strategy and procedures for accessing resources. This is now being widely distributed in electronic and printed versions, and also used for presentations and briefings at forest-related events. The GEF will also continue to

UNFF Decision	GEF Response
	seek ways to enhance its Country Support Program as a means of strengthening capacity and increasing knowledge on policies and procedures.
<p>(e) Invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility to request the secretariat of the Facility to discuss with the secretariat of the Forum arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the Facility and the Forum to support eligible countries in gaining access to funding for sustainable forest management;</p> <p>(f) Request the secretariat of the Forum to engage in discussions with the secretariat of the Facility in order to facilitate collaboration between the Facility and the Forum to support eligible countries in gaining access to funding for sustainable forest management, and to report to the Forum on this issue;</p>	<p>The GEF welcomes this invitation and will continue to strengthen cooperation with the UNFF Secretariat. The first explicit indicator of this cooperation has been an exploratory meeting (August 2015) to examine options for facilitating increased awareness of the GEF and options for accessing SFM-related support.</p>
15. <i>Invites the Global Environment Facility to consider:</i>	
<p>(a) Options for establishing a new focal area on forests during the next replenishment of the Facility and continuing to seek to improve existing forest finance modalities;</p>	<p>The strategic directions for GEF-6 include a very broad range of opportunities for programming forest related interventions by countries, including options for integration across focal areas, promoted through the SFM Strategy and the SFM incentive funding envelop. At the moment the Strategy offers a means through which the allocations for the existing FAs of BD, LD and CC can be used to incentivize programming on forests which are highlighted as important by the 3 Conventions. The establishment of a focal area for SFM would be counter to the overall integration objectives of the GEF and the objective of securing multiple benefits from forests. It would also detract from integrated approaches to serving the objectives of the 3 Rio Conventions and the IAF. The range of programming modalities offered by the current multi-focal SFM Strategy and incentive mechanism is currently seen as an appropriate means of providing significant and flexible opportunities for forest financing.</p>
<p>(b) Designating among its staff a liaison to serve as a link between the Forum and the Facility, in order facilitate access to funding for sustainable forest management;</p>	<p>The GEF has an existing staff position of Sustainable Forest Management Coordinator which already liaises with UNFFSEC and has assumed this liaison role.</p>
VII. Collaborative Partnership on Forests	

UNFF Decision	GEF Response
<p>20. Decides that the core functions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are to:</p> <p>(a) Support the work of the Forum and its member countries;</p> <p>(b) Provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues;</p> <p>(c) Enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates;</p> <p>(d) Promote the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda;</p> <p>23. Invites the governing bodies of member organizations of the Partnership to include in their work programmes dedicated funding to support Partnership activities, as well as budgeted activities supporting the Forum's priorities as outlined in the strategic plan referred to in section XI of the present resolution, consistent with their mandates;</p> <p>24. Calls upon member States, as well as other members of the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the work of the Partnership, including by considering dedicated funding for Partnership activities consistent with the respective mandates of Partnership members as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence on forest issues at all levels;</p>	<p>The GEF is an active partner in CPF and welcomes the Forum's provision for a Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 to enhance coherence and focus the work of the IAF. The GEF will work with other CPF partners to develop a work plan identifying priority actions within the Strategic Plan for CPF members to address.</p>